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YOUTH PARLIAMENT: Youth delegates raise points.

Find solutions to challenges facing the youth

Parliament's Presiding Officers, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly Ms Thandi Modise, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces Mr Amos Masondo, called on the nation to "engage in deep reflection, dialogue and action to bring about meaningful and long-lasting solutions to the challenges facing our youth," reports Abel Mputing.

MP Mr Lisa Mangcu of the African National Congress (ANC), "Parliament should agitate for policies that will create jobs for the youth and advance policies that will introduce employment quotas in favour of the youth in both the public and private sectors."

This year South Africa observed the 43rd anniversary of the 16 June 1976 uprising of the youth of Soweto, which changed the course of the country's history. "We remember this day as a moment in history that is as remarkable as it is courageous," they said.

In commemorating Youth Day and saluting young people of the nation, Members of Parliament (MPs) shared their views on the significance of this commemorative day.

history, as we celebrate 25 years of freedom. Furthermore, this Youth Month takes place during the year that marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Congress of South African Students (Cosas) in 1979 to intensify youth mobilisation in the wake of the watershed June 16 events.

advancement of the youth agenda". They urged South Africans to work together to eliminate all manner of social ills and general challenges troubling our young people.

The rural youth should also not be left behind, as is normally the case. He added that much needs to be done to educate the youth "about the job opportunities that can be derived from the agricultural sector and its value chain".

According to the Presiding Officers, the "resolve and defiance of the youth of 1976 intensified the journey towards the attainment of a constitutional democracy, based on the values of human dignity, equality, human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights".

They made suggestions on how best to remember the convictions of the activists of 1976 and those who came before them, who shook the evil system of apartheid and redefined the history of youth's struggles.

The Presiding Officers see the increase of youth representation in the sixth Parliament to 11%, as "a necessary injection of the required energy and new ideas towards the attainment of true social justice, wealth redistribution and robust

These include substance abuse, crime, peer pressure and a frustrating lack of opportunities.

As a result, young Members of Parliament have committed themselves to face these challenges head-on.

"Given that Parliament is the highest point of policy-making," remarked

Mr Mangcu cautioned that what is needed most is to ensure that Parliament comes up with policies that "will not push them to employment, but that would turn them into employment creators instead"

Presiding Officers call for solutions to challenges facing the youth ↩️ 1



Mr Lisa Mangcu.



Mr Elphus Mathebula.

Mr Elphus Mathebula, also of the ANC, believes that June 16 should be used to “conscientise the youth of today about the significance of this day and what is expected of them as future leaders ... a Youth Ministry is needed to ensure that youth issues are accorded the attention they deserve – and expedited accordingly”.

Currently, he said, youth issues are placed in different government departments’ portfolios and it is difficult

for the youth to access and understand how each of these portfolios functions and know what their respective mandates are. “As a result, as things stand now, there is no coordinated manner of dealing with issues affecting the youth. This has frustrated the youth and has created an impression that the government does not take their issues seriously,” he said.

“I am of the view,” said Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa of the



HIGH SPIRIT: Youth delegates in a youth Parliament.



Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa.

Inkatha Freedom Party, “that in this term of the sixth Parliament, the idea of a Multi-Party Youth Caucus needs to be resuscitated. This to ensure that youth’s participation in politics can no longer be confined to political affiliation. Parliament should also play a meaningful role in uniting the voice of the youth on

Parliament should also play a meaningful role in uniting the voice of the youth on job creation, free education and the fight against drug abuse.

job creation, free education and the fight against drug abuse. If well constituted, this caucus would be a platform to share ideas, inspire hope and confidence in youth, critical issues that the Youth Parliament has failed to achieve over the years.”

The Presiding Officers called on MPs to work tirelessly “to speed up the realisation of a

better life for young people, by continuing to deepen the national forum for public consideration of issues, passing transformative legislation and overseeing executive action. The new Parliament begins with new optimism and confidence that better conditions for young people from all walks of life are more possible and realisable than ever before”. 🇿🇦

House Chairpersons of the 6th Parliament elected



The National Assembly.

Section 52 (5) of the Constitution makes provision for the election of more Members of Parliament to assist the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

This provision in a way recognises that the Office of the Speaker is a strategic office for the country which must not only be so positioned, but must be so profiled. It is

an office that must lead and provide strategic direction to an institution that not only has the responsibility of crafting the laws, but it is an institution that must ensure that such

After the establishment of the sixth Parliament and the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (NA) and the election of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), both Houses of Parliament elected the House Chairpersons. The NA elected Mr Cedric Frolick, Ms Mmatlala Grace Boroto and Mr Madala Ntombela and the NCOP elected Mr Jomo Nyambi and Ms Winnie Ngwenya as House Chairpersons.

laws are implemented. The Speaker has to provide leadership to the House.

Upon the election of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, the National Assembly must elect three House Chairpersons for the term of Parliament.

The House Chairpersons must preside during a sitting of the House whenever requested to do so by the Speaker.

The Constitutional Mandate of the House Chairpersons NA

Whenever both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent or unable to perform the functions of the Office of the Speaker, the Speaker or, if the Speaker is not available, the Deputy Speaker must designate one of the House Chairpersons to act as the Speaker.

Or whenever the House has been informed of the likelihood of the continued absence of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for longer than seven consecutive parliamentary working days, the House may appoint a Member to act as House Chairperson while the House Chairperson acts as the Speaker, until the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker becomes available or the House decides otherwise.

Institutional Mandate

The Speaker must allocate functions and responsibilities to the House Chairpersons and announce such allocation in the Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports (ATC). The positions of House Chairpersons were created in terms of section 52 (5) of the Constitution to provide the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker with more political human capital support. Consequently, the following positions were created:

Functions of House Chairpersons

National Assembly

House Chairperson: Internal Arrangements

- To ensure the well-being and interests of Members.
- To oversee and ensure alignment of structures dealing with Members' interests and facilities,
- To receive and provide reports on issues of Members' interests.
- In collaboration with the Deputy Speaker, to ensure the enhancement of the capacity of Members.
- To ensure the development and implementation of policy in respect of former Members.
- To participate in various parliamentary committees as determined in the Rules of the National Assembly, for example, the National Assembly



The National Council of Provinces.

Programme Committee, Chief Whips' Forum, National Assembly Rules Committee and Joint Rules Committee.

