

THE PROVINCE OF NORTHERN CAPE



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Seventh Sitting of Fifth Session of the Sixth Legislature of the Province of Northern Cape, held in Chamber on Tuesday, 24th May 2023

UNEDITED

The House convened at 10:00

The Speaker took the Chair and led the House in a moment of silent prayer/meditation.

SPEAKER: I will now allow for silent prayer or meditation.

Thank you, honourable Members.

A warm welcome, honourable Members, to this House Sitting.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome yourself, honourable Premier, the honourable Deputy Speaker, the Leader of Government Business, all Members of the Executive Council, the Leader of the Official Opposition, all Members of the Legislature, the Whippers under the leadership of the honourable Chief Whip.

You are all welcomed to this House Sitting.

Also a warm welcome to all our guests in the gallery, the staff of the different departments that is also with us. Welcome to you all to this Sitting.

Honourable Members, I will request that you put your gadgets on silent. We are going to, on our Order Paper we are going to have the Africa Day Debate. Africa Month Debate, so we don't want to have any interruptions while the Members participate in this Debate.

Honourable Members, in terms of Rule 136, I will then request for Motions without

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇄)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Notice.

Going once, going twice, going thrice.

Thank you, honourable Members, there is no Motions without Motions.

Can I then request for Notices of Motions in terms of Rule 135.

There is also no Notices of Motions.

Thank you very much, honourable Members.

PREMIER: Speaker.

SPEAKER: Honourable Premier, my apologies.

PREMIER: Thank you very much, honourable Speaker.

I raised my hand, I could see that I have got just two Motions without Notice, which I want to bring to this House.

Madam Speaker, allow me to congratulate the Carnavon High School Robotics Team, who represented the Country at the International First Lego League in Morocco.

This was an international competition where 66 countries participated. We proudly can announce here that our team came number 31st, which is the demonstration that we should not despise small beginnings. It shows that as a Province, we are on track to modernise our Province and create opportunities.

The team who leads in the Province and the airport on Friday, and as the Office of the Premier, we have arranged to have dinner or lunch with them on the finalisation of their itinerary.

So, this also serves as an invitation to all Members of the House, those who will be available can join us to celebrate and welcome these young, brilliant minds who represented South Africa so well.

The second one, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Honourable Premier, can we first deal with the first Motion before you are moving to the next one.

Can you just switch off your gadgets, please?

Thank you.

Honourable Members, there is a Motion before the House.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Is there any objection to the Motion?

(Pause)

If none, we agree then on the Motion.

There is also an invite to the Members to join the Executive on Friday to welcome the team.

Honourable Rhoda, you are late, and you want to disrupt our House Sitting.

Can we allow honourable Premier to proceed with the second Motion.

PREMIER: Honourable Speaker, do we have commitment that all Members will attend?

SPEAKER: Those who are available, honourable Premier, can attend, by all means.

Honourable McGluwa, you are invited to attend...

PREMIER: Honourable Mokae will be available, it's young people who represented out country very well.

Madam Speaker, you may join the continent tomorrow in celebrating Africa Day under the theme, Deepening the AU Vision for Unity for Africa through Prosperity, Peace, and we acknowledge the successes of the Organization of African Unity, from its creation on May 25, 1963 in the fight against colonialism and apartheid, as well as the progress that Africa has made whilst reflecting upon the common challenges that the continent faces in a global environment.

As a provincial government, our focus will be on mobilising support from community members to eliminate and prevent violence against women and girls. This forms part of the Orange Campaign Day, which is an International Civil Society led campaign that is held on the 25th of every month.

Thank you very much, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Premier.

Honourable Members, the Motion is before the House.

Are there any objections to the Motion?

(Pause)

If none, the House agree then on the Motion.

We will then proceed, honourable Members, without business of the day.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Secretary, can you read us the first Order, please.

SECRETARY: Thank you, honourable Speaker.

The first Order is: *Questions to the Executive*.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much Secretary.

Honourable Members, we did receive questions from Members of the Legislature to the Executive.

I will allow the Members to raise their questions and I will then start with honourable McGluwa, who wants to ask a question to the Premier.

Thank you, honourable McGluwa.

HON MEMBER, MCGLUWA: Thank you very much, honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, my question to the Premier today is, honourable Premier, what is the motivated reasons for the reallocation of the Office of the Premier to ESKOM Building, and how do the cost for the old Transnet Building compare with the prospective cost for the ESKOM Building?

When was this contract for the ESKOM Building entered into, and what are the terms and conditions for the lease?

Thank you, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much honourable McGluwa.

Honourable Premier, you may respond to the questions raised.

PREMIER: Thank you very much, honourable Speaker and let me thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question.

Honourable Speaker, the need to identify new office space comes after numerous challenges experienced in the current building occupied by the Office of the Premier.

The Department of Labour inspected all government office accommodation and provided a report to the Executive Council on the state of the office accommodation for government departments.

The Office of the Premier was found not to be compliant.

Subsequent to this Report we had a meeting with the former Minister of Transport as well as Transnet, who are the owners of the building. We requested Transnet to make the necessary renovations to the current building so that it meets the minimum standards

Translation:	*
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Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

or alternatively sell the building to us. This was in 2020. To date, Transnet has not responded positively to this request, nor remedy to the issues that have been raised by the Department of Labour.

Some of these, worth noting are the constant breakdown of the (⇔). If you sit in an office, there were lifts breakdown for almost two, three months, they don't get fixed. And for people, when they come to work, it's 12 flights of stairs that they must climb in order to get to the top office.

The ablution facilities that are continuously out of order, leading to serious health hazards. The first floor was flooded with sewer.

The parking that is not sufficient and safe for the employees and I'm certain by now, you know every time you go to our Office, 90% of our staff park in the street because there is not adequate parking.

The air conditioners that are always malfunctioning and there is no backup provision and constant cable theft that results in unavailability of electricity. Almost every quarter of the year there is cable theft, we must be out of office. The staff can't go to office for weeks up until this problem gets addressed.

And all of this disrupts the provision of services.

I met the Minister; I met the CEO of Transnet to raise our concerns around this and it is important for Members to take note that currently we are paying R1 million per month for rental excluding rates and taxes.

