

THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2014

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

The Council met at 14:00.

The Chairperson took the Chair and requested members to observe a moment of silence for prayers or meditation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see col 000.

NO NOTICES OF MOTION OR MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, I have been informed that the Whippery has agreed that there will be no notices of motion or motions without notice today, except for the motion which is on the Order Paper.

SUSPENSION OF RULE 239(1) FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE ADJUSTMENTS

APPROPRIATION BILL

(Draft Resolution)

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Chairperson, I move the motion printed in my name on the Order Paper as follows:

That Rule 239(1), which provides *inter alia* that the consideration of a Bill may not commence before at least three working days have lapsed since the committee's report was tabled, be suspended for the purposes of consideration of the Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B10-2014] (National Assembly - section 77).

I so move.

Question put: That the motion be agreed to.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Motion accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS - OVERSIGHT VISIT TO ABAQULUSI
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS - OVERSIGHT VISIT TO IMBABAZANE
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATIVE
GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS - OVERSIGHT VISIT TO UMVOTI LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY**

Mr S G THOBEJANE: Chairperson of the NCOP, hon members of this august House, ladies and gentlemen, as I present the report on the three municipalities together, it becomes imperative for us to understand that Vision 2030 of the National Development Plan, NDP, will only be successful once our municipalities are up and running. We will never arrive at the implementation of Vision 2030 of the NDP without capable municipalities.

It is with that reasoning that the Select Committee on Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs undertook the oversight visit to KwaZulu-Natal. The reason was that we had to look at the following municipalities: Imbabazane, Abaqulusi and Umvoti local municipalities. In these three municipalities the provincial executive council of KwaZulu-Natal applied for intervention in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The intention was to deal with the nonperformance of municipalities, and their failure to execute their responsibilities.

Our oversight visit to that part of the country was underpinned by the following: In all the three municipalities the aim was not to consider a new application to invoke section 139(1)(b), but we went there to look at the extension of that particular section. This was

simply because the three municipalities were operating under the intervention of the administration. At the time of our visit, the provincial executive council of the KwaZulu-Natal government had come to the determination that they had not achieved the objective of the intervention and, therefore, they wanted an extension of the intervention to make sure that the intended plan was achieved by those municipalities.

There were eight reasons why those municipalities were placed under the intervention amongst others the following: One, the unstable local political squabbles. There was in-fighting amongst the different parties involved. Two, the council also failed in some instances to call the required sittings for three consecutive periods, and that was over a quarter. Three, they were also unable to deal with the finalisation of outstanding matters, particularly that of the Abaqulusi municipal manager. The issue of employing that particular key official was amongst the issues they were confronting in that particular municipality. Four, there was a collapse of governing structures which resulted in the lack of accountability and oversight of the municipality, which left the municipality open to all sorts of things.

Five, they also failed to table and approve municipal budgets and respond to the concerns raised by the Auditor-General during the audit period. Six, an unstable and volatile municipal environment was experienced by the three municipalities as we visited that area.

Seven, senior managers were unable to execute their functions. Eight, the council failed to perform and fulfil its executive obligations.

The intervention was put there with terms of references which are as follows: The review of decisions of the municipal council to ensure that those decisions were correctly looked into. Also, it was to compile a turnaround strategy to recover the finances that were not in a good state. The implementation of the control and the approval of the expenditure were also not in order.

They were supposed to take on board the implementation of governance systems, policies, procedures and the council's oversight; and review organisational structures and undertake all steps to comply with section 54A and 56 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act. The challenge of ensuring that the councils of these three municipalities meet on a regular basis as required in terms of section 18(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act of 1998 was supposed to be considered a part of the terms of reference.

Also, the revision of the council's standing rules and orders were part of the terms of reference. Monitoring and assessment of strict adherence to policies and principles were also part of that. They were to ratify all council committee decisions, including those taken by the municipal manager and managers directly accountable to the municipal manager. They also had to implement council

resolutions and ensure the system of internal controls, approval of expenditure and operational integrity were in place. They had to enhance municipal performance oversight and compliance.

Implementation of sound financial and performance management skills are required in those particular municipalities.

Notwithstanding the good progress made in those areas, there were other areas that still needed us to consider recommending that the NCOP should uphold and accept the requisition of the provincial executive council under the MEC for local government and traditional affairs. They needed us to give them the authority to extend the intervention so that they could normalise and stabilise the municipalities.

In that regard the select committee put forward concerns that had to be looked into when the extension was given: That the administrators at Umvoti fast-track the implementation of the municipal action plan to effectively deal with all cross-cutting challenges, including the elections of the local labour forum, the mayor and deputy mayor and the establishment of section 79 and 80 committees of the municipalities.

The KwaZulu-Natal department of co-operative governance and traditional affairs is to table an exit strategy and the final report in respect of the three municipalities which are under the intervention of the NCOP by April 2015. All matters raised in

respect of women and youth in the three municipalities bear reference to the Department of Women in the Presidency and the National Youth Development Agency.

Finally, they should fast-track the development and completion of the Abaqulusi Local Municipality local economic development plan, and ensure that it is adhered to.

Now, on behalf of the hon chairperson of the committee, the hon Mohapi, I move that the report be adopted by this august Council. I thank you. [Applause.]

Question put: That the Report on Oversight Visit to Abaqulusi Local Municipality be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report on Oversight Visit to Abaqulusi Local Municipality accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

Question put: That the Report on Oversight Visit to Imbabazane Local Municipality be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report on Oversight Visit to Imbabazane Local Municipality accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

Question put: That the Report on Oversight Visit to Umvoti Local Municipality be adopted.

IN FAVOUR: Eastern Cape, Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape, North West, Western Cape.

Report on Oversight Visit to Umvoti Local Municipality accordingly adopted in accordance with section 65 of the Constitution.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I call on the Secretary to read the Fourth and Fifth Orders of the day.

The SECRETARY OF THE NCOP: Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources - Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, with Explanatory Memorandum.

Consideration of Report of Select Committee on Land and Mineral Resources - Convention for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, with Explanatory Memorandum.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I have the honour to call upon the hon Mohai. [Interjections.] I think the wrong Orders were read out. We are dealing with the Appropriation Bill.

The SECRETARY OF THE NCOP: I apologise, Chair. I had the wrong Order Paper before me.

ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Votes and Schedule)

ADJUSTMENTS APPROPRIATION BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

Mr S J MOHAI: Hon Chair and hon members, the Minister of Finance, Minister Nene, tabled the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, MTBPS, on 22 October this year, outlining the budget priorities of government for the medium-term estimates. This was done in terms of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, Act 9 of 2009, hereinafter referred to as the Act.

After the tabling of the MTBPS, the committee was required to consider and report on the Division of Revenue Amendment Bill, which hon members will recall was done last week. Now the committee reports on the proposed division of revenue and conditional grant allocations to provincial and local government for the 2015-16 financial years.

The proposed division of revenue and conditional grant allocations are made at a time that requires sustainable public spending due to the current weaker economic environment and poor economic outlook. For this reason growth projections have been revised downwards in the MTBPS to 1,4% from 2,7% in 2014; to 2,5% from 3,2% in 2015; and to 2,8% from 3,6% in 2016.

The weaker economic environment and outlook is due to both external and internal factors. The external factors include the slowdown in the Eurozone, vulnerability of capital flows, and the cooling down of the Chinese economy. Internal factors include, amongst others, supply shocks in electricity and water as well as labour-related disturbances such as prolonged labour strikes in mining and postal services.

The National Treasury emphasized that if public debt is to be capped at sustainable levels, fiscal consolidation can no longer be postponed. For this reason, the MTBPS proposes lowering expenditure ceilings for the first two years of the 2015 Medium-Term Expenditure

Framework, MTEF, by R10 billion and R15 billion respectively. The fiscal policy measures proposed to moderate expenditure growth are coupled with tax reforms that are aimed at increasing revenue to improve the fiscal position by R22 billion in the 2015-16 and by R30 billion in the 2016-17 financial years respectively.

The current fiscal policy, aimed at reducing government deficit and debt accumulation, should however not be seen as a signal for austerity measures. The proposed fiscal package is intended to narrow the budget deficit, stabilise debt and rebuild fiscal space. Despite the current weak economic environment, government has not deviated from its planned deficit reduction, as announced during the 2014 Budget.