House Chairperson: International Relations

- Responsible for international relations.
- Responsible for bilateral relations.
- To participate in various parliamentary committees as provided for in the Rules of the National Assembly, for example, the National Assembly Programme Committee, Chief Whips' Forum, National Assembly Rules Committee and Joint Rules Committee.

House Chairperson: Committees

- Responsible for monitoring any policy, directive or guideline on the scheduling and coordination of committee meetings, as well as the general management of all National Assembly committees and sub-committees.
- Responsible for oversight and public participation.

National Council of Provinces

The Rules of the NCOP make provision for two House Chairpersons to assist the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson in performing their work.

Institutional Mandate

The permanent Office Bearers (Presiding Officers) in the Office of the Chairperson have the responsibility of providing political leadership and strategic direction to the House, and of exercising impartiality at all times in pursuance of these duties.

The Presiding Officers have the responsibility of:

- Preserving parliamentary integrity;
- Maintaining the decorum of the House;
- Ensuring the smooth running of the House's business and its committees;
- Ensuring the development and management of the House's programme;
- Impartially presiding over House meetings and maintaining order and chairing strategic parliamentary committees.

National Council of Provinces House Chairperson: Committees

- To ensure the programming of committee activities.
- To ensure and monitor the provision of administrative support to committees.
- To ensure planning by committees.
- To ensure the compilation of the programmes of committees.

- To ensure the compilation of the budgets of committees in line with their strategic plans.
- To ensure the implementation of the Oversight and Accountability Model.
- To coordinate the activities of select committees.
- To convene and chair the meetings of the Committee of Chairpersons.
- To ensure the implementation of policies relating to Members' facilities.
- To monitor and report on policies on information and communications technology (ICT), artwork management, library and exhibitions.

House Chairperson: International Relations

- Responsible for Members' interests and facilities.
- To monitor and report on the needs of Members with disabilities.
- To monitor and report on the implementation of policy in relation to former Members of Parliament's facilities.
- To monitor support to Members and advise them on their needs. 🇷🇺



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

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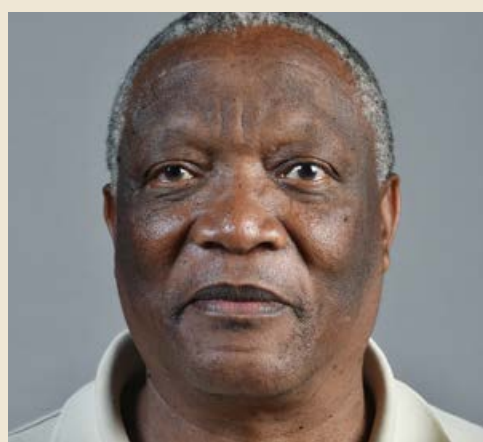
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House Chairpersons of the 6th Parliament



House Chairperson of Committees:
Mr Cedric Frolick



House Chairperson – Internal
Arrangements: Mr Madala Ntombela



House Chairperson – International
Relations: Ms Mmatlala Boroto



House Chairperson for
Committees: Mr Jomo Nyambi



House Chairperson for Oversight and
Institutional Support: Ms Winnie Ngwenya



Role and functions of committees in Parliament

The sixth Parliament has established its committees and the committees elected their Chairpersons. Parliamentary committees are established as instruments of the Houses of Parliament (National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces) in terms of the Constitution to facilitate oversight and monitor the government.

These committees are the “engine rooms” of Parliament’s oversight and legislative work.

Committees scrutinise legislation, oversee government action, and interact with the public.

One of the most important aspects of the oversight function is the consideration by committees of annual reports of organs of state, and reports of the Auditor-General.

Depending on the purpose of the oversight, the committee will either request a briefing from the organ of state or visit it for fact-finding.

There are other internal committees that deal with matters affecting the running of Parliament.

The Rules Committee and its sub-committees deal with House rules, the budget of the House, support for members, internal arrangements, and powers and privileges of Members. Other internal committees are the Programme Committee that plans the work of the National Assembly, the Disciplinary Committee, and the Committee of Chairpersons.

There are ad hoc committees (temporary committee) that may be established from time to time by the Houses of Parliament.

Parliament or one of its Houses may appoint an ad hoc committee when a special task must be done. When the task is completed, the committee is dissolved.

Joint Committees

The National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces together appoint a number of joint committees, for example, the Constitutional Review Committee.

The Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence and the Joint Standing Committee on Defence are statutory committees. This means that they are established, by the Constitution or by an Act of Parliament, as well as in terms of the rules of Parliament.

The committees play a very important role in the process of building democracy and involving the public in the processes and activities of Parliament.

Committees as engine rooms of Parliament

The two Houses of Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, conduct their work in plenary sessions (where Members of a House meet together in one group), in joint sittings (where Members of both Houses meet as one group), and in committees (smaller groups of Members).

Working in committees allows Parliament to:

- Increase the amount of work that can be done;
- Ensure that issues can be debated in more detail than in plenary sessions;
- Increase the level of participation of Members of Parliament (MPs) in discussions;
- Enable MPs to develop expertise and in-depth knowledge of the specific committee’s area of work;
- Provide a platform for the public to present views directly to MPs, something which is not possible

in a plenary sitting of Parliament;

- Provide an environment for Parliament to hear evidence and collect information related to the work of a specific committee.

Committees are, in general, proportionally representative of the parties in Parliament. Committee meetings are open to the public, but may be closed if there is a good reason to do so.

The different committees have one or more of the following functions:

- They monitor and oversee the work and budgets of national government departments and hold them accountable;
- They consider and amend Bills, and may initiate Bills;
- They consider private members’ and provincial legislative proposals and special petitions;
- They consider international treaties and agreements;
- They examine specific areas of public life or

matters of public interest;

- They take care of domestic parliamentary issues.

Committees have the power to summon any person to appear before them, give evidence or produce documents. They may require any person or institution to report to them. Committees may also receive petitions, representations or submissions from the public. Each committee is headed by a chairperson.

The different committees of Parliament: Portfolio Committees

The National Assembly (NA) establishes a number of portfolio committees to oversee the work of the various national government departments.

The role of portfolio committees is to:

- Consider Bills;
- Deal with departmental budget votes;

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OVERSIGHT WORK: Committee Meeting.