Utilities and municipal services which amounts to R618 000 per month. Which is about R1.6 million which we pay for being there.

By 2020 we had already paid R113 million in rental to Transnet excluding R60 million for rates and taxes, utilities and municipal services since taking occupation of this building.

With that amount of money that we paid to Transnet; it is really not taking the contractual arrangement serious when Transnet does not even want to put up a generator when there is loadshedding so that people can be at work.

There is no generator there, when there is loadshedding, the work can't continue.

Given the above, we have mandated the Department of Roads & Public Works to identify a suitable building that can accommodate The Office of the Premier.

The Department of Roads & Public Works is the custodian of the Provincial Immovable assets and as far as we know, they are in the process of engaging to find us a suitable accommodation.

We are waiting on the Department of Roads & Public Works on further directions on the matter. We have not received since we have requested the Department of Roads &

Translation:	*
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Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Public Works that they should find The Office of the Premier a suitable building, we've not received any feedback.

So, I heard the honourable Member McGluwa saying we are moving to the Eskom building, I don't know about that. But what I know is that we've actually given the Department of Roads & Public Works the task to look for an alternative suitable building.

And I think this is a very important question that we received because majority of the Members here that I spoke, they thought we are sitting there for free. Transnet gave the building to us for free, the building is not for free. We are paying Transnet R1 million each and every month and we are paying R618 000 for rates and taxes.

What I believe is that with that amount of money, we can be able to secure a much better accommodation for the Office of the Premier.

And I think it's also important to mention that we hosted an ambassador there in the office. She went to the toilet, when she came back, she sat next to me and said, "Premier there is an embarrassing incident that took place in the toilet". I asked, "what is it?" she said "I came there in the toilet, did my stuff. I flushed and the entire thing went up."

That's the nature of the office we are occupying. Can you get somebody to assist and fix the problem? That is the nature of the Office we are occupying, no maintenance. We've been engaging with Transnet; we've got the Minister involved.

They just don't care about what is happening.

Thank you, very much honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much honourable Premier for responding to the question.

Honourable McGluwa is there any supplementary questions, follow up questions?

HON MEMEBR, McGLUWA: Thank you honourable Speaker.

I really don't have one. I just want to make a comment and the Premier may not answer this one.

I'm very concerned that this is not a second trifecta issue.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much honourable McGluwa, it's not a question, supplementary question.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Honourable Members, I did receive communication from the Leader of the Official Opposition. Honourable Fritz is not with us so honourable Kaars will then raise the questions that honourable Fritz has put to the House.

Thank you, honourable Kaars.

HON MEMBER, KAARS: Thank you honourable Speaker.

Good morning, everyone in the House.

Honourable Speaker the question is to the MEC of Health.

With the reference to the agency that has been contracted to run with the surgery marathons at the Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital to help alleviate the surgery backlogs, Speaker can you protect me please? Are any health officials and Senior Managers including the Acting HOD partners of silent partners in this agency? Number 1 MEC

What is the contract value of the department's arrangement with the agency?

Follow up to that. How many of the listed surgeries allocated to the agency did it actually complete in its first marathon of the hospital in April?

When comparing the cost incurred on paying the agency, would it not offer greater value for the money to rather appoint additional theatre nurses to operationalize the many unused theaters at the tertiary hospital?

And last to the MEC. What are current surgery backlogs at RMS Hospital?

I thank you.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much honourable Kaars.

Honourable Members I will then allow the honourable MEC to respond to the questions.

Thank you honourable Lekwene.

HON MEMBER, LEKWENE: Thank you very much honourable Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Premier and colleagues.

Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Let me welcome the one question in which is having five areas to respond to, but it is one question.

1.a) Are any health officials and Senior Managers including the Acting HOD partners of silent partners in the agency? Unfortunately, honourable Speaker, I can't really give a response to this. Maybe it's safe to say that if honourable Fritz is having some intel

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

information, he can take me into confidence so that I must follow up the matter to further investigate it. But as far as I'm concerned, I haven't been issued with any information in regard to question 1a honourable Speaker.

So, I will leave it there but I will engage Dr. Fritz on the sidelines just to get more information around it because it's (⇔) that some officials and maybe the Acting HOD as well might have interest there or maybe it's a sleeping partner, the way I read the question.

b) What is the contract value of the Departments arrangement with the agency? The contract value with the agency, the name of the agency is called Medicare-Mets. It's a national service provider.

The value of the contract is R400 000. There is no fixed contract with Medicare-Mets. It's on a month-to-month and on the need basis as well but it's worth R400 000.

c) How many of the listed surgeries allocated to the agency did actually complete? I must report that they worked already for two weeks. They have completed 57 surgeries with 57 patients honourable Speaker.

Question D, when comparing the costs incurred on paying the agency would it not offer greater value for money to rather appoint?

It is a point, honourable Speaker; we would have loved to do that. For us to take this route it means that internally we don't have capacity, we do have the speciality. For example, maybe the Neurosurgeon; but we won't be having the Aesthetician, we won't be having a Theatre Specialist Nurse and so forth.

So, those are the types of skills that they are bringing, and we also compare to...it's not like I wanted to also contract this service provider. The backlog was growing every day.

Currently, the next question is what is the backlog? It is just less than 4000 and it is a moving target as well. You must know you don't decide when you want to become sick, tomorrow you can wake up with a medical problem which will warrant for a surgeon. So, it's a moving target.

So, safe to say that our backlog for the entire province is just less than 4 000 and we don't have any fixed contract. For now, it's value for money. But, as soon as we have reduced the backlog, we will then try to use our internal staff; but in the meantime, as you know. I don't know if honourable Fritz has (⇔) research, in the province of Northern Cape we don't have any Nurses which are unemployed; we don't have that luxury like other provinces. So, Nursing is a scarce skill, especially those specialists.

So, we are trying to recruit, and we are not enjoying that much success to recruit the skills we want in the province. You must know that the Northern Cape is in the periphery, people want to work in big cities, in Metros.

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Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

So, to recruit someone from Gauteng and even Free State to work somewhere in Joe Morolong, they don't really have that desire. So, we are working towards that to recruit more of our staff and if we can have the people that will be good for us.