Over the MTBPS, the government's expenditure is however still expected to grow in real terms. While our current fiscal policies are guided by a countercyclical stance, debt sustainability and intergenerational equity over the MTEF, the focus will shift to debt sustainability, allocative efficiency and obtaining value for money spent. Over the 2015 MTEF period, the proposed division of revenue among the three spheres of government will be as follows, in terms of percentages: national government will receive 49,9%; provincial government, 43%; and local government, 9%.

The committee is of the view that the proposed allocations are in line with government's priorities as outlined in the National

Development Plan, NDP, and the Medium-Term Strategic Framework, as government's comprehensive plan for the implementation of the NDP during the 2014 to 2019 period.

The committee recommends the acceptance of the report on the proposed division of revenue and conditional grant allocations for 2015 as contained in the 2014 MTBPS. Thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

Vote No 1 - Presidency - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance dissenting).

Vote No 2 - Parliament - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 3 - Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs - put.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 4 - Home Affairs - put.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 5 - International Relations and Co-operation - put.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 6 - Performance Monitoring and Evaluation - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 7 - Public Works - put.

Vote agreed (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 8 - Women, Children and People with Disabilities - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 9 - Government Communications and Information System - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 10 - National Treasury - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 11 - Public Enterprises - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 12 - Public Service and Administration - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 13 - Statistics South Africa - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 14 - Arts and Culture - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 15 - Basic Education - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 16 - Health - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 17 - Higher Education and Training - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 18 - Labour - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 19 - Social Development - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 20 - Sport and Recreation South Africa - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 21 - Correctional Services - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 22 - Defence and Military Veterans - put.

Division demanded.

The Council divided.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Chairperson, I can see that it is indeed the excitement of Christmas.

The point I want to make is that in terms of numbers, whether they go that side or stay in their positions, practically speaking, I see no difference. We know who is objecting. I will therefore suggest that members keep their official positions. They will still be visible when they divide. Thank you.

AYES - 28: De Beer, C J; Dikgale, M C; Dlamini, L C; Gaehler, L B; Khawula, M; Makue, E R; Mampuru, T K; Manopole, G M; Mateme, H E; Mlambo, E M; Mohai, S J; Motara, T; Motlashuping, T C; Mququ, P C; Mthimunye, S G; Nyambi, A J; Nthebe, B G; Prins, E; Rayi, M; Singh, A S; Stock, D; Suka, L; Tau, R J; Thobejane, S G; Tlake, M F; Wana, T; Ximbi, D L; Zwane L.

NOES - 9: Essack, F; Faber, W F; Julius, J W W; Labuschagne, C; Londt, J J; Masango, B S; Michalakis, G; Mpambo-Sibhukwana, T G; Van Lingen, E C.

ABSTAIN - 1: Matebus, M A.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 23 - Independent Police Investigative Directorate - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 24 - Justice and Constitutional Development - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 25 - Police - put.

Division demanded.

The Council divided:

AYES - 28: De Beer, C J; Dikgale, M C; Dlamini, L C; Gaehler, L B; Khawula, M; Makue, E R; Mampuru, T K; Manopole, G M; Mateme, H E; Mlambo, E M; Mohai, S J; Motara, T; Motlashuping, T C; Mququ, P C; Mthimunye, S G; Nyambi, A J; Nthebe, B G; Prins, E; Rayi, M; Singh, A S; Stock, D; Suka, L; Tau, R J; Thobejane, S G; Tlake, M F; Wana, T; Ximbi, D L; Zwane L L.

NOES- 9: Essack, F; Faber, W F; Julius, J W W; Labuschagne, C; Londt, J J; Masango, B S; Michalakis, G; Mpambo-Sibhukwana, T G; Van Lingen, E C.

ABSTAIN - 1: Matebus, M A.

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Hon Chairperson, on a point of order: If a division is called, I understand that all members have to divide. I would just like clarity on whether, if the EFF objected, they should be called to sit with those who objected. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Michalakis, the EFF is not sitting with those who objected; it is sitting on its objection because it abstains. [Interjections.] Hon Matebus, can you declare your vote?

Mr M A MATEBUS: I abstain.

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: In this particular case the EFF objected, but he's so deurmekaar [confused] ... [Laughter.] ... can we just ... he abstained in the first ... [Interjections.]... but he objected in the second case.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Order, members. Order! Hon Matebus, what are you objecting to?

Mnr M A MATEBUS: Die agb lid moet nie vir my sê wat om te doen nie. Ek onttrek my vote [stem] en ek stem nie. Ek volg my party se mandaat. Dit is al. [Tussenwerpsels.] (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.*)

[Mr M A MATEBUS: That hon member must not tell me what to do. I am withdrawing my vote and I will not vote. I am following the mandate of my party. That is all. [Interjections.]]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Matebus has a party mandate ...

... en die mandaat van sy party is dat hy moet abstain. [buite stemming bly.] [... and the mandate of his party is that he must abstain.]

Mr G MICHALAKIS: Hon Chairperson, on a point of order: I would then suggest that we perhaps get hon Matebus his own little corner because he is sitting amongst the ``ayes``.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: That is true. Hon Matebus, are you comfortable sitting amongst the ``ayes``? Hon Michalakis, I am not empowered to forcibly remove the hon member from amongst the ``ayes``.

Mr L B GAHLER: Chairperson, hon Matebus is right sitting there. He is the youngest son of the ANC; I am the eldest son. I said he must sit there. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Julle kan maar nou praat van broedertwis, nè? [So now you can say it's a fraternal quarrel, not so?]

The sons are sitting with their elders. We proceed, hon members.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 26 - Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 27 - Communications - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 28 - Economic Development - put.

Vote agreed (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 29 - Energy - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 30 - Environmental Affairs - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 31 - Human Settlements - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 32 - Mineral Resources - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 33 - Rural Development and Land Reform - put.

Division demanded.

The Council divided:

AYES - 28: De Beer, C J; Dikgale, M C; Dlamini, L C; Gaehler, L B; Khawula, M; Makue, E R; Mampuru, T K; Manopole, G M; Mateme, H E; Mlambo, E M; Mohai, S J; Motara, T; Motlashuping, T C; Mququ, P C; Mthimunye, S G; Nyambi, A J; Nthebe, B G; Prins, E; Rayi, M; Singh, A S; Stock, D; Suka, L; Tau, R J; Thobejane, S G; Tlake, M F; Wana, T; Ximbi, D L; Zwane L L.

NOES - 9: Essack, F; Faber, W F; Julius, J W W; Labuschagne, C; Londt, J J; Masango, B S; Michalakis, G; Mpambo-Sibhukwana, T G; Van Lingen, E C.

ABSTAIN - 1: Matebus, M A.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 34 - Science and Technology - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 35 - Tourism - put.

Vote agreed to.

Vote No 36 - Trade and Industry - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 37 - Transport - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 38 - Water Affairs - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 39 - Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 42 - Water and Sanitation - put.

Vote agreed to (Democratic Alliance and Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

Vote No 43 - Women - put.

Vote agreed to (Economic Freedom Fighters dissenting).

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, we proceed to the point where I must say to you that we have concluded the consideration of the Votes. I shall now put the schedule. Are there any objections to this schedule being agreed to?

Mr J W W JULIUS: Chair, I just want us to look at ... [Inaudible.] ... one, 43. Is it correct on this paper?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Julius, can you speak into the microphone, please?

Mr J W W JULIUS: Chair, can you look at Vote No 8 - Women, Children and People with Disabilities, and the very last one, Vote No 43 - Women?

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I do not understand. You say we must look at them?

Mr J W W JULIUS: I withdraw, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: The hon member has withdrawn.

Hon members, I put the question to you. Are there any objections to the schedule being agreed to? None! Thank you.

Schedule put and agreed to.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: I shall put the question on the Fifth Order. The question is that the Bill be agreed to.

In accordance to Rule 63, I shall first allow the political parties to make their declaration of vote if they so wish. Is there any party that wishes to make a declaration?

Mr F ESSACK: Hon Chairperson, yes, we wish to object with a declaration.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Are you objecting to the declaration but not to the Fifth Order being put. Please be clear, hon member! [Interjections.] Are you objecting?

Mr F ESSACK: Yes, we want to make a declaration, Madam Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: So, you do want to make a declaration? Proceed to make the declaration, hon member.

Mr F ESSACK: I wish to move to where I can make my declaration.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, you are allowed. [Interjections.]

Order, members! Allow the hon member the time to make the declaration. Hon Essack, you have three minutes for your declaration.

Declarations of vote:

Mr F ESSACK: Hon Chairperson, yes, we wish to object with a declaration. We want to make a declaration, Chairperson.