Committees of the sixth Parliament and their Chairs:

Portfolio Committees



Mr Mandla Mandela
Portfolio Committee on
Agriculture, Land Reform and
Rural Development



Ms Bongive Mbiqo-Gigaba
Portfolio Committee on Basic
Education



Ms Faith Muthambi
Portfolio Committee on Co-
operative Governance and
Traditional Affairs



Hope Papo
Portfolio Committee on
Communications



Mr Cyril Xaba
Portfolio Committee on
Defence and Military Veterans



Ms Lindelwa Dunjwa
Portfolio Committee on
Employment and Labour



Mr Fikile Xasa
Portfolio Committee on
Environment, Forestry and
Fisheries



Mr Sibongiseni Dhlomo
Portfolio Committee on
Health



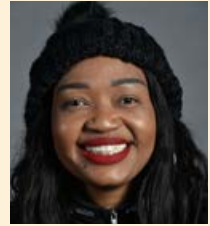
Mr Mapulane Phillemon
Portfolio Committee on Higher
Education, Science and
Technology



Mr Bongani Bongo
Portfolio Committee on Home
Affairs



Ms Rosina Semenya
Portfolio Committee on
Human Settlements, Water
and Sanitation



Ms Tandi Mahambehlala
Portfolio Committee on
International Relations and
Cooperation



Mr Gratitude Magwanishe
Portfolio Committee on
Justice and Correctional
Services



Mr Sahlulile Luzipo
Portfolio Committee on
Mineral Resources
and Energy



Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson
Portfolio Committee
on Police



Mr Khaya Magaxa
Portfolio Committee on
Public Enterprises

Oversee the work of the department they are responsible for, and inquire and make recommendations about any aspect of the department, including its structure, functioning and policy.

The work of committees is not restricted to government. They may investigate any matter of public interest that falls within their area of responsibility.

There is a portfolio committee for each national ministry and its associated government department/s.

Select Committees

The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) has a number of select committees to oversee the work of the various national government departments and to deal with Bills.

Because only 54 of the 90 NCOP Members are permanent delegates compared to the 400 of the NA, each of the select committees oversees the work of more than one national government department.

Public Accounts Committees

The National Assembly's Standing Committee on Public Accounts acts as Parliament's watchdog over the way

taxpayers' money is spent by the executive. Every year the Auditor-General tables reports on the accounts and financial management of the various government departments and state institutions.

Heads of government departments and institutions are regularly called by this committee to report and account for their expenditure.

The committee can recommend that the National Assembly takes corrective actions if necessary.

Members' Legislative Proposals and Petitions Committees

Draft Bills can be submitted by individual Members of the National Assembly.

These Bills are considered by the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Private Members' Legislative Proposals and Special Petitions.

If the committee agrees with the principle of the draft Bill, a Bill will be prepared and dealt with by Parliament.

The committees are under the leadership of the Chairperson and the Committee Whip. 🗳️

The sixth Parliament elected the Chairpersons of committees that will enable Parliament to exercise its law-making and oversight responsibilities, as required by the Constitution. Oversight committees are the engines that drive Parliament's constitutional functions of law-making, public involvement and oversight on behalf of the Houses of Parliament.



Mr James Tyoty
Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration



Mr Duma Nkosi
Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry



Mr Sifiso Buthelezi
Standing Committee on Appropriations



Mr Yunus Carrim
Select Committee on Finance



Mr Mandla Rayi
Select Committee on Trade and Industry, Economic Development, Small Business Development, Tourism, Employment and Labour



Ms Nolitha Ntobongwana
Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure



Mr Mosebenzi Zwane
Portfolio Committee on Transport



Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa
Standing Committee on Public Accounts



Ms Maurencia Gillon
Select Committee on Health and Social Services



Mr Kenny Mmolemang
Select Committee on Transport, Public Service and Administration, Public Works and Infrastructure



Ms Violet Siwela
Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development



Ms Nhlanhla Ncube
Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

Select Committees



Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu
Select Committee on Appropriations



Ms Tebogo Modise
Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources and Energy



Mr Bekizwe Nkosi • Ms Moji Moshodi
Joint Committee on Ethics and Member's Interest



Mr Mondli Gungubele
Portfolio Committee on Social Development

National Assembly Standing Committees



Mr China Dodovu
Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements



Ms Zukiswa Ncitha
Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings



Mr Enoch Mthethwa • Mr Mathole Motshekga
Joint Constitutional Review Committee



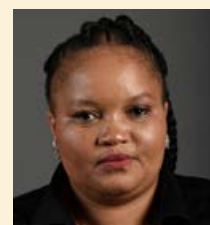
Ms Beauty Dlulane
Portfolio Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture



Mr Joe Maswanganyi
Standing Committee on Finance



Ms Mmamora Mamaregane
Select Committee on Public Enterprises and Communications



Ms Bertha Mabe • Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu
Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament



Mr Supra Mahumapelo
Portfolio Committee on Tourism



Mr Sakhumzi Somyo
Standing Committee on Auditor-General



Mr Eleck Nchabelang
Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture



Ms Shahidabibi Shaik
Select Committee on Security and Justice

New Scopa Chairperson emphasises need to unravel web of corruption and state capture

“I am confident that we will be able to do this task across political lines.”



OVERSIGHT: Committee meeting.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (Scopa), Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa, has emphasised the need to unravel the web of corruption and state capture. He said Scopa needs to inspire confidence in its work so that South Africans can believe that things will improve. “Consequence management needs to be at the heart of what we do. It is only when we effect consequence management as a deterrent that we will begin to make headway;” said Mr Hlengwa, Faith Ndenze reports.

Mr Hlengwa made this commitment in the first meeting of Scopa after he was elected as the Chairperson of the committee. Mr Hlengwa is not new in Parliament. He has been a Member of the National Assembly for the Inkatha Freedom Party in the fourth and fifth Parliaments. He was a member of Scopa in the fifth Parliament, when the committee was under the chairmanship of Mr Themba Godi.

Mr Hlengwa stressed the importance of ensuring that people account for every rand and cent that has been spent. “We are not at war with individuals, but we are

at war with corruption, fraud, maladministration and the failure to comply with the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) and National Treasury regulations,” he said.

Forging partnerships with other stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies and other parliamentary parties are among the other things that Mr Hlengwa said the committee will have to do.

“I am confident that we will be able to do this task across political lines. We must also appreciate the prevailing democratic tradition that Scopa should be chaired by the opposition,” said Mr Hlengwa.

InSession asked Mr Hlengwa how Scopa planned to forge partnerships with law enforcement agencies in the sixth Parliament and how these partnerships assist the committee in doing its work. Mr Hlengwa said that law enforcement agencies are part of the state machinery and are thus an extension of the people’s Parliament.