But, for now we have engaged on this alternative because internally currently we don't have those specialities, or those skills and the backlog also caused by Covid. Don't forget that for the past 2 years we closed our hospitals, so the backlog is a bit huge. So, we are making a bit of progress and also my last point, honourable Speaker.

PREMIER: (↔).

HON MEMBER, LEKWENE: No, I have answered that, Premier.

Yes.

You will know that you will surgeons like your Neurosurgeon, it's taking a lot of time. It's not like a one hour/two-hour surgery because we are dealing with the brain, and it might take 5-6 hours; so then in that process we will have to maybe see only one patient or two patients if you are lucky. But we are working on the matter.

At least, it's providing services to our communities, to those most pressing patients and that is why we have taken that route; honourable Speaker.

I think I have covered all the questions raised to Health.

Thank you very much for the opportunity, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Lekwene.

Honourable Kaars, are there any follow-up questions?

HON MEMBER, KAARS: No, Speaker.

There won't be any follow-ups.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Honourable Members, I will then allow honourable Kaars to raise his own question to the House.

HON MEMBER, KAARS: Thank you, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker is to the MEC of Cooperative Governance.

Speaker through you, my question to the MEC is does the Northern Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre have an emergency plan in place in case of a total blackout and who was involved in the drafting of such an emergency plan; that is my first question.

Translation:

Inaudible interjections speaking softly): *

Inaudible interjections loud background): (↔)

Laughter: (laughter)

Applause: (applause)

My second question after that, even if the emergency plan has been put together, please provide us with a copy of this plan.

I thank you, Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Kaars.

Honourable Members, I will allow honourable Vass to respond to the question.

Thank you, honourable Vass.

HON MEMBER, VASS: Thank you, honourable Speaker, Deputy Speaker, and Members.

Honourable Speaker, on the question raised by the honourable Member; the Northern Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre has requested Eskom to assist with the development of an emergency plan for our province. The request is informed by the fact that Eskom has a function/responsibility on the development of emergency plans.

Based on the engagements between the Northern Cape Disaster Management Centre and Eskom; the draft emergency plan will be ready by the end of May which means in the next two weeks.

Also, honourable Speaker, there is no dedicated earmarked allocated funds for the Provincial Disaster Management Centre to implement its key performance areas.

Thank you, honourable Speaker.

Thank you very much, honourable Vass.

Honourable Kaars, are there any follow-up questions?

HON MEMBER, KAARS: No, Speaker.

There is no follow-up.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Kaars.

Honourable Members, I will then give an opportunity to honourable Isaacs to raise questions to the MEC of Education.

Thank you, honourable Isaacs.

HON MEMBER, ISAACS: Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker, eradicating asbestos contamination at schools should be a serious priority. So, I'm trying to know what progress has been made with the eradication of asbestos

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background):	(⚡)
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

contamination at the Carlton van Heerden High School in Upington, aside from the construction of mobile units?

Can the MEC describe the processes that have been put in place to award the tender and to monitor the quality of workmanship for this project.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Isaacs.

Honourable Monakali, MEC for Education can you respond to the question?

HON MEMBER, MONAKALI: Thank you very much, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Honourable Isaacs.

SPEAKER: My apology, honourable Monakali.

Honourable Isaacs.

HON MEMBER, MONAKALI: Thank you very much, honourable Speaker, Deputy Speaker, honourable Premier and all Members.

In trying to respond to the question of the honourable Member; the construction of the new Carlton van Heerden Secondary School in Upington. The process started in March 25th 2022, the tender was awarded. The contractor who got the tender has got a CIDDD grading of 8GP.

There was a compulsory briefing on the 9th of March to make sure that all the processes are being discussed with the tenders and so on.

The contractor that was appointed through an open tender process is a PC Builders and Render JV. The site was handed over to them on the 22nd of September 2022 and contract duration is for 24 months and the expectation is that the project will be completed on the 22nd of September 2024.

Contract amount is R149 million and up to date an amount of R10.4 million has been certified which makes up about 7% of the amount of the project and the physical progress is standing at 5% and 7% is the amount of money already spent on the project.

Now, the project managers on this project is KRIS Architects. Now, the progress I can say it because the question says except the mobiles. We have put up a mobile school at Carlton van Heerden where the learners are attending currently.

Coming to the construction, we can say that at this point in time they are at a phase where they are busy with the foundation of the school and the demolition of the asbestos structures has progress very far; they are in progress.

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Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

You must remember that there are certain requirements that you must comply to in order to demolish asbestos structures and to transport the building material that is coming from those structures they are transported outside of the province.

Now, the question which says what are we doing to make sure that we check the progress and the quality of the work? There are monthly technical and site meetings are held, on a monthly basis. We get monthly progress reports which are submitted by the contractor to the project managers. We are making sure that the occupational health and safety is also monitored on a continuous basis. The contractor is then required to submit construction progress reports which is required for the site meeting and must include the contractor's master programme, the occupational health and safety reports and also the social impact.

The progress report is required even where there is no progress or zero progress, where you must still get the report on a monthly basis.

Now the position of the asbestos structures is monitored by competitive professionals that will manage the risks. Because you must have professional qualifications to be able to deconstruct an asbestos building.

The professional structural engineering and the civil engineers are also involved in in the project monitoring to make sure we are getting quality and we are getting the correct progress.

As we are sitting her today, in total we already had 7 site meetings and we had 8 technical meetings to date. The next site meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 30th of May 2023, to make sure we continue with our monitoring and make sure we also monitor the progress of the project.

Thank you very much, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Monakali.

Thanks a lot.

Honourable Isaacs, are there any follow up questions?

HON MEMBER, ISAACS: Thank you, Speaker.

We recently had a fire at AC Kearns, and one of the reasons why the fire spread so quick was because there were no fire walls built between the classrooms. Are we making provision for firewalls in this project?

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Honourable Isaacs, thank you very much.

Honourable Monakali, can you respond to the follow up?

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background):	(⚡)
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

HON MEMBER, MONAKALI: Thank you, honourable Speaker.

Honourable Speaker, when we are building schools, we are making use of a national, we have adopted a national plan for the schools that we are building. And you can see, if you look at the schools that we are building now, they are far more advanced than the schools that we built in the past.