Hon Chairperson, with due respect to you, hon members in the House, fellow South Africans - not many are up there - the Adjustment Appropriations Bill is the spring from which the river of the national government flows. It is from this source that all state outcomes are made possible: roads, power plants, health, education and housing.

Without the funds appropriated through this Bill, the national government is unable to perform its constitutional duty and deliver tangible and intangible products and services to South Africans. Therefore, the question that we as parliamentarians must ask ourselves is: Are South Africans getting what they pay for? Are they getting the bang for their buck? Unfortunately, in most cases, the answer to this question is a definite ``no''.

Hon Chairperson, importantly, this is not due to a lack of funds. As a nation we are fortunate that we have sufficient funds to bring meaningful and positive change to the lives of millions of South Africans. However, because this money is not being spent wisely, South Africans are often let down.

This is the failure - listen carefully now - of the executive to effectively manage the economy and social portfolios such as education in order to drive innovation and inevitably create jobs. The executive therefore asks Parliament for money, but treats us with contempt when we ask how this money is spent.

For example, in between recommending and appointing Mr Tshepo Kgadima as chairman of the board of PetroSA, only to later misleadingly deny this in Parliament, the hon Minister of Energy hosts clandestine meetings with Russians for a R1 trillion nuclear deal. How can we be surprised by this, hon Chair, when the very same Minister was implicated in a damaging report in which the Public Protector found irregularities in the awarding of the R800 million tender to Sekunjalo while she was then the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. This was but a drop in the ocean of the R25 billion to R30 billion that South Africa loses to corruption annually.

In conclusion, the DA does not vote down budgets because we do not believe in the intentions of each department.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr F ESSACK: Instead, we must vote against certain departments because we believe these departments spend money that was

appropriated. [Interjections.] Therefore, the ANC and its cadres are ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Essack, don't ask me to tell you three times to move from the podium. I said twice already that your time had expired. Thank you very much.

Mr M KHAWULA: Hon Chairperson, I'm glad that the hon Minister of Finance is already with us here. We do support the Adjustment Appropriations Bill, but we do so with some concerns. I will touch on a few of them which are areas of great concern.

First is the Department of Police Service where the morale is very low because of the working conditions, and it needs to be improved. That is something that needs to be looked into because we have an exodus of policemen and policewomen leaving the force because of the working conditions. Some of them are getting medical boarding because of the working conditions. There is also very little that has been done in the area of transformation to bring police stations to the areas where they did not exist before, especially in rural areas and townships.

Communications is a big problem. The SABC has had massive irregular expenditure. That has to be looked into. Right now there is this Tshabalala scandal which is also denigrating the Communications

department. That has to be looked into. The issue of mismanagement of funds also has to be looked into.

Regarding education, in Higher Education there is this problem of corruption at the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, NSFAS, where undeserving people are getting benefits to the detriment of the people who are needy and are supposed to be benefiting.

There is also a problem of accommodation for students in the institutions of higher learning. The reports say that conditions are horrible. That has to be looked into. In fact, proper budgeting has to be done so that students get proper accommodation.

In Basic Education, for example, there are issues of infrastructure in KwaZulu-Natal. The department has now withdrawn all infrastructure funding, which is to the detriment of the infrastructure. That needs attention.

There is also the issue of the rural incentive which is given to teachers by only two provinces in the country, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal. All other provinces are not giving the rural incentive fund. This is a problem when it comes to the allocation of teachers. Teachers don't want to go to the rural areas because this fund is not there anymore. There is also the issue of interference that we addressed with the Deputy Minister on the issues of selection and interviews.

Public Works is a big problem. Transformation has been very slow with the built environment. There is also the issue where they say they are investigating the R216 million which they say they put into the Nkandla security upgrades programme. We need to be told. This needs to be speeded up so that we can be told what is going to happen to those people who are found to have been guilty of this incident.

In Transport, there is the issue of e-tolls and also the safety of people on the roads.

In the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Cogta, the audit outcomes have been very, very bad, hon Minister, and that has to be improved. Even with the department and areas where there have been clean audits, it's only 15% of the total budget of the country. That has to be attended to.

Mikondzo in Social Development is used as a campaign tool and that need to be stopped. It's a good programme, hon Minister, but it's being abused and is being used wrongly.

In regard to Water and Sanitation, right now there is no water in Gauteng ... [Time expired.]

Mr L B GAEHLER: Chairperson, the UDM supports the Bill. There are a few areas of concern. The government, through its departments, has

given over billions to the Industrial Development Corporation, IDC, to assist in energy matters. The concern there is that the IDC does not service the former Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, TBVC, states because of the current laws that are there. What makes things worse in the former TBVC states is that even though the private sector would like to invest there, they get delays from Rural Development. That's the first concern.

The second concern is that Agriculture spends billions on the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme, Casp. Some of those Casp projects are not monitored and some of those monies are really wasted. They do not go to the intended beneficiaries.

The third concern is about Public Works. Public Works transfers money to one of its entities, the Construction Industry Development Board, CIDB, but there is no value for that money. For instance, after 20 years, we still have problems with the emerging sector not benefiting from the infrastructure programme, yet government spends billions on that. That needs to be addressed. Thank you.

Ms T MOTARA: Chairperson, one of the main objectives of the Freedom Charter was to open opportunities for all historically disadvantaged people of South Africa. Twenty years of freedom has transformed South African society with sound and well-managed public finances. The budget process is recognised internationally because of its transparency. The National Development Plan, NDP, remains important,

is championed by the ANC and forms the basis of planning in government.

To achieve the NDP objectives, partnerships between government and other organisations are of utmost importance. The World Bank, in its recent report, has commended South Africa for significant improvements in the public budget management system and efforts to restore macro fundamentals. This is a good story to tell about the ANC-led government. [Applause.]

At the heart of the fiscal achievements were dramatic improvements in revenue collection by the SA Revenue Service, Sars, and discipline in spending choices. Much has also been achieved in the provision of social infrastructure and environmental management over the past two decades.

The Adjustments Appropriation Bill of 2014 confirms the government's commitment to move the lives of our people forward. It also reflects government's commitment to fiscal consolidation during economic downturn. The government remains committed to changing and moving the lives of South Africans forward through progressive policies. It is our considered view that the 2014 appropriations have much potential for job creation, as outlined in the NDP. It also ensures that priorities like education and health infrastructure are fully funded. In fact, over the medium term, all the priorities are going to receive increased funding.

The budget grows over the period of the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework by approximately 7,6%, so there is no problem with the measures that the Minister has announced because they are not compromising service delivery. [Applause.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, that concludes declarations of vote in terms of Rule 63. I wish to invite members to go back to their allocated seats so that we can vote electronically.

Hon Matebus, are you sitting in your allocated seat or is the member from the North West refusing to move from your allocated seat? Hon Julius, please move to your allocated seat. Hon Essack, you too.

Mnr M A MATEBUS: Agb Voorsitter, ek het nie my declaration [verklaring] gemaak nie. Ek het my hand opgelig.

Die VOORSITTER VAN DIE NRVP: Ja meneer, u kan praat.

Mnr M A MATEBUS: Voorsitter, ek het my hand opgelig maar blykbaar het u my nie gesien nie. Ek wou 'n declaration [verklaring] namens die EFF gemaak het. U het nie my hand gesien nie. (*Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follows.*)

[Mr M A MATEBUS: Hon Chairperson, I did not make my declaration. I raised my hand.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Yes, sir; you may speak.

Mr M A MATEBUS: Chairperson, I raised my hand but apparently you did not see me. I wanted to make a declaration on behalf of the EFF. You did not see my hand.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Matebus ... [Interjections.] Order, members. Order!

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Agb Matebus, ek kan nog baie goed sien. U hand was nie op nie. [Hon Matebus, I can still see very well. Your hand was not raised.]

I looked at all the parties; I started from here and went on. The first hand was from the DA and the second hand was from the IFP. As the hon Matebus did not raise his hand in time, that time has passed. Please take your seat.

You are now given the opportunity to answer the question. Members, you are required ... [Interjections.] Hon members, please contain your excitement. Hon Rayi, please do not disturb the Minister.

Question put: That the Bill be agreed to.

Bill accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

**CONSIDERATION OF RATES AND MONETARY AMOUNTS AMENDMENT OF REVENUE
LAWS AMENDMENT BILL**

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

TAXATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

TAX ADMINISTRATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL

(Consideration of Bill and of Report thereon)

Mr C J DE BEER: Hon Chairperson, hon Minister Nene is a good cadre who always attends sittings of this House when we deal with finance issues, and he goes through it with eagle eyes.