“Partnering to hold those accountable for benefitting at the cost of the poor and the vulnerable in our society is not an issue for Scopa in partnership with our agencies. The biggest issue is when the agencies tasked to enforce the law are severely compromised,

politically, economically and in essence captured by forces which seek to continue the status quo in looting from the state,” stressed Mr Hlengwa.

Commenting further on the tradition of appointing a member of the opposition in the National Assembly to chair Scopa, Mr Hlengwa said that this tradition shows that the majority party is committed to accountability for its actions in government. “It also shows respect for the separation of power and the continuation of checks and balances in that the executive, legislature and judiciary have an important role to play in upholding our constitutional democracy”, he added.

Asked about how Scopa will improve on the work of the Scopa of the fifth Parliament, Mr Hlengwa noted that Scopa has been very effective committee. “We are not here to embarrass state institutions that play a very important role in delivering on their mandate and promise to all South Africans”, he said.

“I think in the term ahead, many will see the change

in how we go about cross-questioning, investigating and taking effective action. In the past, sometimes leniency had been extended, but in the current socio-political and economic climate we find ourselves in, Scopa will be more vigorous in challenging departments and will have more bite in ensuring that those who do wrong are duly held to account. The words ‘lackadaisical’ in approach, ‘mollycoddling’ departments and tip-toeing around them won’t be felt in this sixth term of our Parliament.”

Mr Hlengwa also thanked the various members of the committee for the support they pledged in his leadership – and working together in the interest of South Africans. “Thank you for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me in this committee to be the first among equals. I believe in team work and I believe that we are in this together and that we are forced by circumstances to be united in the face of the many prevailing challenges in this country, in so far as financial management is concerned,” he said.



Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa.

Presiding Officers present Budget Vote of Parliament for 2019/20 financial year



LEADERSHIP: Ms Thandi Modise and Mr Amos Masondo.

In presenting Parliament's Budget Vote for the two Houses of Parliament in the National Assembly; Ms Thandi Modise, and the Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Mr Amos Masondo, articulated the vision of a Parliament that will not flinch from holding the executive accountable and which will be responsive to the needs of ordinary South Africans, report Abel Mputing and Mava Lukani.

Ms Modise located Parliament at the centre of the country's state machinery and emphasised that it should not be treated as a lesser conduit of the state. She reminded South Africans of Parliament's role in society, as she declared "we are mandated to deal with the imperfections of the past, not to dwell on it but to bring about stability and growth to promote the principles and values of the South Africa we want".

She promised that the sixth Parliament will do everything in its power to uphold accountability and responsiveness aimed at improving the lives of all South Africans.

"As guardians of people's rights, we need to pay attention on the frequency of service delivery and to ensure that the money made available

to the executive has a positive impact on all South Africans.

As such, this Parliament must follow the rands and cents and hold government accountable and there must be consequences for lack thereof," she emphasised.

Reflecting on the legacy report of the High Level Panel that is before Parliament, the Speaker promised that the current Parliament "will act on the recommendations and resolutions raised in this report".

In keeping with its mission and vision of being a people's Parliament, the Speaker also stated that Parliament will reinvigorate its Public Participation Model to "gauge its effectiveness in how it represents the interest of the people". She mentioned the maintenance of trust,

confidence and high level of integrity by the sixth Parliament as one of her chief priorities and MPs should be exemplary in this regard.

Both Presiding Officers mentioned that Parliament asked for R3 billion to undertake its strategic mission, but instead received R2.6 billion.

In presenting Parliament's Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), the Chairperson of the NCOP, Mr Amos Masondo, said he was presenting it in a challenging economic climate. He therefore urged delegates to the NCOP to balance the legitimate demands of the people, with fewer financial resources.

He emphasised that this must be done "... in a way that seeks to ensure that we manage the finances of this

institution efficiently and in a sustainable manner. This will determine whether we will be able to achieve more with the increasingly limited resources that are at our disposal".

As in the economies of other countries in the world, Mr Masondo pointed out that South Africa faces slow, if not sluggish, growth and as a result, South Africa has to contend with stubborn high unemployment rate, poverty and inequality.

Mr Masondo reiterated the importance of cooperative governance and appealed to the delegates to the NCOP, as elected representatives, to be preoccupied with this at all times. He urged them to be driven by former President Nelson Mandela's instruction to MPs on the occasion of the adoption of the Constitution, "to cooperate in the service of the people, rather than competing for power, which otherwise belongs not to us, but to the people".

He told the delegates to the national and provincial legislatures and municipal councils must not compete.

Instead, he said, these structures must join hands to ensure accountable and transparent government that is responsive to the needs of the people, and gives true meaning to the notion of government by the people under the Constitution.

The NCOP's task, Mr Masondo said, is to harness this relationship among the three spheres of government, to ensure the eradication of the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. "It is this character that should distinguish the National Council of Provinces from other legislative bodies."

He urged the delegates to the NCOP to use all the tools of oversight to ensure delivery of services to the people.

"Oversight activities, motions, questions to the executive and debates must be aimed at holding the executive accountable, on the basis of the announcements made during the policy debates. More time, therefore, needs to be allocated to oversight," he said. 🗣️

Parliament must ensure implementation of the National Development Plan

Parliament's Budget Vote Debate was tabled before the National Assembly (NA) and the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) simultaneously. Some tough questions were raised about the constitutional mandate of Parliament, its role in advancing democracy and in conducting robust oversight over the executive to ensure it delivers on its service delivery mandates, writes Abel Mputing.



NCOP Sitting.

“Foregrounding the resilience of Parliament, Parliament’s strategic vision defines it as an activist people’s Parliament.”

Mr Seiso Mohai

During the Budget Vote debate, Mr Seiso Mohai, the Chief Whip of the NCOP, proclaimed that Parliament would reclaim its legitimacy if it could invoke the National Development Plan (NDP) in its oversight and law-making processes. This is because the NDP provides the country with a unifying vision and national plan to realise the values of economic growth and social stability. “The extent to which we move with speed to realise the goals articulated in the NDP is a supreme test of the confidence of the masses of our people in Parliament, as

the tribune in the resolution of the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality,” he said.

Foregrounding the resilience of Parliament, he declared that Parliament’s strategic vision defines it as an activist people’s Parliament. However, he cautioned that “this cannot only be explained in words, but in our actions, thus calling for a need to reflect on whether is there a nexus between the rhetoric of this notion and our actions”.

homemaker and the executive to which the management of the country is entrusted.”