Of course, it's an important requirement to make sure we safeguard our schools. We don't only have firewalls in between, but also in the ceiling, especially (↔) and so on. We make sure we have got fire walls so that we can protect the, especially the class where we have got laptops, computers and so on. So, we do have those, that is part of our plans and constructing the schools.

Thank you very much.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Monakali, thank you very much honourable Isaacs.

Honourable Members, I will then allow honourable Liebenberg to raise question to honourable Vass, from COGHSTA, MEC for COGHSTA.

Honourable Liebenberg.

HON MEMBER, LIEBENBERG: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

If we think of the Northern Cape and we think of climate change and disasters, I would like to pose my questions to the MEC, Bently Vass.

Through you, Speaker. The Democratic Alliance has submitted numerous letters to the Department, requesting for the information to be shared, relating to disaster mitigation measures in the province. We did not receive an answer yesterday as well.

What is the amount that has been allocated or earmarked for disaster management centres to become a fully-fledged and efficient disaster centre in the Province.

What is the reason for not requesting national funding for the purpose of upgrading or expanding the disaster management centre, and thirdly, what is the long-term plan to establish the disaster management centre into a fully-fledged disaster response centre to be effective in the Province.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Liebenberg.

Honourable Vass, you may respond to the question.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(↔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

HON MEMBER, VASS: Thanks, honourable Speaker and thanks, honourable Liebenberg, for raising these questions.

First of all, honourable Speaker, currently the Provincial Disaster Management Centre is a sub directorate placed under the directorate of municipal spatial planning.

Am I not audible? You can't hear me?

Alright.

Let me start from the beginning.

I am saying, honourable Member, that the Provincial Disaster Management Centre is a sub directorate placed under the directorate of municipal spatial planning. The total budget for goods and services for the entire directorate is 600 000. Therefore, the amount is shared between key performance areas of SPLUMA, Provincial Disaster Management as well as the Fire Services.

In terms of question 2, the reason for not requesting national funding, in this financial year the Provincial Disaster Management Centre will be visiting the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northwest Provincial Disaster Management Centre for benchmarking and receive cost design for the establishment of fully fledged Provincial Disaster Management Centre.

Donors and the National Disaster Management Centre will be approached for funding, not forgetting our Provincial Treasury.

Then in terms of the third question, in terms of the long-term plan, once the cost design has been consolidated, the Provincial Treasury and National Disaster Management Centres will be approached for possible funding, honourable Liebenberg.

I thank you, honourable Speaker.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Vass.

Honourable Liebenberg, are there any follow up questions?

HON MEMBER, LIEBENBERG: Yes, Madam Chair.

I would like to ask the Minister or the MEC, why is it that he is only now oing the long-term plan about what is happening with the disasters, since we are coming through disasters quite frequently. What was the reason for not requesting that funding ahead of time, because we haven't seen that in the past.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable Liebenberg.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Honourable Vass.

HON MEMBER, VASS: Thank you.

Honourable Speaker, it's not the first time that we are dealing with this matter of disaster, all of us are aware. And also, with the issue of climate change, some of the things that we have been discussing for quite some time. But I think we have now put things together to make sure that at least we get the necessary assistance from National, because otherwise we will be sitting with a problem.

But we are working very hard on it. We will keep you posted, Madam, alright.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Vass.

Honourable Liebenberg, honourable Vass is always available if you want to engage with him further on the issue of disasters.

I am saying, honourable Liebenberg that honourable Vass' door is always open if you want to have further engagement with him on the issue of disasters in our province.

I will not ask him to give his number now, but I think that you do have his number.

Oh! *hulle het klaar gewhatsapp.*

Baie dankie.

Thank you very much, honourable Members.

This was our last question to the Members of the Executive.

Thank you very much to the Members of the Executive for responding to these questions. This is only one of the many platforms within the Legislature that we are using to hold the Executive accountable. But also thank you for availing yourselves as Members of the Executive, to ensure that you are not only updating us as Members of the Provincial Legislature, but also updating the Province on certain issues that Members are raising on a daily basis, and experiencing on a daily basis.

Our core goal is to improve the livelihood of our communities so thank you very much.

Also thank you very much to the Members that have raised these questions.

Honourable Members we will then proceed with our next order.

Secretary can you read us our next Order please?

SECRETARY: Honourable Speaker, the next Order is *Debate: Africa Month* and the theme is "Promoting and appreciating knowledge in and from Africa".

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Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

SPEAKER: Thank you very much Secretary.

Honourable Members the Whippery has agreed on the time allocations for Members that are going to participate in this debate.

I will then request honourable Finnies to open this debate and honourable Maneng will then close the debate.

Thank you honourable Finnies you may take the podium; you have twenty minutes.

Thank you.

Die oposisie kan maar saam hande klap, dis mos n debate.

HON MEMBER, FINNIES: Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature; the Premier of the Northern Cape Dr. Zamani Saul; Members of the Executive Council; Members of the Northern Cape Provincial Legislature; the Leader of the Official Opposition and the leader of the Freedom Front Plus.

Good morning.

Goeie more.

Molweni.

Dumelang.

Honourable Speaker, *Africa Day celebration deserves praise because they remind us of how far the continent and its people have and the associated sense of pride, healing, and dignity with a mixture of pain, joy fear and hope.*”

This derived from the source IOL May 2022 celebrating Africa Day is worth it.

Sons and daughters of Africa, we come here a day before we celebrate with our fellow African brothers and sisters, our rich history, different cultures and legacies that connects us together as neighbors.

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now the African Union (AU).

On May 25, 1963, Africa made history by establishing the organization of African Unity to foster greater unity and solidarity among African countries and their people.

As a result, we have designed this day, designated tis day as Africa Day. Africa Day brings African brothers and sisters from all around the continent together to develop deeper solidarity.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

It allows us to better understand one another as Africans, both on the continent and on a global scale.

Africa Day is a chance for us to work together to improve our continent and unite as one Africa to make a better continent and a better world.

Honourable Speaker, we cannot claim to be truly free while dangerous and blatant racism persists in our society. We cannot claim to be truly free while racism persists in our educational institutions where our students are physically and emotionally abused by peers of different races. We cannot claim to be truly free when we continue to take foreign nationals in our communities.