Tax revenue is an important contributor to national revenue.

Therefore, its growth or contraction impacts on numerous economic and social factors.

With increased tax revenue, more funds are available to invest in the nation's priorities, such as infrastructure, education, health and other social programmes to improve people's lives. Tax revenue includes all revenue streams into the fiscus, and includes the following: personal income tax, company tax, value-added tax, fuel

levies, customs duties and secondary income tax. Tax revenue grew from R355,8 billion in 2004-05 to R900 billion in 2013-14. There was a slight decrease in 2009-10 because of the global financial crisis.

All three Bills in front of the House today are based on the preceding Budget of 2014, Chapter 4 in the Budget Review, which was tabled by the Minister of Finance in February.

The Rates and Monetary Amounts Amendment of Revenue Laws Amendment Bill enacts changes to tax rates and thresholds that have already taken effect following the announcement of the Budget, and are in keeping with the requirements of other legislation, such as the Income Tax Act and Customs and Excise Act.

The 2014 Budget Review does provide information on the extent of the tax paid by and tax relief for individuals in different income brackets. The adjustment provided tax relief - very important - of R9,25 billion. The adjustment increases the tax-free threshold from R67 111 to R70 700. Around 40% of the total relief will go to those with taxable incomes that are less than R250 000.

The retirement lump sum tables were also adjusted upwards. The brackets have thus been increased by around 10% but there has been a larger increase in the first bracket of the retirement lump sum table, from R315 000 to R500 000. Inflationary adjustments were made to medical tax credits, car allowances and the taxable income

threshold for small businesses. Excise duties on alcohol and tobacco increased.

We turn now to the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill. This gives effect to matters presented by the Minister of Finance in the Budget Review of 2014. The Bill proposes substantive changes to the tax laws that take effect in 2015. The Bill gives details of amendments to individual tax, business tax and incentives given to various taxpayers, and value-added tax and dates when proposed amendments will be deemed to become effective.

A broad consultative process was followed. National Treasury and the SA Revenue Service, Sars, received written responses from 90 organisations and individuals. Twelve organisations presented their responses orally.

The key tax legislative amendments are, firstly, personal income taxes and savings. A very important part is savings. These are contributions towards retirement savings; tax-free savings accounts - this proposal is to create provision for tax-free savings accounts to which individuals can contribute a maximum of R30 000 per year and R500 000 over their lifetime - and the valuation of company car fringe benefits.

Secondly, there are general business taxes referring to the limitation of interest deductions.

Thirdly, we have the taxation of financial institutions and products, that is, risk business of long-term insurers and foreign reinsurance.

Fourthly, there are tax incentives for research, biodiversity, employment tax incentive, funding entities of public benefit organisations, PBOs, small business funding entities and venture capital company incentives.

Fifthly, there is international taxation on transfer pricing.

Sixthly, we have value-added tax, referring to the zero rating of some supplies of goods used or consumed for agricultural, pastoral or other farming purposes. This concession intended to provide cash flow relief to the agricultural sector when VAT was introduced. The amendment sought to repeal this provision. However, the industry is of the view it will have negative cash flow implications and increase the costs of financing, and is likely to have negative impacts on food prices and food security. The implementation date has been delayed for at least 12 months to allow Sars, National Treasury and the Department of Agriculture to do further analyses on the impact and to do further consultations.

Seventhly, the withdrawal of the ability to claim a national input VAT in the case of precious metals like gold.

Eighthly, the tax harmonisation and the cap on retirement fund deductions are postponed by one year, from 1 March 2015 to 1 March 2016, following consultation with Nedlac. Implications of the delay are restricted to the law passed in 2013 and hence mean the following: The higher 27,5% cap and limit of R350 000 will be delayed until March 2016; contributions to provident funds will continue not to benefit from the tax deduction enjoyed for contributions to pension funds until March 2016; and annuitisation will only apply to provident funds for any contributions and growth in the fund before 1 March 2016 and will be cashed out in one lump sum forever. Only new contributions after March 2016 above R150 000 and enjoying the tax deduction will annuitise thereafter for those below 55 years of age. I'm over that!

Lastly, the Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill proposes to amend administrative provisions of various Acts concerning tax and customs. Those amendments are necessary to give effect to the changes contained in the Rates and Monetary Amounts Amendment of Revenue Laws Amendment Bill and Taxation Laws Amendment Bill.

The Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill, 2014, proposes a total of 70 legislative changes, but I won't go through them all. The Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill refers to the following: relevant material and information gathering by Sars; amendments to the provisional tax system; compulsory taxing determinations for alcoholic beverages; exchange of information for customs and excise

duty purposes; preventing the unlawful use of Sars' intellectual property; automatic exchange of information; disclosure obligations for reportable arrangements; and the modernisation of tax clearance.

I hereby move that the House support the three Bills tabled. Thank you, Chair. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

Question put: That the Rates and Monetary Amounts Amendment of Revenue Laws Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Rates and Monetary Amounts Amendment of Revenue Laws Amendment Bill accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

Question put: That the Taxation Laws Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Taxation Laws Amendment Bill accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

Question put: That the Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill be agreed to.

Tax Administration Laws Amendment Bill accordingly agreed to in accordance with section 75 of the Constitution.

FAREWELL SPEECHES

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members of this House, Deputy Chairperson, permanent delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is now six months since we became permanent features of this House. It is now the sixth month of the first part of our fifth democratic Parliament, and the sixth month since we were seconded from our various parliamentary legislatures to come and represent our people - become the ears and eyes of our various people; to speak about the experiences of our communities and sometimes about our own experiences when representing our people. We can reflect on this in an appropriate way when we say:

Botlhale jwa phala bo tswa phalaneng. [A child can advise an adult.]

This means that the younger ones always bring innovation. It also means that new systems bring about an improvement on old ones. It means that when you come in, you are expected to study the past and try to beat ... [Inaudible.] in order to make things better. In other words, the Fifth Parliament is expected to perform better than the Fourth Parliament. It is expected to have bigger ears, louder mouths, and eyes that will pierce through but also the will to represent the communities that might still not have a voice in here.

It means that the successes of this House reverberate in constituencies which have ears but, also, the deliberations of this

House must anticipate those constituencies which cannot have ... presence. It means that the success or failure of this House is measured in terms of how we can contribute towards good and effective governance. It also means that, as representatives of provinces and the only House that represents and creates space for organised local government, the concerns and failures of the municipalities become our business. That is what started our interesting journey over the last six months.

For those of us who were hoping that Cape Town was going to be a honeymoon, we have not found it to be so. The moon is long gone. The honey is very flat because we have had to go straight into our business. One of the things that we set out to do, hon members, was to set up committees and ensure that these committees become the engines of Parliament. It was to make sure, therefore, that Parliament does not fail because we have failed to set up the required structure. We have thought to address the functioning of the NCOP by looking at the old structures. We have sought to improve our workings - and we are still on that journey. During our initial interactions we sought to find a new niche for the NCOP, to sharpen our edge and to begin to say that we shall not do the things that the National Assembly is doing - we shall improve on what the National Assembly is doing. We are still on that journey.

Perhaps, as we break for Christmas we will go and have a rest, find energy and come back refreshed and more productive in order to make

sure that we sharpen this House. In many instances in South Africa the NCOP is the second House, the lower House. It is a House that, thus far, has not been taken seriously. Our counterparts throughout the world are regarded as the upper House. Therefore the challenge is on us whether to continue with the perception of South Africa and continue to dawdle or to take up the challenge and make the NCOP the sharp and respected instrument of Parliament.

We do bear the burden of ensuring that Parliament performs, because the NCOP on its own is not Parliament and the National Assembly on its own is not Parliament. It is only through an integrated and coordinated effort between the two Houses that we can begin to ensure that the decorum of Parliament is upheld. The decorum of Parliament does not mean dull debates, but it does mean that we begin to debate issues. It means that we sharpen our skills. It means that we impress not ourselves sitting in these benches but the constituencies out there. It means that people begin to hear what we want to pronounce from this House and it means that we are not pronouncing about ourselves but on the quality, the aspirations, and the needs of the people we represent. It begins with us. It must begin with us to say that the last six months have been bittersweet. We have shown the world that we can be robust; we have shown the world that we can also be very rude, but we have also shown the world that we can make and break our own rules.