When the executive fails in its mandate, do MPs admonish it as is expected of them, he asked. “Or do we seek to protect it and defend the indefensible? And if we do criticise, is that criticism constructive to forge a greater consensus of good ideas?”

Flagging the importance of legislation, Mr Brauteseth then asked: “Do we ensure that our various interactions lead to innovative legislation to ease the load on the people who put us in this House? Parliament has become complacent and simply maintains the status quo.” He also mentioned that Parliament’s budget has no key performance areas, something that should govern any budget allocation process. “There are no clear legislative or accountability objectives in this budget, and there is certainly a massive lack of measurement criteria.”

Value for money was further emphasised by Mr Narend Singh of the Inkatha Freedom Party in the debate in the National Assembly. “This budget must be directed in a manner that seeks to achieve responsiveness, information and accountability for both Members of Parliament and the state,” he said.

Dr Petrus Mulder of the Freedom Front Plus in the

National Assembly said the budget process should be used by Parliament as an oversight tool over the executive.

Parliament has thus far failed to use this process to oversee the President’s Office, he said.

In the view of Mr Steven Swart of the African Christian Democratic Party in the NA, Parliament must reconsider its oversight role, as it diminished during the Zuma administration and left the country at crossroads. “When faced with a crossroads, folly is when leaders knowingly choose the wrong path. The previous Zuma administration chose that wrong path, a path of economic mismanagement and policy uncertainty, during which the country staggered under the dead weight of state capture and corruption and we are reaping the consequences.”

Also participating in the debate in the NA, Dr Mbuyiseni Ndlozi of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), said Parliament’s oversight mandate cannot be divorced from that of the Public Protector, as that office forms part of the oversight tools.

“If the EFF never protested against the disregard of remedial actions advanced by this office against Mr Zuma, they would not have seen the light of day,” he said, vowing that “if anyone defies the mandate of the office, he or she will be faced with a legitimate protest from the EFF to ensure he or she abides by that mandate.”

NA Sitting.



President Ramaphosa reassures MPs that his Presidency ‘will not be afraid to act’ against those linked to corruption



NEW HOPE:

President Ramaphosa assures Members of Parliament.

President Cyril Ramaphosa reiterated what he said in the recent State of the Nation Address when he presented the Presidency’s 2019/20 Budget Vote in the National Assembly (NA). He said concern for the state of the economy rose above all other concerns, writes Mava Lukani.

President Ramaphosa told NA MPs that the Ministers in the economic cluster have already elaborated on urgent steps to be taken to refuel the engine room of the economy, “from growing small businesses, to attracting higher tourism numbers, to the potential of recent offshore oil and gas discoveries, to the reimagined industrial strategy”.

He said the Minister of Trade and Industry Mr Ebrahim Patel, elaborated in his Budget Vote on “reimagining our Industrial Strategy. We have a framework in place and expect master plans for each of the identified sectors before we host the

second Investment Conference in November”.

He said the Presidency will continue to lead the national investment drive, and to meet government’s goal of raising R1.3 trillion in the next five years. By focusing on specific sectors, “this money should be directed to programmes that are viable and that can create jobs”.

He reminded those who abuse the public service and state-owned enterprises to line their pockets, that “we say goodbye to you; our law-enforcement authorities will accompany you to the dock. This is a Presidency that is not afraid to act”.

President Ramaphosa said the passing of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill by Cabinet recently is the clearest example of what a focused Presidency can achieve. He said Minister Mkhize has outlined the plans to table the NHI Bill before Parliament in the coming days. “The establishment of the NHI War Room in the Presidency has enabled us to get more traction in moving the NHI forward, including getting the bill processed”.

He assured NA MPs that Ministers will have to answer questions in Parliament, and participate in portfolio committees. “Our Deputy President, in his capacity as leader of government business, will continue to report regularly to Cabinet on these matters. As I have said in the State of the Nation Address, I will be signing performance agreements with Ministers and Deputy Ministers, who will be delegated clear and meaningful programmes to lead”, said President Ramaphosa.

The leader of the Democratic Alliance, Mr Mmusi Maimane, told Members of the NA that the 1994 constitutional pact, for which world icon Mr Nelson Mandela is remembered, is no longer holding. Instead, more and more people are retreating back into their corners of racial solidarity. “We need to establish a new economic consensus that will lead us into a new era”, said Mr Maimane.

Mr Maimane and other Members of the NA debated the Presidency’s Budget Vote speech that was delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa. Mr Maimane said South Africa needs a Presidency that is

able to deliver a shared vision of prosperity for all South Africans. He said: “This will require leadership that is bold and accountable. It will require a vision for our country based on the values of freedom, fairness, opportunity, and a diverse society,” emphasised Mr Maimane.

Mr Maimane said inclusive growth and economic empowerment contradict each other. “We must agree that BBBEE [broad-based, black economic empowerment]

“We say goodbye to you; our law-enforcement authorities will accompany you to the dock. This is a Presidency that is not afraid to act”.

has not delivered economic inclusion. It is a fig leaf for redress and does nothing for the 99% South Africans that are excluded from the economy.”

Mr Maimane appealed to NA members for the establishment of an oversight committee over the Presidency to ensure

that the is accountable to the people of South Africa through the NA. According to Mr Maimane, the committee will ensure that the Presidency budget is spent where it should be, not on the legal defence of the President.

Also debating the Presidency’s Budget Vote, the leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi said the fact that the NA is unaware about the Presidency’s performance indicators in budget and quarterly monitoring reports, among other things, is a monumental shortcoming.

“Yet again we come to this House to rubberstamp a budget we have not had the privilege of interrogating beforehand, for there is still no committee with oversight of the Presidency,” said Prince Buthelezi.

This hinders Parliament in fulfilling its mandate, he said, and places the President in the embarrassing position of answering questions that should have been answered by the accounting officer in the Presidency. 🗣️

Ramaphosa calls on South Africans to defeat corruption and state capture

In his reply to the debate on the Presidency Budget Vote, President Cyril Ramaphosa told Members of the National Assembly that his government is not going to scrap the broad-based black economic empowerment (BBBEE) policy; because it has brought real material benefits to black South Africans, including women and people with disabilities, writes Mava Lukani.



President Cyril Ramaphosa answers Members of Parliament.

“we must stand firm, we must keep our nerves, and we must maintain our resolve”.

According to President Ramaphosa, BBBEE has contributed to the significant growth of a black middle class and improvements in employment equity. It has also enabled black men and women to become owners and managers of businesses.