As South Africans, we must refuse to participate in unjustified attacks on innocent individuals simply because they are immigrants. Our foundational ideal as articulated beautifully in the Freedom Charter “there shall be peace and friendship” should be a slogan as South Africans.

It is also something which must be inculcated into all foreigners who live and work in South Africa.

Honourable Speaker, today’s House Sitting should be an expression of our cultural diversity and unity. Let us use this opportunity for it to become a voice, movement and expression of hopes for a better continent.

For all the core of our African agenda, is a surge for togetherness, economic and political cooperation, and integration as well as the promotion of African tales and substance. All which should lead and define our efforts.

As we mark and celebrate Africa Month, we must ask ourselves what our generation of leaders is doing to deliver the promise of a free Africa that is unified and at peace with itself.

Our celebration of Africa Day as well as all other festivals during the month of May must go beyond historical events and address current issues.

To comprehend and appreciate our continent’s richness, we must learn more about it. A greater understanding of Africa will instill tolerance and alleviate sentiments of hatred against fellow Africans which appears as Xenophobia.

We should be motivated by the goal of a peaceful, democratic, non-racial, non-sexist unified and wealthy African continent that embraces the spirit of Ubuntu.

As government e will continue to respond to the goals of Africa Month in the creative sector. Which is to create a significance of culture and creative industries in socio-economic growth. We will ensure that appreciation and demand for arts & culture, goods & services in order to foster competitive marketplaces for intra and inter African trade.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

The promotion of African identity and establishing African values and principles create cultural conversations and engagements amongst art practitioners across the continent and to increase the commercial relationships, discussions, and entrepreneurship amongst Africans.

Africa Day is therefore not just an event but a day to honor our ancestors and celebrate our victories. It is also a day of commitment and re-commitment in the struggle to create a world based on peace and justice.

As always, we continue to call for the masses of our people to take our responsibility of liberation and join an organization working for the liberation of humanity in general and African people in particular.

All praises to our fellow Africans for solidarity in our fight to liberate our land, our people and the world from exploitation and oppression.

This month therefore presents an opportunity for the people of Africa, the continent, and the rest of the world to join us in celebrating the South African story.

A chance to celebrate our victory over Apartheid and to reflect on our hard-won democracy. This momentous occasion allows us to look back at our achievements and to reflect on and celebrate our freedom.

Honourable Speaker, it is in fact that South Africa is an integral part of the African continent, and our national interest is intrinsically linked to the African stability, unity and prosperity.

Together with the rest of the African countries, we must foster unity amongst ourselves in support of the agenda 2063,

We must commit ourselves to social cohesion and nation building. Our democratic principles, under pinned character and nature of the society that we seek to build.

It is social cohesion that speaks to the glue that brings the society together especially in the context of our cultural diversity.

We are all Africans, and we are part of the continent, therefore we must embrace and partner all fellow Africans residing in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent.

Today as we commemorate Africa month, we must be proud of what we have accomplished and resist the demand of the opposition's inconsistent mega funds. If we want a wealthy Africa where every child, mother and citizen is wealthy, we need a stable and peaceful Africa.

We will not be able to achieve the prosperity and political and economic progress where the (⇔) as long as there is conflict on our continent, whether it is local or on the African continent.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Let me conclude with the wise words of Kwame Nkrumah, in his speech which he delivered in 1963 called Africa must unite he said: *the forces that unite us are intrinsic and greater than the superimposed influences that keep us apart.*

Let our voices liberate across the land and heavens as we celebrate our common identity, we Africa.

I thank you.

Baie dankie, Speaker.

(Applause)

SPEAKER: Baie dankie, MEC.

I will then give an opportunity to honourable McGluwa to participate in this debate.

Honourable McGluwa, you have 16-minutes.

You can't have 60, then it's the whole debate.

Thank you.

HON MEMBER, McGLUWA: Thank you very much, honourable Speaker.

Honourable Premier, Dr Zamani Saul, honourable Members, members in the gallery, the media.

Honourable Speaker, as we are gathered here today, my mind goes back to the speech of the former President Thabo Mbeki, he said and I quote: *I am an African.*

This warrants the question, Speaker whether we can all still boast of being African.

Africa better known as a continent of wealth, growth, mineral and a continent of milk and honey. Africa is known for the Mountain Kilimanjaro, the Sahara Dessert, the mining and the Victoria Waterfalls and many other treasures.

The African continent has 40% of the world's gold and up to 90% of its chromium and platinum.

Speaker, I love this continent, simply for its natural beauty, it's diversity, it's food, it's people, it's culture, it's wild life and many more.

Most of the diamonds come from Africa. We are the second largest continent of the world, those who can hear me today; listen carefully; Africa is an important investment destination. It contributes to the many US countries also increasing revenue of major cities and towns.

Translation:

Inaudible interjections speaking softly):

Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)

Laughter:

Applause:

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(↔)

(laughter)

(applause)

I would like to ask the question to this House, are we in real sense protecting Africa?

The answer is no, simply Speaker because here in Africa we have continental counterparts who has sold us to the lowest bidder.

Yes, honourable Vass you can look at me like that.

(Laughter)

They have run part of this continent literally to the ground. The late President Mugabe and the former President Jacob Zuma including Putin and President Ramaphosa to mention a few.

Vandag moet die mense van Zimbabwe met 'n kruiswa vol *Zimbabwean dollars* winkel toe gaan om net een *loaf* brood te koop.

Hulle geldwaarde beteken absoluut niks.

We still have too much problems in Africa because of corruption, crime, harder and malnutrition, economic growth, climate change, political instability, health access and women abuse.

In the discussion paper prepared by the institute for Justice and Reconciliation for the United Nation Development Program, social cohesion it states that there is a correlation between social cohesion and Ubuntu.

Indeed, Speaker, the focus should be on the community, the people of this continent and not about Politicians.

It is further shameful that the biggest threat to social cohesion is not only inequality, poverty and unemployment, but the African leaders of today. The lack of not only Ubuntu principle, but simple concepts of creating jobs and better the lives of all the people of this continent; and not like here in South Africa where we face the job killing new race quota act.

Normally, it is the Department of Sports, Arts & Culture who is responsible to draft social cohesion policies.

Yes, Speaker, of course they must host social cohesion summits. But, hell no! The South African government rather attempts ways to sponsor Tottenham Spurs with a billion rand of dollars' sponsorship deal.