I want to say that I have asked and was told that I am the only one who is allowed to make a dry speech today. Now, in making the dry speech, I want to say, yes, we have done all the right things - we have passed the Budget, we have set up committees and we have started and will soon be tabling our strategic plan. We have spoken frankly amongst ourselves. We have even indicated that we want to be the champions - the leaders in intergovernmental relations and in co-operative governance.

This means that we need to know one another better. It means we need to begin to see how we feel about one another and it means that if you really want to represent, you have got to listen no matter how much we disagree ideologically. Sometimes the people who vote for us don't look at an ideology, but at parties and say that they want to make sure that a multiparty system continues in South Africa. They change just like that tomorrow because, in fact, they are not deeply rooted in the ideologies that we sometimes think we command on the ground. In other words, sometimes they get tired of hearing us bickering.

I am saying that 2015 must see us rather focusing on our people in the provinces because, as the NCOP, we also have the burden of not only representing our parties. It is only on some occasions that we represent our political parties. In fact, we represent the mandate that sometimes come through our different provincial legislatures. Therefore, because most of the time our votes are carried through

the provincial vote, we need to begin to co-ordinate better with these provinces and see that we do things just a little bit smoother. And I must confess that we have been smoother in our committees and have been smoother in our Whippery as compared to our neighbours. But we need to really show that - I used to call ourselves ``lucky packets'' at the beginning of our tenure here - ``lucky packets'' can actually be the packets people seek. We can show we will represent our people ... [Inaudible.]

I want to wish you well, hon members. Please drink a little bit less. Please ensure that the charm offensive we put on as parties in Parliament to ensure that the 16 Days of No Violence Against Women are carried out. Please remember that, in fact, the victims of violence in South Africa are not just women and children, but it is also the elderly, the disabled and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, community. Let us make sure that South Africans can feel safe. And those of us who believe in God, may we believe that He will be with us to ensure a little bit more hope and make sure that we are all in place when we come back to Parliament. I thank you for granting the time to make my little speech.

[Applause.]

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: Chairperson, I forgot something. Can we just stop? I just have to go fetch something. [Laughter.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Van Lingen, we are stopping.

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: Chairperson, we are at the end of the first calendar year of the Fifth Parliament, so before we can give you your freedom, let me reflect on the past six months and with some appreciation too.

The NCOP is not an easy House to manage, and very few, even here in Parliament, actually understand our mandate. Since the 2014 national and provincial elections, we have been working at full steam. The pace, to date - a true DA pace - was fast and with very little time for rest or a break. Several workshops and training sessions were rammed into a very busy programme to equip our members for the next five years.

At the end of the first six months, a number of achievements have started the long-awaited and very necessary change in the NCOP. The first victory came early in the year when the NCOP took part in the state of the nation debate, which had never happened before. It shows the faith in and recognition of this House. We also celebrate the DA leader and Premier of the Western Cape being appointed or elected as the rotating Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, which is really a good story to tell for democracy.

HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: The next big victory was referring the unanswered Questions for Oral Reply back to the Ministers without sacrificing

normal question allowances. This was when the Ministers got the message that the NCOP is an independent House of Parliament, and it is also here where they have to, and must, account. Unfortunately, as you know, there are still 56 Questions for Written Reply outstanding, unanswered, and 12 Questions for Oral Reply not submitted. But you have not gotten rid of us this easily. In 2015, we will be back to follow up in true DA style, with energy and purpose.

The select committee chairpersons have started with good discipline and laid down the rules on law and proper procedures. Even the minutes of meetings are now signed off at the next meeting. This might sound like a small feat, but remember, a house is built of many bricks, unlike the Nkandla fence, but we will not allow this House to erode or break down.

To our Chairperson, thank you for your role in the House. Your contribution, your balance, and your consistency are appreciated. We also appreciate the contributions of our other presiding officers - hon Tau - I want to put time in brackets - [Laughter.], hon Nyambi, and hon Dikgale. Whilst our Chief Whip has had a very busy time whipping her members into the House, she has shown, by example, how she can whip the leave policy into action.

To our Secretary, reading the wrong Orders of the day and so on, our Table staff, and those working in the House, thank you. To our

select committee secretaries, researchers, content advisers, and the whole lot of them - sometimes they are more than us - thank you. You have put us through our paces with reading material. If only reading could do to our bodies what it is doing to our minds!

Then, we so often forget our provincial liaison teams, and they are our links to our provinces. We say thank you to them. Their support is appreciated.

You know, meanwhile back at the ranch, the DA has an incredible support team. I do not know where they are today, hon Chairperson, but we want to express our gratitude to them as well.

Then, there are three hon members celebrating their birthdays this week. Jaco Londt is 30 years old today. Jaco, may your youth continue to add vibrancy to this House. [Applause.] Tomorrow, hon Chairperson, Jomo Nyambi will turn 42 years old. [Applause.] Nyambi, may your age not allow work to be less fun and fun to be a lot more work. Of course, we cannot forget the wisdom of the more mature. Happy birthday also to hon Charel de Beer. [Applause.]

On a serious note, we are praying for the recovery and good health of our colleagues hon Zondi, hon Sefako, hon Von Brandis and hon Groenewald.

This year, we also remember two NCOP stalwarts, Dorothy Ntwanambi, the previous Chief Whip of the Council, and Watty Watson, the former leader of the DA, who passed away this year. You know, it is at this time of the year that families really miss most those who have passed on. We pray that good memories of them will bring a smile to celebrate the lives of those two members. This is why I ran back. We have made recordings of the tributes that were paid to these members in our House, and we will make sure that each family gets a CD of what happened in our House when we paid tribute to those members.

My colleagues will not forgive me if I miss the opportunity to quote Shakespeare today. He once said that:

Reputation is an idle and most false imposition; oft got without merit and lost without deserving.

Although we do not always get the recognition we deserve in this House, we recognise the voice of the people in our provinces. Today, on behalf of the DA, I say: Well done, NCOP. Make the most of your holiday season. Rest well and spend every moment with your families and loved ones.

We wish you all a blessed festive season and pray to meet you all here in 2015, refreshed and in good health. I thank you, Chairperson. [Applause.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Thank you, hon Van Lingen. I wish to invite the hon Mathys. [Interjections.] Are you rising on a point of order, sir? Hon Faber?

Mr W F FABER: Yes, Chair. I just want to say to hon Tau that I will give him the hourglass in Kimberley when we meet there - for the time. [Laughter.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: On his birthday. Hon Mathys, you have the floor.

Ms L MATHYS: Chairperson, sadly we are ending 2014 on a turbulent note. [Interjections.] There is absolutely no good story to tell when we reflect on the past six months of Parliament. It has been turbulent indeed.

It has been turbulent because we have witnessed severe political meddling in the affairs of Parliament. It has been turbulent because many ANC presiding officers have succumbed to the pressures of Luthuli House's instructions to censure opposition and, in particular, the EFF. [Interjections.] It has been turbulent because we have witnessed the President of this country disregard the National Assembly Rules by purposely delaying his presence in the National Assembly to answer questions posed by public representatives.

It has been turbulent because the ANC has deliberately manipulated parliamentary Rules to protect their President from answering questions ... [Interjections.] ... in particular, the question of when the President is paying back the Nkandla money. The EFF remains committed that we will not ever subject ourselves to manipulated, inconsistent ... I am going to read this again so that it is very clear. [Interjections.] The EFF remains committed that we will not ever subject ourselves to manipulated, inconsistent and irregular rulings of any presiding officer, both here and in the National Assembly ... [Interjections.] ... even with threats of suspension, such as the threats that EFF NCOP Members of Parliament, MPs, received ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Faber, do you rise on a point of order? Hon Mathys, hold your horses. Please, sir, you have the floor.

Mr W F FABER: Chair, the hon member just said not ``inconsistent'', but they just both voted differently, so I don't know what is not inconsistent here. [Laughter.]

Ms L MATHYS: Can we move right along? Thank you.

I have an opportunity to read this again. The EFF remains committed that we will never ever subject ourselves to manipulated, inconsistent and irregular rulings from any presiding officer, both

here and in the National Assembly, even with threats of suspension, such as the threats the EFF NCOP MPs received from the ANC Chief Whip that she will suspend us.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: There is a point of order, hon Mathys. Hon Rayi?

Mr M RAYI: Chairperson, can the hon member's speech be relevant to the topic, which is farewell speeches.

Ms L MATHYS: Yes, it is our farewell speech. I continue.

As we speak, our MPs are being threatened with suspension by the ANC in the National Assembly because of our commitment to fulfil our constitutional duty to hold the executive accountable.