“Whilst we acknowledge that the pace of change has been slow, it has not been insignificant. Far from abolishing it, now is actually the time to strengthen it, to make it more effective and to ensure that it is aligned with our efforts to promote investment and increase employment,” he said.

On corruption, President Ramaphosa said in the last 18 months, working together, “we have made significant advances in tackling corruption and ending the capture of our public institutions, but the struggle is far from being won. The road ahead will be long and difficult. We will continue

to encounter resistance from those who have benefited from acts of criminality and wrongdoing”.

He appealed to everybody in society, including public representatives and individual citizens that “we must stand firm, we must keep our nerves, and we must maintain our resolve”.

He said South Africans must, through their actions and through their utterances, reinforce the rule of law and show respect for due process.

President Ramaphosa said the work of the Zondo and PIC commissions is absolutely necessary if South Africans are to decisively end state capture and effectively fight corruption. He called on all South Africans to give the commissions support. “The fight against corruption will not be successful unless all South Africans are involved,” reiterated President Ramaphosa.

“We need to forge a broad coalition against corruption that draws together formations and individuals from across society, and that empowers citizens to act and see justice

done. The same goes for fighting crime in our country. We need to get all people involved in fighting crime.”

For the past 25 years, he said, the government has pursued a pro-poor fiscal policy, where the national revenue has been directed towards education and health care, low-income housing, social grants and public employment programmes. “It is the principle of solidarity which informs our approach to the National Health Insurance, ensuring that substantial resources that are directed towards health care benefits for all South Africans equally,” he said.

On the increase on the Presidency’s budget for consultants, President Ramaphosa said the budget item relates to the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers, which is housed in the Presidency. He said the commission, through various pieces of legislation passed by Parliament, has assumed increased responsibilities without the accompanying budget to increase staff in its secretariat.

“The only viable option left for the commission to do its work is by bringing in external expertise, and by bringing in consultants,” he said.

The ideal way of enabling the commission to do its work as mandated by Parliament is to vote sufficient funds to hire sufficient staff to enable the commission to carry out what currently amounts to an unfunded mandate. 🍌

Well managed SOEs are central for economic development – Gordhan

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) are important national assets and are central to South Africa’s developmental and economic agenda, the Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Pravin Gordhan, told Members of the National Assembly. He was presenting the Department of Public Enterprises’ budget vote for the 2019/20 financial year, writes Zizipho Klaas.



Minister Pravin Gordhan.

The reform of the SOEs is part of a broad agenda of structural reforms. “The department provides strategic direction to the SOEs so that their businesses are aligned with the national growth strategies arising out of the National Development Plan and other guiding policies of the government,” Mr Gordhan explained.

Telling Parliament about what his department has been busy with over the last 18 months, Mr Gordhan said there have been many crises at the SOEs. The department has also realised the deep damage that has been visited upon these institutions and the far-reaching consequences of state capture for the economy at large.

According to Mr Gordhan, the damage inflicted on SOEs is felt in particular by millions of poor South Africans in the form of unemployment, poverty and inequality. “This

has had a negative impact on government’s ability to deploy SOEs in addressing our developmental objectives,” he said.

The department has collected some 3 000 forensic reports relating to SOEs. “So far, an estimated R600 million has been identified as collectable.

The department is collaborating with the law enforcement authorities to ensure that criminal actions are reported and that civil recoveries are undertaken,” added Mr Gordhan.

The investigating directorate in the National Prosecuting Authority will fast-track investigations, including those arising from evidence presented to the Zondo Commission. “The SIU Special Tribunal will adjudicate upon any civil dispute brought before it by a Special Investigating Unit (SIU) or any interested party.”

The damage inflicted on SOEs is felt in particular by millions of poor South Africans in the form of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

MPs heard that in June this year, a full bench of the Gauteng High Court set aside a multi-million rand contract unlawfully entered into between Eskom and Trillian, a Gupta-linked entity. Mr Gordhan said the court was scathing about collusion between former Eskom officials and the directors of Trillian. The court has ordered the company to repay almost R600 million in fees illegally received from Eskom.

Mr Gordhan also mentioned McKinsey, another consultancy, which repaid close to R1 billion to Eskom from the same contract. Also, according to Mr Gordhan, the SIU is investigating another 30 Transnet contracts, including property and IT contracts, the largest of which is worth more than R7 billion.

On what he referred as qualitative damage to SOEs, Mr Gordhan said: "We must be frank, after a decade of mismanagement, negligible board and executive fiduciary accountability for poor performance, malfeasance that enabled state capture, and rampant corruption at our biggest SOEs, many are in deep financial difficulties and will be unable to trade their way out of their difficulties."

On recovery and re-capture plans of the department, Mr Gordhan said in the last 18 months, his department has begun the process of restoring good governance, skills management and effective operations at the SOEs. "Financial sustainability of the SOEs requires a lot more work. Several state-owned companies face negative cash flows and are financing operations from debt, which has become increasingly difficult to raise," he said. 🍷



TIGHT SCRUTINY: Committee meeting.

Political will is needed to turn SOEs around

During the Department of Public Enterprises' Budget Vote debate in the National Assembly; the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises, Mr Khaya Magaxa, told Minister Pravin Gordhan that the committee agrees with President Cyril Ramaphosa that Eskom and other state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are too important for the economy to be allowed to fail, reports Zizipho Klaas.

All SOEs must be stabilised and corrupt elements weeded out in order to return to the revenue-generating path for economic development. Mr Magaxa said: "In this respect we must commend the work of the Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises of the fifth Parliament in unearthing the scandalous corruption and governance decay that plagued our most vital SOEs."

State-owned entities are the economic levers through which the democratic state holds the possibility of directing investment for inclusive economic growth, Mr Magaxa explained.

In supporting the budget vote, he said the committee supports the department precisely because they understand that the department's objective to rectify the legacy of apartheid depends on capabilities geared towards a state-led reindustrialisation process.

There is a deliberate effort from proponents of privatisation to insinuate that the state is perpetually "bailing out" SOEs, Mr Magaxa said. But SOEs have not been receiving bailouts all the time, even recently, Denel raised capital

from the markets in order to address its shortfall, he said.

Rather, the SOEs have been receiving state guarantees, he claimed, stressing that a state guarantee is not money. Rather, it serves as surety for the entity to be able to raise capital from the markets. "However, a cash injection is a direct transfer of funds from the fiscus to the company. We encourage these entities to be self-sustainable and not be reliant on the fiscus," added Mr Magaxa.