That is nothing instead of creating jobs wanted to erect the tallest 22 million (↔).

Speaker, the corruption perception index CPI states how sub-Saharan Africa are eroded by corruption, particularly during the time of the global crisis.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(↔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	<i>(laughter)</i>
Applause:	<i>(applause)</i>

South Africa alone struggled to recover over R500 billion stolen during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Zondo Commission led by Chief Justice Zondo Commission, over 3 years, imagine honourable Members over 3 years has revealed that even MPL, Ministers, MEC families and friends were deeply rooted in the involvement of corruption and stealing from the poor.

Honourable Speaker, that is nothing.

The people of this continent can download a 5000 page Zondo Commission report scandal implicating our countries former President Jacob Zuma and many others.

It also found that the current President dealt with the allegation of misconduct.

Most States in the sub-Saharan Country has signed (↔), some even rectified the UN convention against corruption as part of Africa's commitment regarding the freedom of its people. They have signed agreements with the international criminal court to investigate and protect us against crime in our humanity.

Speaker, we have witnessed recently how Zimbabwe bought helicopters worth 132 million dollars from Russia and on the contrary how the Russian (↔) left South African novel dock yard loaded with weapons.

Yes, the US may have apologised for the way in communicating this message; but we all know what was on the ship. The ship left us with political instability.

South Africa should reflect and bow their heads in shame.

Honourable Speaker, I once visited Mauritius and for those Members who do not know; Mauritius is an African most developed country within the human development index of 802; a very high human development index.

Mauritius boast a life expectancy of 75 years'.

Hier in Suid-Afrika, as jy 50 raak, daan is vol suiker, hoe bloed en al die goeters

With a literacy rate of 93.3%, no cadre deployment, no corruption, but free health care and free education.

Can we say that of the South Africans?

South Africa should clearly pick up the leaves of Mauritius, Seychelles, Algeria, Tunisia and just here close to us; Botswana.

Speaker let's speak about hunger and malnutrition.

In the final months of 2022, 70% of the world's hungriest people are allocated in Africa.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(↔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

How can we as Africans sing the Lord's song in a strange land. It's Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia. Almost 36 million people are affected. African countries must wake up and smell the coffee.

The culprit causing this is poverty and a useless government.

Here in South Africa, stats shows that in 2021, reveals that 2.1 million people reported experience hunger.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to suggest that our region address poverty and hunger, in reducing food waste and to display Ubuntu Principles.

Now that climate change is also a factor, that contributes to food security, we should consider to a children I Africa. Sponsor a child in Africa.

Speaker, whether we like it or not, the war in Ukraine are also contributing factors to the food security in the horn of Africa, whilst consist of Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

Finally, Speaker, our continent is also well known where women experience domestic violence of many sorts. Of course, anyone can suffer abuse, and men too. According to the African Development Bank, gender index, 2019 suggests and prevalence of intimate partner sexual or physical violence ranges from as little from 10% to 40% across Africa, which in some of the highest globally.

The most shocking revelation is that most violent countries on earth are located in the 3 geographical regions, namely Sub Saharan, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Honourable Speaker, the reason for the ongoing poverty, and fuelled by factors such as oppression or exploitation, governments, civil wars and armed insurrections, or tensions between people of different race, ethnic groups, or religions. We need a peaceful continent, where job killing new race act quota does not exist.

This House should not be comfortable as South Africans, as notorious high levels of violence against women, the country has amongst the highest rape incidence in the world.

The latest police figures shows that 10810 rape cases were reported in the first quarter of 2022.

Convicted Facebook rapist and murderer, Thabo Bester, was running a multimillion-rand scam while serving a life sentence for rape and murder in Mangaung Correctional Service.

Africa and its leaders have an obligation to improve the quality of life of our people of the African Continent. Let us embrace Africa and its people.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Speaker, if Patrice Motsepe, the founder and the Chairman of African Rainbow Minerals, a billionaire in 2008, the first black African that had been rated one of the top 10 richest people in this continent, surely, we can better the lives, and not only individuals.

I want to encourage Members of this House, let us explore and learn about our continent. Let us discover the arts of Africa. Its music, its culture, it's animals and its beautiful landscape, just to mention one right at our doorstep. Honourable MEC of Education, it's important that we must go and look at the Graskop in Mpumalanga. You will understand why this place is called God's Window. I think South Africans and Africa must visit this place, *en ons moet daar miskien deur Bid gaan hê vir die land, Suid Afrika* and Africa.

Speaker, if you believe, if you believe, Speaker, and I believe, let's pray together, it's only then Africa will be saved.

I thank you.

SPEAKER: Thank you, very much, honourable McGluwa.

Honourable Members, honourable Lepolesa will be participating in this Debate on behalf of the EFF.

Thank you, honourable Lepolesa.

You have 6 minutes.

HON MEMBER, LEPOLESA: Greetings, House Speaker, greetings to the leader of the EFF in absentia, Leaders of the Political Parties represented in this House. All Members of the Executive, Chief Whips, and all Members of the Provincial Legislature.

Good morning.

Africa Day is intended to celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the organization of African Unity, OAU, now called Union, African Union.

From its creation in May 25, 1963, in the fight against colonialisation and apartheid, as well as the progress that Africa has made while reflecting on the challenges that Africa faces.

This year's theme as Africa Day, marks the 60th Anniversary of the signature of its founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the African Union has chosen acceleration of continental free trade area for implementation.

This presents (↔) opportunity for African countries to being 30 million people out of extreme poverty and raise the income of 68 million. Others who live in less than 105.59 per day. Its implementation will usher in the kinds of deep reforms necessary to enhance long term growth in African country.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(↔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Perhaps it is the right time to call for African currency, looking at the riches of the African continent, from oil, gold, diamonds, manganese, iron and ore and the likes.

The days calls to learn amongst other, about the continent of Africa, explore African animals, learn about the different countries of Africa, discover African arts and crafts, explore African music and instruments, read some African folk tales and learn about Africa's history.

Africa Day is a day of all African countries; however, Africa Day is observed as a public holiday in only 12 African countries.