[Interjections.] This is unlike some MPs who have made it painfully clear that their mandate is to protect the executive by any means necessary.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys, there is a point of order.

Ms M F TLAKE: Hon Mathys, you are misleading the House, and you are misleading the public. The NCOP or Parliament has never threatened your persons with suspension.

Ms L MATHYS: They have!

Ms M F TLAKE: The thing is that there are Rules and orders in this ...

Ms L MATHYS: Yes, but we are not here to discuss that.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys, this is a dialogue. She is on the floor, and she was recognised.

Ms M F TLAKE: If you don't - any member, be it in the NCOP or National Assembly - abide by the Rules, punishment will come. That is what the Rules and orders say. It is not a threat. It is a fact.

Ms L MATHYS: Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Please proceed, hon Mathys.

Ms L MATHYS: I said we are not going to subject ourselves to manipulated, inconsistent and irregular rulings. We have not said anything about the Rules.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Wana, is that a point or order? Hon Mathys.

Ms T WANA: Chairperson, I want to direct a question to the hon member.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys, will you take a question?

Ms L MATHYS: No, but I can take you for coffee afterwards, and you can ask me. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: She does not want to take a question. Hon Mathys, continue.

Ms L MATHYS: As we speak, our MPs are being threatened with suspension by the ANC in the National Assembly because of our commitment to fulfil our constitutional duty to hold the executive accountable, unlike some MPs sitting here who have made it painfully clear that their mandate is to protect the executive by any means necessary.

However, the EFF is going nowhere. In 2015, we will be boasting our first elected leadership. [Interjections.] We will be back, demanding that the Nkandla money be paid back.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys, I have another point of order. Hon Mathys! Hon Wana? I will take you, hon Faber, afterwards.

Ms T WANA: Chairperson of this august House, I appeal for protection because this is not a stand for grievances. Today you said political parties must relay messages for Christmas.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Wana, the usual thing - hon members - is that farewell speeches are speeches which members of the House make to bid each other farewell, to reflect on whatever friendships, working relations, and good things they hope to get into the next year. The disadvantage I have ...

Ms L MATHYS: I am ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: No, no, hon Mathys! I will tell you when to go on.

The difficulty I have, hon members, is that there is no guideline that says you cannot deviate from this. It is taken that members would want to wish one another well. Hon Faber, you have the floor.

Mr W F FABER: Chairperson, I just want to make the comment that this type of speech that we are getting now is like a democratic election with pangas. [Laughter.] It is, to me, unacceptable to have such a nice Christmas speech. [Laughter.]

Ms L MATHYS: In 2015, the EFF will be back, demanding that the Nkandla money be paid. We will be back, demanding that government takes responsibility for the Marikana massacre. We will be back, demanding land, decent housing and sanitation for our people. In short, we will be back, demanding that radical economic policies be

implemented so that our people experience economic freedom in their lifetime.

In conclusion, we wish all MPs a safe festive season.

[Interjections.] Let us remember the millions of South Africans who won't even have a Christmas meal, whilst our President's chickens will eat in their air conditioned chicken-run and bask in the Nkandla sunshine. Whilst we are remembering that, let us remember all that we have done here in Parliament to contribute and protect air conditioned chickens, whilst our people remain landless and perish of hunger. Happy holidays. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: On that point of air conditioned chickens, I call on the next hon member, hon Khawula. Order, members! Members, order! Hon Nyambi, do you have a point of order? Please proceed. Ntate Khawula, there is a point of order.

The HOUSE CHAIRPERSON (Mr A J Nyambi): Chairperson, the point of order is about the conduct of the previous speaker. When she left the podium, she threw her speech in the face of a member of this august House. To me, that is seriously disrespectful.

Mr W F FABER: Disgrace! It is a disgrace to this House!

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys, did you, in fact, throw your speech in the face of another member?

Mr W F FABER: It is on DVD!

Ms L MATHYS: I put the speech there, and I was responding to a comment. [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Order, members!

Ms L MATHYS: I will collect it on my way out. Can we not get petty here, really? Must we talk about what was said when I was walking past? You are worried about a speech that was put on the desk!

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys! Hon Mathys, speak to me! Hon Mathys.

Ms L MATHYS: I am done. Thank you, Chair.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Mathys!

Ms L MATHYS: Yes, Chairperson.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Please stand up. I am addressing you. Hon Mathys, it is not in accordance with any civil rule to throw things at other members. I think that behaviour is not in accordance with us. I am sure it is unparliamentary, and I am sure that you will not repeat it in this House. Thank you, madam. You may take your seat. Hon Faber?

Mr W F FABER: Chairperson, I was just going to say that we have video footage of this, and I propose that this House takes serious action against these types of things - actually goes back to look at the video - and then takes action against this member's unparliamentary behaviour. Thank you.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: The point is taken, members. We will do so. I now wish to invite the hon Khawula.

Mnu M KHAWULA: Sihlalo ohloniphekile, ngiqala ngokukhuleka endlunkulu kaZulu, ngikhulekela isilo samabandla, ubhejane ophuma esiqiwini, umntaka Bhush' obukhali, bayede, hlangalezwe. Ngikhuleke, ngifisele indlunkulu kaZulu isikhathi samaholide kaKhisimusi esihle kanye nawo wonke amakhosi ethu eNingizimu Afrika. Ngiqhubeke ngikhuleke kundunankulu kaZulu, kumntwana kaPhindangene kanye nendlunkulu nabantwana bakwaPhindangene. (*Translation of isiZulu paragraph follows.*)

[Mr M KHAWULA: Hon Chairperson, I would like to start by greeting the Zulu Royalty. Greetings to His Majesty Isilo samabandla, uBhejane ophuma esiqiwini (Praise name), umntaka Bhush' obukhali (Praise name), Bayede, Hlangalezwe (Royal Salutation). I wish to greet the Zulu Royalty, and the rest of our South African kings, and wish them all splendid Christmas holidays. I would like to also greet the Zulu Chief, uMtwana kaPhindangene, Prince Buthelezi, his queen and the Phindangene children.]

Hon Chairperson, on behalf of the Inkatha Freedom Party, I would also like to express and wish His Excellency, the President of South Africa, and the government of South Africa a joyous and peaceful festive season with their families.

Chairperson, let me come to you now and say that on behalf of the Inkatha Freedom Party we are grateful for your leadership, your guidance and especially for the 'mamahood' that you bestow on all of us in the House. We wish to say that you should keep it up. We have felt your warmth and we felt you amongst us even when you were not with us.

We go on to say, hon Deputy Chairperson, we didn't know that you are now Mr Time. I like your new name. [Laughter.] I have heard that panga several times at this podium. Therefore, Mr Time, thank you for your leadership. We wish that when we come back next year you will forget a little bit about time. To all our presiding officers, hon Dikgale and hon Nyambi, thank you very much for your assistance and guidance.

Colleagues, on behalf of the Inkatha Freedom Party, I would also like to say to Advocate Phindela, the administration and all the staff, that we thank you for the orientation, workshops and teaching us things that we did not know when we came here. Politicians are funny animals; they always pretend to know even when they do not know. Therefore we want to thank you for your guidance and

leadership. We also wish to say thank you to our support staff in the NCOP and especially to my staff in the IFP caucus office. Advocate Anthony and your team, thank you, guys.

Chairperson, to our colleagues in the ANC, that is, hon Mohai and his team; the DA, hon Van Lingen and her team; the EFF, hon Mokwele and her team; the UDM, hon Gaehler and his team, as the IFP we want to say to you that you have really become our brothers and sisters, and we thank you for that. When we came here, we did not know many of you but already in six months we have become such a family.

Lastly, Chairperson, to colleagues in the media who actually take our stories out there, who are sometimes our vehicles, mouthpiece and ears on the ground, keep it up. We thank you on behalf of umNtwana kaPhindangene and, as the IFP family, we want to say thank you very much to you all. [Applause.]

Mr L B GAEHLER: Chairperson, I have a long speech. I hope you will give me some time. [Laughter.] Before I get to the speech, let me do a very important thing, and thank you, your team, the Deputy Chairperson, Mr Nyambi - we always now and then scratch each other but not badly - the Chief Whip - we argue but we sit down and sort ourselves out like elderly people - chairpersons of committees; whips; my whip in the province whose ears are always open to whatever I say and he sometimes over respects me; Members of Parliament, the beautiful ladies here. [Laughter.]