Participating in the debate, Ms Natasha Mazzone of the Democratic Alliance told Mr Gordhan that the SOEs are held to ransom by the trade unions. "You cannot grow an economy when you are held to ransom by trade unions which cripple SOEs when they feel their demands were not met."

Ms Mazzone added that "you cannot grow the economy when your energy supply is not completely secured, and you cannot grow the economy by pouring billions and billions of rands into failing entities".

She told Mr Gordhan that the Department of Public Enterprises has absolutely

zero power to hold SOEs to account while SOE boards "do as they please" and "the fiscus is collapsing under the weight of corruption and mismanagement".

Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, thanked President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Gordhan for their commitment and political will to turn things around from the previous administration.

"In the past, the Minister defended the rot and attacked Members of this House for their recommendations. The role of this department is to drive investment, productivity and transformation in our SOEs. To unlock growth, drive industrialisation, create jobs and develop skills," said Prince Buthelezi.

He told Mr Gordhan that the SOEs have a central role in driving economic growth, yet this has not been the case. Instead: "This department is truly the definitive poster child of this government in respect of grand corruption, kleptocracy, nepotism and cadre deployment. The crippling of our SOEs has played a major role in the

country's drop in international credit ratings."

According to Prince Buthelezi, the previous decade in the department's history has been spent building patronage networks through the misappropriation of public funds and elites lining their own pockets. "While we trust that the Minister has the will and expertise to address the failing state of our SOEs, the question remains: will the Honourable Minister have the support of the African National Congress to clean up each SOE from within?"

Corruption must be thoroughly investigated and competently prosecuted in all SOEs. "If we look at the strategic objectives of all our SOEs, none of their targets are met, economic transformation?

"No progress there. Job creation? Instead of creating jobs, SOEs can't even manage to retain jobs. Building a capable and ethical state? We have got a rot that is embodied from within, that undermines the very objective. A better Africa and world? How is this even possible when we are currently on our knees?" asked Prince Buthelezi. 🍷

Statistics should be the lifeblood of decision-making and accountability, say MPs

Statistic South Africa's (Stats SA's) budget vote for the Medium-Term Strategic Framework was presented to Parliament. It came with a diagnostic report of the challenges and opportunities that can be leveraged to improve South Africa's socio-economic conditions, writes Abel Mputing.



Minister in the Presidency, Mr Jackson Mthembu presents Budget Vote Debate on Statistic South Africa

"Stats SA shoulders this expectation because it is the one that provides government departments and entities with relevant statistical information to plan for their short-, medium- and long-term socio-economic goals and scenarios," said the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Hubert James.

"The strategic frameworks of the state are informed by statistical information provided by Stats SA, which publishes more than 200 statistical releases per annum. To improve the dire prognosis of our country's state of affairs, there is a need to cultivate a state capable of undertaking the developmental and transformative agenda that drives its resolve for a better life for all. This requires the state to formulate and implement policies that support this role.

"The budget is one vital instrument to address Stats SA's prognosis of the state of our affairs, for it serves as a tool to advance government activities and priorities aligned with its Medium Term Strategic Framework. But most of all, the budget is an instrument that highlights both the constraints and trade-offs in policy choices which could affect the health of Stats SA in the future," he said.

According to Mr James, these challenges are summarised in the committee's key findings on this entity. Of principal concern is "the high staff turnover imposed by budgetary constraints reflected in the compensation of employees, which makes it impossible for it to retain staff due to counter-offers and promotions. This is coupled by its high vacancy rate."

Another concern is that some of Stats SA's projects have been discontinued due to lack of funds. "We have encouraged it to devise a strategy to continue implementing its projects with the allocated budget."

What is encouraging, however, is that government institutions are utilising Stats SA's statistics for evidence-based policy-making mechanisms. "The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation has to ensure that statistical data is utilised in policy decision-making in developing the Medium Term Strategic Framework for 2020/24 and government programmes."

Mr James also encouraged the search for amicable solutions for the manner in which the Auditor-General South Africa audits the institution. These solutions should "take into cognisance the nature and the

The budget votes process is linked to the 2019 Appropriation Bill, which in terms of section 213 of the Constitution, seeks to appropriate money from the National Revenue Fund for requirements of the state for the 2019/20 financial year.

complexity of its work when auditing it, and that must not impact on its independence. And the sooner its budgetary constraints are solved, the better for its efficiency in its future scenario planning for the country".

Mr Yusuf Cachalia of the Democratic Alliance said: "We should err on the side of budgetary generosity when it comes to Stats SA.

This institution has an impact on the analysis of data that allows for a cogent evaluation of where we are, how we should improve, with what effect. As such, it should be given the wherewithal to provide reliable and high-quality data and information because official statistics should stand out as a trustworthy source of information."

Furthermore, Mr Cachalia said, Stats SA should stay abreast of best practices across the statistical community because "data is the lifeblood of decision-making and raw material for accountability".

Mr Mkhuleko Hlengwa of the Inkatha Freedom Party added: "Our representative democracy hinges on the work of Stats SA. "It ensures that each community gets the right number of representatives in government because representation is based on population."

It is also important that the department makes an effort to ensure that it improves the accuracy of population and social statistics in rural and under-developed areas to improve service delivery. Another participant in the debate, Mr Mzwakhe Sibisi of the National Freedom Party, emphasised the significance of Stats SA. For this reason, the institution "needs a highly competent staff that embodies intellectual capabilities to lead the scientific work of statistics".

Mr Solly Malatsi of the Democratic Alliance said: "The failure to build capacity impedes on the optimal functioning of Stats SA". He is dismayed by "government's failure to invest properly in the

capacity of Stats SA", which is contributing to its inability to "fulfil its obligations of producing accurate statistical information". The Budget Votes debates that take place at Parliament in July every year are part of a broader budgetary process, which began when Mr Tito Mboweni tabled the 2019 Annual National Budget on 20 February 2019.

The Budget Votes process is linked to the 2019 Appropriation Bill, which in terms of section 213 of the Constitution, seeks to appropriate money from the National Revenue Fund for requirements of the state for the 2019/20 financial year.

The fifth democratic Parliament adopted the 2019 Fiscal Framework and enacted the 2019 Division of Revenue Bill, but could not process the 2019 Appropriations Bill due to the national general elections.