We have 54 sovereign African countries consisting of 48 countries sharing the area of the mainland Africa, plus 6 island nations, sadly so. So, South Africa does not observe this day as a public holiday, and we must ask ourselves why.

Isak Benseal proposed that Africa is the pictorial landscape in which man exists in a truer form than they do in Europe. Differences between the races and that Africa's and Europe are fundamentally different. South Africa is not celebrating Africa Day because it has been auctioned to Europe. This is a modern slavery day, modern day slavery, deliberately made possible by the government of the day.

We are controlled by the West, even when we form part of the BRICS, we still allow ourselves to be controlled by the West.

African Union must commit to eradicate these colonial outposts, especially in the climate of the shift of geopolitics towards a multipolar world. African leaders must see this basis of what they actually are. How will Africans celebrate Africa Day especially us here in South Africa when we do not observe and recognize a day in which history was made for Africa.

How will we celebrate Africa Day when the country is still in the hands of the white minority and few connected families who have gained access to the state resources at the expense of others who died for this country?

How will we celebrate this day when we are still not equal?

When poverty is still dividing us and when unemployment is so high?

How will we celebrate Africa Day when government of the day is unable to keep our lights on? When government has killed Eskom to point that it is unable to provide us when much needed electricity but rather permanent loadshedding, water interruptions and lack of service delivery.

The only available option is to remove the current governing party from power and become part of the government. That way we will make sure that days like these become a reality and reason to celebrate Africans.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

I so move.

Thank you.

SPEAKER: Thank you very much honourable Lepolesa.

Honourable Lekwene you can still clap hands. It's part of the Africa...

Thank you very much.

Honourable Members we will then give an opportunity to honourable Coetzee to participate in this debate.

Thank you, honourable Coetzee.

HON MEMBER, COETZEE: Thank you honourable Speaker.

*Agbare Premier ; agbare lede van die Noord Kaapse wetgewer.
Agbare speaker, op die vyf en twintigste Mei vier ons Afrika Dag. Op hierdie dag in 1963 is die Organisasie van Afrika Eenheid amptelik gestig. Op 9 Julie in 2002 het die naam verander na Afrika Unie maar ons vier vandag nog steeds Afrika Dag op die vyf en twintig Mei.*

Agbare speaker, Afrika is die tweede grootste vasteland op die wereldkaart. Dit is die tuiste van meer as 1.4 biljoen mense en is ryk aan baie gesogte grondstowwe en natuurlike hulpbronne.

Die hulpbronne skep baie moontlikhede vir ontwikkeling in die toekoms maar skep ook geleenthede vir misbruik en uitbuiting.

Agbare speaker, die kronkelpad van die geskiedenis van afrika is baie omstrede. Aan die eenkant is daar n weergawe van ontwikkeling en vooruitgang en aan die ander kant is daar n weergawe van uitbuiting slawerny en plundering.

*Ons almal is egter nou deel van Suid Afrika en dus ook deel van Afrika.
Die meeste van ons is hier gebore sonder eie keuse en het geen begeerte om in enige ander land te bly nie.*

Ons almal is kinders van Afrika en ons almal het n plig om Afrika in n beter tuiste vir ons kinders na te laat.

Uit die geskiedenis weet ons vandag dat slawe en grondstowwe uit afrika baie bygedra het om die ekonomie van Europa en amerika te bou. Afrika beskik dus oor die menslike en natuurlike hulpbronne om een van die magtigste vastelande in die wereld te wees.

Agbare speaker, konflik in die res van die wêreld is stadig maar seker besig om te eskaleer.

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Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Die wêreld is besig om te polariseer in magsblokke waarvan die leidende moonthede oor wapens beskik wat die gang van die geskiedenis van die mensdom dramaties kan beïnvloed.

Net die tyd sal leer hoe dit sal uitspeel en hoe die toekoms van die wereld gaan lyk. Dis belangrik dat Afrika en Suid Afrika nie ingeterk by n konflik waarin daar net verloorders gaan wees nie.

Agbare Speaker, Suid Afrika en Afrika is alreeds n belangrike rolspeler wat wat gebeure in die wêreld kan beïnvloed. Ons het die mense en hulpbronneme om nog groter en sterker te word.

Met die regte leiding, toeweiing en samewerking kan die rol wat Afrika en Suid Afrika speel net belangriker raak.

Ek dank u agbare Speaker.

SPEAKER: Baie dankie agbare Coetzee.

Honourable Members, honourable Maneng will close this debate.

Honourable Maneng you have sixteen minutes.

Unfortunately, honourable Maneng you are the Chief-Whip, you have decided on your own sixteen minutes.

Thank you honourable Maneng.

HON MEMBER, MANENG: Thank you very much honourable Speaker, Newrene Klaaste; honourable Premier Dr. Zamani Saul; the Leader of Government Business honourable Bentley Vass; the Leader of the Official Opposition at the Legislature honourable Harold McGluwa; leaders of the Political Parties represented in the Legislature; the Whip of the Ruling Party honourable Senye and other Party Whips; honourable Members of the Provincial Legislature; honourable Members of Executive Council; distinguished guests in attendance on our virtual platform; ladies and gentlemen.

Honourable Speaker, we convene here a day prior to the celebration of Africa Day.

A day that should have meaning for all of us as Africans. A day that should inspire hope for the Africa we want, united for a common purpose and interest.

Honourable Speaker, this marks 60 years since the establishment of Organisation of Africa Unit in the historic city of Addis Ababa. The OAU established by 32 African states on the 25th of May 1963 was the first post-independence continental institution which was built on the Pan African vision of an Africa that was united, Africa that we as free and in control of its own destiny.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(⇔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Madam Speaker, the founding OAU Charter recognised that the freedom, unity, justice and dignity were essential objectives in the attainment of the legitimate aspiration of African people. and further promote understanding among African people and fostering cooperation amongst African states.

Thus, Madam Speaker, the AU's main objective is to reap the continent of the remaining remnants of colonialism and Apartheid. To promote unity and solidarity amongst African states, to coordinate and intensify cooperation of development and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of members states and promote international cooperation.

Honourable Speaker, on the 9th of September 1989 African head of States made an issue that the said declaration calling for the establishment of the African Union which is meant to exhilarate the process of integration on the continent to ensure Africa plays its rightful role in the global economy while addressing continental, social, economic and political problems impacting negatively on Africa's globalisation.