You know, when I came here, I was scared of one lady, Mam Bhuli. [Laughter.] I saw how she remonstrated with hon Mtileni and I was very scared of that stick of hers, and Chair, what a wonderful person she is. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): Chairperson, on a point of order, I wanted to check if it is parliamentary for a member to refer to other hon members as ladies ...

Mr L B GAEHLER: Sorry. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP (Mr R J Tau): ... and especially beautiful ladies.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Gaehler, it is parliamentary. If you were calling us nothing else but ladies then it would be unparliamentary. Today, we are ladies.

Mr L B GAEHLER: To the staff members of political parties, I thank you very much. We have worked well and created a family. A year ago I was in the National Assembly but I enjoyed it more here than there. [Applause.] This is a real family and one wants to thank your leadership for that.

To the people of South Africa and to everybody, please do not drink and drive, have a very good Christmas. I also want to say to the

Eastern Cape, Christmas is over. I have spoken to the Minister of Transport, and have been informed that law enforcement will be 24 hours on watch on the roads. Do not drink and drive.

The most important thing is violence against women and children. I therefore think that we, as Members of Parliament, must please, in our constituencies, preach ``count me in''.

I also want to say that over the weekend I was in Mtatha. I saw a young man by the name of Sakhisizwe whose head was obscured. I even thought that he was involved in a car accident.

Ndibuzile, mfondini kwenzeke ntoni kuwe? [I asked, what happened to you, my brother?]

Mr Gaehler, I have a problem.

Were you in a car accident?

Ndibethwe ngumfazi. [I've been beaten by my wife.]

And the police don't want to take my case.

I am pleading with you, ladies: Please do not change this around and let it be violence against men.

Chairperson, it is slowly happening and getting there because when a man is beaten by a woman, like Clarence Carter used to say, when he goes to the police ...

... hayi uligwala! Ubethwe ngumfazi kodwa uyindoda. [... you are a coward. You are a man, but you have been beaten by your wife.]

Therefore, we need to avoid that.

Chairperson, we conclude a year in which South Africans confirmed once again that unity in diversity is a reality. It is in this year that South Africans from various and different political persuasions converged in more than 20 000 voting stations of our country to usher in the fifth session of our democratic Parliament peacefully.

It is during the conclusion of the 2014 calendar year that South Africa celebrated its 20th anniversary of democracy. We have achieved many milestones on various fronts of our lives as a nation. It is for the first time in 2014, in the 20th anniversary of our freedom, that no less than four of our national football teams qualified for continental showpieces. Three of these competitions are still to be held during the ensuing year 2015. We are looking forward to Bafana, Amajimbos and Amajita representing our country on the continent. In this regard, we are confident that the nation shall once more unite behind these young men and give them the necessary support and encouragement.

At a political level and in this House, that is, the National Council of Provinces, the arrival of many other new political players has raised the level of debate and engagement, creating hope that we shall be able to deliver good legislation that will positively affect the lives of our people. This development must be appreciated and consolidated through vibrant and focused debates on how best ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Gaehler.

Mr L B GAEHLER: Ndiyavala, Mama. [I'm closing, Mama.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Kulungile, vala, Tata. [It is fine, you can close, Tata.]

Mnu L B GAEHLER: Uyazi ukuba oyena mntu ndimthembile apha nguwe kunohloniphekileyo uMnu Nyambi? UMnu Nyambi ohloniphekileyo uyakhawuleza ukundisika. Yhini ukuphoxwa lihashe endilithembileyo.
(Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.)

[Mr L B GAEHLER: You know what, you are the one I trust here more than hon Mr Nyambi? Hon Mr Nyambi cuts me immediately. You are disappointing me now.]

As we conclude this year, we must take time to think deeper about these critical challenges that have been confirmed by our visit as

well as other credible reports.

Let us all return to our places of birth and rejoin our large and loving families as we celebrate the festive season. May those of us who will be taking long journeys take care and travel safely. Thank you and good bye. [Applause.]

Mr M KHAWULA: Hon Chairperson, it is a point of order to me.

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: To yourself, hon Khawula? Please proceed against yourself.

Mr M KHAWULA: In my notes I mistakenly skipped the hon Chief Whip and her staff, especially Zama and Yolanda. I just want to say that ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: The point of order is taken and corrected.

Mr L SUKA: Chairperson, my colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, comrades in arms, friends, today is a very difficult day for me, because in life when you meet a partner for the first time, it is not as difficult as when you have to part ways with her, either ceremoniously or otherwise. However, I know that as we are parting ways today, it is for a short period, and we are going to meet very

again soon. Therefore, it is not a farewell speech per se, but to wish you a happy festive season. In my language they say:

Abakhe babonana baza kuphinda babonane kwakhona. [Those who have seen each other once will see each other again.]

Chairperson, I prepared a five-page speech. Here it is. However, because of the mood of the House, I thought I should put it aside and speak from the heart. [Interjections.]

First and foremost, all of us here are deployed by our various organisations to come and execute the constitutional mandate in this august House. Everybody does have a clan name and my clan name is the ANC, which mandated us to be here. We came here with an overwhelming majority, but I also think that, as the ruling party, we do have an obligation to extend an olive branch to all and embrace each other because we are not unyielding. We are flexible in our approach because there are those things that unify us as a country rather than divide us.

When we arrived here, the Chairperson said we must fasten our seat belts because this House is small with a lot of work to do and we must work as brothers, sisters and comrades. I think we have achieved that. Now we know each other, our behaviour, conduct and so on.

I want to thank the voters, all of them, particularly those who voted for the ANC, who placed their confidence in us to come and rule the country once again. We want to thank them and South Africa at large because 11 million is not a small number of people who voted for us.

Chairperson, perhaps that register - the attendance of members in this House is very ... [Interjections.] No, I'm not responding. We can't reduce ourselves as the ANC to that level, because a moving car will always be barked at by some animals. We are a moving car. We know that as we are moving South Africa forward, we need to always remember what has been placed on our shoulders as the ANC through our manifesto, and execute that mandate that we made a commitment to our people on. Our people expect nothing less and nothing more, but to walk our talk at the right time and we know that we are guided by a budget that we need to monitor and do oversight on.

I have come to realise that this House is a very serious House. I come from the National Assembly. Unfortunately, you cannot escape here. I know there are those who would like to play truant, but they can't. Unfortunately, there are these front seats, so these ones are under the spotlight. If my Whip wants to be absent, he can't be absent for no apparent reason, because when you lift your eyes ...

... ubona yena. [... you see him.]

So, they must be here all the time and, in fact, that goes for all of us. I'm saying this is a very serious House and we respect it.

We also appreciate your style of leadership in this House. Yes, and really, you are a mother in this House. You accommodate everybody. [Applause.] Sometimes, as colleagues and members, we become irritated and agitated and we want to take over the reins from you ... [Laughter.] ... because you seem to be very lenient with certain people. However, you take us all under your wings because you are a mother. You have a political mandate and you observe the Constitution. We say keep it up, as a hen does with its chickens.

Enkosi, Mama. [Kwaqhwytywa.] [Thank you, Mama. [Applause.]]

I also want to thank your Deputy Chairperson, Bhut' Tau. He always likes to wag his finger and say ``You see, I'm not going to tolerate you.''' [Laughter.] When he wags that finger, I know that things are not all right in that Chair. However, he has a soft spot to accommodate even those who want to take him off the mark. There is a member who always likes to tease him and take him off the mark. He is not present here. He is an EFF member, hon Mtileni. Hon Mtileni would say that I'm going to tease him. [Interjections.]

Owu, ngumzala wakho. Kulungile. [Oh! Is he your cousin? That is good.]

He is still very accommodating. We also like his leadership as he displays tolerance and is accommodative.

I want to thank our Chief Whip. You know, when she is going to make a point, she will always raise her hands and do this. Let me show you. [Laughter.] Chief Whip, Chief Whip, sorry, there is a point ...- I mean - because we know each other ...

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Van Lingen, is it an addition or is it a point of order?

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: You can take it any way you like, but he must just add and ``How small is small, Minister?'' [Laughter.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: It is a point of addition. [Laughter.]

Mr L SUKA: I also want to thank the political parties. In the DA particularly, I've observed a person whom you think you might run over, but she is deadly serious. She has got a banana voice, and that is hon Labuschagne. She is here in her corner. The way she raises issues in this corner you might think that she is not speaking. She speaks very softly but is deadly serious and she raises issues of national importance.