The sixth democratic Parliament considered the 2019 Appropriation Bill, through Budget Vote debates in mini-plenary sittings. 🇿

Struggling SOCs and municipalities a risk to fiscus



Minister Tito Mboweni

The financial status of state-owned companies (SOCs) and poor-performing municipalities were among the biggest risks to the country's fiscal framework, according to a number of Members of Parliament who participated in the Budget Vote debate of the National Treasury, writes Sakhile Mokoena.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Tito Mboweni, tabled the National Treasury's Budget Vote for debate in a mini-plenary of the National Assembly and outlined government's plans to promote economic growth and maintain fiscal stability.

Responding to the Minister's announcement that the R30.8 billion allocation for the financial year 2019/20 will allow the National Treasury to conduct research on the economy, together with partners in and outside government, and develop policies to maintain fiscal stability and promote growth, Members of Parliament (MPs) from the different parties in the National Assembly raised concerns about the financial management of SOCs.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Finance, Mr Joe Maswanganyi, said the committee was concerned about the financial state of SOCs. Despite reforms since 2017 to improve SOCs' financial management, many SOCs continue to pose a great risk to the fiscus.

"While the committee recognises that the turnaround plans of the SOCs cannot be achieved overnight, it is concerned about the impact and effectiveness of these changes. The committee will request more information from National Treasury to justify requests for extra resources, bailouts and guarantees – and insists on conditions being attached to any approvals," said Mr Maswanganyi.

He said the committee is also concerned that despite government work to find solutions to challenges in municipalities, many of them remain in a critical state. "The committee has requested the National Treasury to provide it with a report on its assessment of the effectiveness of its support programmes to municipalities, such as the Municipal Financial Support Programme and the Cities Support Programme," he said.

Minister Mboweni told Parliament that the recent economic performance will require an acceleration of government efforts to address constraints to growth while continuing to provide support to vulnerable groups. The National Treasury will be at the forefront of this. "The government needs to continuously promote policy certainty, resolve our SOEs' challenges to restore fiscal sustainability, ensure security and reliability of electricity supply," said Mr Mboweni.

He also said the government needs to continue working

"The recent economic performance will require an acceleration of government efforts to address constraints to growth while continuing to provide support to vulnerable groups."

to attract investments and streamline and make government regulations more effective, while making it easier for business to register, innovate, export and create jobs.

The Finance Minister said Eskom presents the biggest risk to the fiscal framework because of its financial problems and negative impact on the lives of ordinary South Africans. "Given the high risks to the economy if Eskom were to collapse, government is urgently working on stabilising the utility, while developing a broad strategy for its future.

"Current economic performance will have a substantial impact on our fiscal stability, requiring tougher and strategic choices. Tax collection is underperforming in a weak economic environment, with a revenue shortfall in 2018/19 of R57 billion, compared to the 2018 budget estimates," he said.

Supporting the National Treasury Budget Vote, Mr Maswanganyi said the budget

will ensure greater focus on confronting problems facing the nation through the implementation of the programmes announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation Address.

"Implemented effectively, this budget provides a platform for renewal, inclusive growth and job-creation, and directs spending to our most pressing national priorities like education. The 2019/20 budget moderates spending and raises the revenues required to contain the growth in national debt, whilst minimising the negative effects of the growth."

He also said budget was creating the right environment for efforts to accelerate inclusive growth, significantly increasing levels of investment and putting in place measures to create more jobs.

"We support reforms to relieve policy and blockages that are yielding results for investments in mining, telecommunications and tourism. While the

projected GDP growth rate of 1.5% is still too low, at least it is an improvement on the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) of 2018 projection that it will be 0.7%, as an outcome of the implementation of structural reforms announced last year. We need to work together to grow the economy," said Mr Maswanganyi.

Participating in the debate, Mr Steve Swart of the African Christian Democratic Party also expressed concerns about the financial state of the SOCs. "The drain on the fiscus of propping up SOCs has become unbearable. While certain reforms have taken place since 2017 to turn the financial position and management of SOCs around, many SOCs still pose a significant risk to the fiscus," said Mr Swart.

Democratic Alliance MP, Mr Geordin Hill-Lewis, challenged the Minister to show that he is serious about the reform of state-owned entities by placing South African Airways into business rescue and preparing it for sale. 🇿🇦

Municipalities must focus on service delivery.



Limpopo Premier delivers his sixth term maiden speech

Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha delivered his maiden speech of the first session of the sixth legislature at the Lebowakgomo legislative chamber on the 5th of July 2019. An assortment of guests, including the newly appointed national president of Salga, Mme Thembi Nkadimeng and the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, were in attendance, writes Purity Zwane.



Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha.



LIMPOPO
LEGISLATURE

It's your voice, use it!

In his speech, the Premier painted a picture of a new dawn in the province. A dawn characterized by a fight over unemployment on all fronts, using sections of his executive as armaments.

The Special Economic Zones (SEZ) got the first special mention as the potential economic boosters. It became apparent that the fight against unemployment registered its first wins when this SEZ project attracted unbelievably high interest from investors. This led to an increase in the job prospects

from this project, which was initially projected to generate 2100 jobs. Now, those job opportunities are more likely to increase exponentially with the approval of the Musina- Makhado SEZ skills development plan.

Continuing with the painting of the new dawn picture, the Premier went to another potential generator of employment, which is tourism. According to the latest figures, Limpopo is the second most preferred destination in the country by international tourists.

If the education curriculum is properly streamlined with our provincial economic needs, Limpopo could richly harvest from this tourism boost, according to Hon Mathabatha.

He said schools should teach learners more about tourism and agriculture.

There were murmurs of approval and ululations from across the gallery when the Premier mentioned an incredible 250 possible job opportunities from a single poultry project in the Lepelle Nkumbi area.

The Lebowakgomo Chicken Abattoir will be "reoperationalised" and will process over 120 000 chickens per day.

The other project which is also in the Lepelle Nkumbi area (the area within which the Legislature resides) is the Zebediela Citrus estate.

The project alone, according to the Premier, has the potential to create 800 seasonal and permanent jobs.

The drawing of the new dawn picture in the Premier's speech

focused on youth development and job creation. He dismissed the myth of "a lost generation" and cited the youth as ambassadors of change.

In his quest to motivate and capacitate the province's young people, he pinpointed the recent achievement of Sho Madjozi and Caster Semenya in music and sports respectively.

He cited them as role models who overcame difficulties and positively embraced opportunities to conquer the world, thus breaking a new dawn. 🌅