The AU was officially launched in July 2002 endeavoured under the guiding vision of "*An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic clause in the global arena*".

Honourable Speaker, Africa Day as we are celebrating annually on the 25th of May is thus a reflection on progress made in addressing common challenges. It is a day where we acknowledge our past and past interventions in changing the future of the African people and ensuring that unity and prosperity prevail for all.

Madam Speaker, we therefore acknowledge the multitude of challenges still facing Africa but we continue with our endeavour to read Africa from these hurtful and stagnating challenges.

The 2023 Africa Day Theme adopted by the AU is: *Accelerating the implementation of AFCTA*. Looking for opportunities in challenging times, I will use this theme during this debate to demonstrate the challenges faced and the opportunities awaiting Africa as a global player.

Madam Speaker, to achieve its objectives, the AU adopted agenda 2063, the Africa you want as Africa's blueprint and master plans for transforming Africa into a global power house of the future.

Agenda 2063 signed by Africa's heads of state during the celebration of the golden jubilee celebrating the establishment of the AU in 2013 aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and it's a concrete manifestation of Pan African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity. Agenda 2063 is the concrete manifestation of how the continent plans to achieve its Pan African vision within 50 years by 2063.

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Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Madam Speaker, agenda 2063 encapsulates not only Africa's aspirations for the future; but also identifies clear programs which can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent.

One of this is the African continental pre-trade areas, AFCTA. This program aims to significantly exhilarate growth of inter-Africa trade and youth trade more effectively as an engine of growth and sustainable development through doubling of inter-Africa trade by 2023; and to strengthen Africa's common voice and policy space in global trade negotiations and establish the financial institution within agreed upon time frames; Africa Investment Bank and African Stock Exchange, the African monetary fund and the African Central Bank.

The AFCTA is the world largest free trade area bringing together the 55 countries of African union and 8 regional economic countries within its overall mandate of creating a single continental market for a population of about 1.3 billion and a combined GDP of approximately 3.4 trillion US dollars.

As one of the agenda 2063 program, the AFCTA seeks to create one African market by eliminating trade barriers and boost inter-Africa trade and in particular is to advance trade in value added production across all service sector of the African economy.

Madam Speaker, the principles of the AFCTA include (↔), substantial liberatisation, consensus making and best practices in the regional economic communities.

Therefore, Africa challenges are Africa's opportunities as the continent could have the largest work force with a combined GDP at that time estimated to 16.2 trillion by the (↔) century.

Madam Speaker, these observation and facts presented are known to the worst and it's a clear demonstration why the interest in Africa is on the increase.

Honourable McGluwa, Russia has been and continue to be criticised for its military actions in Ukraine. Africa has mostly taken a non-alliance approach with numerous States not taking sides. The Africa proposal accepted by both Russia and Ukraine is that a dialogue to end the war which has a crippling effect on global food prices and communities.

Madam Speaker, South Africa together with 5 other African States will be leading peace talks between Russia and Ukraine; something the (↔) has failed to do as the war is in their interest.

This action by Africa is not surprising given the relations enjoys with Russia and is evident by inaugural Russia-Africa Summit in 2019, attended by 43 African leaders.

Madam Speaker, like Russia, China has been a closed ally of post-independent Africa. China has become Africa's largest trading partner by a lateral creditor and a crucial source of infrastructure investment.

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(↔)
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Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

Furthermore, Chinese firms account for an estimated one-eighth of the continent industrial output. Chinese digital infrastructure is critical to the platforms on which Africa communicate.

Political, military and security ties are becoming closer. The Africa bridge collaboration has huge opportunities for these emerging economies, thus, unblocking potential cooperation between bricks and Africa. In fact, Africa has demonstrated huge potential in terms of economic development prospects, abundant natural resources, growing consumer power and favourable demographics with the emergence of the Brics as the major global players has raised; hope that a win-win partnership could foster the development of the continent.

Madam Speaker, Brics has expanded its involvement in Africa. Their share in foreign direct investment influence and trade in (↔) rapidly. Trade between China and Africa has increased exponentially.

The partnership between India and Africa has significantly promoted the development of small and medium scale enterprises on the continent while Brazil and Russia being heavily involved in the mining and energy industry in Africa through public/private partnership.

In concluding, Madam Speaker this debate let me take the route of honourable McGluwa; but instead remind all of us of the words in the AU anthem:

*Let us unite and celebrate together.
The victories won for our liberation
Let us dedicate ourselves to rise together
To defend our liberty and unity*

*O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and Flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life*

*Let us all unite and sing together.
To uphold the bonds that frame our destiny.
Let us dedicate ourselves to fight together.
For lasting peace and justice on earth.*

*O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the tree of life.*

*Let us all unite and toil together.
To give the best we have to Africa.
The cradle of mankind and fount of culture
Our pride and hope at break of dawn.*

Translation:	*
Inaudible interjections speaking softly):	(↔)
Inaudible interjections loud background): (⚡)	
Laughter:	(laughter)
Applause:	(applause)

*O Sons and Daughters of Africa
Flesh of the Sun and flesh of the Sky
Let us make Africa the Tree of Life.*

Ke a leboga.

Enkosi.

I thank you.

(Applause)

SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable Chief Whip; honourable Maneng.

Honourable Members.

Order, honourable Members.

We will wait for honourable Vass and honourable Lekwene to finalise their discussion.

(Laughter)

Dit gebeur so, honourable Lekwene. Die eene wat skuldig is sal altyd eerste wys na die ander eene.

Baie dankie, honourable Members.

Ek dink honourable McGluwa het mooi geluister wat die honourable Chief Whip gedebate het. Honourable Chief Whip het sy aandag somer lekker vas gehou.

So, thank you, honourable Chief Whip.

Thank you very much, honourable Members for participating in this debate on Africa Month.

We are all Africans, let us celebrate together, let us fight together for Africa.

Thank you very much.

Honourable Members, we have then come to the end of our House Sitting.

This House Sitting then stands to adjourn.

Thank you.

Translation:

Inaudible interjections speaking softly):

Inaudible interjections loud background): (🔊)

Laughter:

Applause:

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(↔)

(laughter)

(applause)