We also appreciate the manner in which our colleagues raise these issues, but I also know that when Mama Van Lingen becomes very

irritated, she will speak off the cuff without even pressing the button or even before she is recognised. That is how she wants to keep the House enlivened.

We also thank the political parties and we want to thank the IFP. The IFP member is a very serious person, but also very truant at times. He likes to tease us here by sneaking in his agenda. That's part of building a family.

As the ANC we are resolute in executing our mandate. I wish to thank our staff. I know they work awkward hours and they go the extra mile, but they are always there for us. I want to thank them for giving us the necessary support, starting from the Secretary to this House and everybody down to our secretaries in our offices and administrators.

Mr L B GAHLER: Awundibuleli? Uza kugodukela phi xa ufika eMpuma Koloni? [Aren't you thanking me? Where will you reside when you are in the Eastern Cape?]

Mr L SUKA: Bendingekagqibi, ungxamile. [I haven't finished yet. You are in a hurry.]

I want to thank the staff members, even the catering staff who provide us with meals so that we don't collapse in these Houses.

Mama, I wish to say I know that Tata Gaehler is your project.

[Laughter.] He has declared and spoken about very beautiful ladies in this House. I don't want to spoil that. He is already the eldest in the family.

Mntakwethu, uyidle kakuhle iholide kwelamaMpondo. Sibuye sibonane kwilixa elizayo. [My brother, you must enjoy your holidays in Pondoland. Until we meet again.]

In conclusion, Madam Chair, may we all go back to our homes and enjoy ourselves. Be fatherly and motherly in your homes. Observe the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children. Let us support those programmes because we are trying to change the culture and the behaviour of some of the South Africans in this country.

Mama, uhambe kakuhle. [Have a safe journey, Mama.]

You must have a happy landing. To all of you, I love you. God bless. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr W F FABER: Hon Chair, before hon Suka finishes, I just want to say: Give that man a Bells! [Laughter.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Chairperson of the Council and members of this august House, Mama, if I may borrow from Khawula, you may

not be aware that you have mamahood. There is about to be a wedding in this House. The Makhufe bug has arrived here.

Dikgomo di tšwa North West di ya Gauteng. Bjale ge, rangwane wa go gapa dikgomo o tsena a etšwa e bile ba re maemo a gagwe a tla tšewa ke Stock goba Rayi. (*Translation of Sepedi paragraph follows.*)

[Lobola will be paid to a Gauteng family by a family from North West. The uncle has been busy informing different households about the news but that task will now be handled by Stock or Rayi.]

The names of the groom and the bride will be revealed when we come back. [Interjections.] In that lighter vein, I thought that the uncle from the North West would soon appear, but he is in and out, so he is losing his position.

Chairperson, lest we forget, I prefer to start with the preamble to our mighty Constitution:

We, the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country;

and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to

- Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.

Today, we are concluding yet another very momentous year; one of the busiest years for our hon members and the committees of the Council, and the busiest six months we have ever seen, Mama. Allow me to convey profound appreciation to each and every one of the hon members of our Council for their resilience and utmost commitment throughout these six months and this first term of our fifth democratic Parliament.

It is indeed an honour to be part of the leadership collective whose loyalty to serve our people is truly immeasurable. We would like to sincerely thank all the members for their commitment to our national agenda. I repeat, Chairperson: their commitment to our national agenda to transform South Africa and ensure that our people enjoy a better quality of life.

Tše dintši ke a di taboga ka ge o šetše o di boletše. [I will skip most of the things because you have already mentioned them.]

We also said that we need a legal instrument in the form of a piece of legislation to advise and act as guidance on the manner in which the process of interventions is followed. As our democracy matures, policy gaps emerge and this is one of the areas. Even though we are going away this festive season, maybe your neighbour, your brother or your sister is a law guru. You could consult him or her for guidance on what type of legal principles we can put to guide interventions. I'm saying this because when the intervention came in Limpopo, my province, we had to know for the first time what section 100(a), section 100(b) and section 100(c) are. We had to acquaint ourselves with all these for the first time. But, until today, democratic South Africa doesn't really have a clear process as to how this type of intervention must proceed.

Yesterday, in our meeting, we also discovered yet another gap which I would suggest that we also take on as homework. When the Ministers prepare to come and present to our committees, the question is: must the preparation they made for the National Assembly be identical to the preparation that they make when they come to us here, where we focus on provinces? It is homework. For the first time yesterday, I realised that when we say a Minister must travel only once, he must come once here so that costs are contained, but then I thought maybe the Minister must bring to Cape Town ... [Interjections.]

Ms E C VAN LINGEN: Hon Chairperson, I just want to ask the Chief Whip if she does not want park her speech so that we can carry on?
[Laughter.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Not now.

We said that our Fifth Parliament is going to be business unusual. As we go for our holidays, I really would want us to take on some of these issues ... [Interjections.]

Mr W F FABER: Hon Chair, I just want to say to the hon Doctor that I totally agree with her on that. [Laughter.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Thank you very much.

We have said it's going to be business unusual.

Regarding the last picture, whoever did it, if it's your good office, I would say from here - well done, Chair. The picture has the 54 members of the Council. Calls keep coming. They say that we did not know who these people are who are sober minded, who have these cool heads, and who focus on their mandate. Now, through your office, Chairperson, the people out there know.

In this very short space of time, we have worked very hard. In my language, ...

Segagešo se re "Kgomo go hlabana tša lešaka" [In my language we say "In every situation conflict is inevitable".]

... meaning that, as we work hard, whether you are in the kitchen cooking, whether it's a wedding or a funeral, you are bound unintentionally to step on each other's toes, but that does not make you enemies. Indeed, after the hard work that we've gone into in this House, I must say - from my vantage position on behalf of those who might have trodden on other people's toes - I apologise.

"Ga e senye e sa aga". [The intention was not to cause any harm.]

To err is human, to forgive divine.

Provincial Week has also shown the extent to which people have confidence in members of the Council. Since we came back we are getting letters and emails. There is one letter that came by an aeroplane about a certain security company in Sedibeng. They addressed it to the Council as they know that the peoples' representatives are here. The Provincial Week has shown the people that members of this House care about their lives. Hon members, please let's keep it up.

To the presiding officers, I would refer them to the mamahood once more. Mama, they say it's better to tell the person ...

... a sa go kwa ka ditsebe. Ge re go seba Mama ga ba dumela gomme ba tla go nna ba re mantšu ao o a dirišago, hai mane! Nna ke re go bona ... [... while she/he is listening. Mama, they don't want us to gossip about you, they complained about the language that I use. I am now saying to them ...]

... you must read the body language. Don't listen to the words. Watch the body language. You will never read any malice, like a mother... [Interjections.]

Mr L B GAEHLER: I would like to know what body language is so that we can read it properly. [Laughter.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: The body language is that, like a mother, she means well with no malice intended. She wants the people she leads to perform to the highest standard possible.

As far as the political parties are concerned, Chair, you are leading the magnificent five in their diversity, propelled by their own philosophies. It pleased the God of this country to present, to this House, parties in the combination that we have right now. That's the beauty of our democracy. Our open-door policy sometimes exposes us to the richness of ideas that this Chamber is endowed with ... [Interjections.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon Gaehler and the beautiful ladies, you are called to order. Continue, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE NCOP: Chairperson, I was still paying tribute to the magnificent five - the parties in this Chamber. Parties will tell it as it is. They call it by its name, robustly so, and hence the kind of respect that this House commands is not only in Parliament, but also out there in the communities.

I am wishing them well as they go to their various provinces and I am appealing that we must not lose focus of our mandate. Sometimes that temptation is there and it hits me in the face often, and I just remain stone-faced as if I don't feel the temptation to go party-political. Our mandate is not party-political, but we represent the provinces.

As I conclude, I also wish well those of our members whose health has not really been well. I must indicate to the leader of the DA that I'm a little bit unhappy. I just learnt about hon Groenewald when she was at this podium. Otherwise in my office I know about hon Sefako, hon Zondi and hon Von Brandis. To all of them, as members of the family, I wish them a speedy recovery.

Mekgolokwane basadi! Lenyalo le etla! Ke a leboga. [Ladies, please ululate! We are going to have a wedding! Thank you.]

The CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCOP: Hon members, this concludes the business of the day.

The hon members must remember that there was the hon member who reminded us that being ``snoeperig'' [Greediness] is not right. Taking the advice from this hon member, I wish to invite you all to a cocktail as we leave. I think it is this side. You are all welcome.

The Council adjourned at 16:40.

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