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**DEBATES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRD**

**KWAZULU-NATAL LEGISLATURE**

**FIFTH SESSION**

**THIRD LEGISLATURE**

**THURSDAY, 2 APRIL 2009**

**THE HOUSE MET AT THE 13:00 AT THE ROYAL SHOWGROUNDS,  
PIETERMARITZBURG.**

**1. SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION, OR READING OF THE PRAYER IN  
SCHEDULE 2.**

The Speaker, Mr T W Mchunu, took the Chair and read the prayer.

**2. OBITUARIES AND OTHER CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon members, the first announcement under this item is about the passing away of Mr Jimmy Mtolo, a SANCO official. Mr Mtolo passed away on 14 March 2009.

Secondly, a fatal road accident has struck us again on Sunday, 29 March 2009, in which 11 people travelling in a kombi died. It is reported that a kombi drove into the back of a truck which had been parked in the emergency lane.

I also need to record that there has been deaths that had been caused through political intolerance which has happened against the spirit of the Electoral Code of Conduct, and also against the spirit of the decision of this House on the code of political parties and their members. With that, I will request that we stand for a moment of silence in order to recognise these deaths.

*Members of the House observed a minute of silence.*

**THE SPEAKER:** May their souls rest in peace. Hon members, you may be seated.

### **3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

THE SPEAKER: Hon members, I wish to deal with the apologies for today. I have a long list of apologies, the first one being that of the hon Dr Z L Mkhize, the Leader of Government Business who is also the MEC for Finance and Economic Development. He will be joining this sitting later due to prior government engagements.

I also have an apology from the hon Mrs C M Cronjé, MEC for Education.

I have an apology for the hon Mr M E Mthimkhulu, MEC for Agriculture and Environmental Affairs; the hon Mr M Mabuyakhulu, MEC for Local Government, Housing and Traditional Affairs; the hon Mr B H Cele, MEC for Transport, Community Safety and Liaison and the hon Dr B M Radebe, MEC for Social Development who has been booked off sick.

The rest of the MECs are away because of prior engagements.

I also have an apology from the hon Ms L F Shabalala and the hon Ms W P Zondi. They are both unwell and will not be joining us today.

I also need to announce to hon members that tonight we will be hosting a gala dinner, and I announce therefore as follows: This being our last sitting before the elections of 22 April 2009, I - in consultation with the political and administrative management of the Legislature - felt it proper to host a gala dinner marking our last sitting of this term. The dinner will also serve as an opportunity to salute hon members with whom we have worked so well and hard, but who have now indicated that they are not returning in the next term to again serve as members of this Legislature.

This also serves on my part to say thank you on behalf of the hon members to our administration for the work done during the term, and also a chance to encourage them to keep up the good work. The invitation is extended to all hon members and staff and other invited guests with whom we have worked in the past. The details are as follows:

The venue is the Elangeni Hotel in Durban, and the time is 17:30. We should be through by 22:30.

Hon members, I also need to make the following announcement which contains important information. I am made to understand that this is requested by the Whips of the KZN Legislature under the leadership of the Chief Whip. For those members who are not in the House, I would request that the Whippery or leaders of all the parties make sure that these members are informed of this information because it relates to what our obligations are at this time.

The first obligation is the clearing of offices. In preparation for the Fourth KwaZulu-Natal Legislature, offices must be cleaned and, where necessary, refurbished. Vacating the Legislature offices should commence on 2 April 2009 and be concluded by no later than 15 April 2009. We are really requesting hon members that between today and 15 April, please remove your personal belongings or matters that only pertain to you and will not pertain to the incoming members of the Legislature, because you may not use the office that you are using this time. You may not use that office next time, because you may be reallocated a different one if you return. You may not even return, in which case you are therefore not supposed to leave your things in the offices.

I do want to say that that should pertain to our hon members, as well. I am glad that the KZN Whip in the NCOP is here, the hon Chris Ntuli. It also pertains to hon members in the NCOP in the Cape Town offices where you have your belongings. Please, can we ensure that your offices are cleared out?

Again, hon members are kindly requested to ensure that offices are vacated and that all office reference material, such as books and documents are removed. Two boxes per member will be supplied by the Supply Chain Management Unit.

The date for the return of office keys commences on 15 April 2009 and must be concluded by 21 April 2009. Members are requested to ensure that their office keys are returned to Office C4 next to the Chamber. Members are advised that staff will start cleaning offices as from 15 April 2009. Now, you wanted to know that these offices will be cleaned. The process will start on 15 April 2009. We will therefore go into those offices that we have keys for, but it would be better that you bring the keys back to us. What we thought we could not do, is to force you not to use your office between 15 April

and 21 April, simply because you still remain members up to that time. We are being lenient to that effect, but that does not mean that staff will not go into the offices and clean. So, if you come in and you find staff members going about their task, they are not intruding. It is an official position. They would be cleaning your office. If you still have stuff there and it gets lost, please you may, if you want, go and report it to the police, but do not bother the Speaker, because we have asked you to clear out your office by 15 April, so we will not intrude before you have cleared out your office.

Travel claims: Again, members are requested to submit all outstanding travel claims arising in this term by 4 May 2009, as no claims will be considered after this date. Please bring back all your claim forms.

Members who have official passports are requested to return them for safe-keeping by the Office of the Secretary. The return of passports commences on 2 April and ends on 15 April 2009.

Unused travel vouchers: Members are requested to submit all unused travel vouchers arising from this term by 15 April 2009, as they have already reached their expiry date, effective as of 1 April 2009.

Travels between today and 21 April 2009: Members are advised that the travel vouchers will not be printed as their term is coming to an end on midnight, 21 April 2009. All bookings for air flight (private quote) from today to 21 April 2009 will be done through the travel desk.

Members' office telephones: Outgoing lines will be disconnected as at 5 April 2009. This is necessary to finalise your payment to political parties.

Cell phones provided to Office Bearers: Members are required to make arrangements with the Supply Chain Management Unit in relation to instruments and contracts by no later than 4 May 2009. Any costs incurred on the instrument between the date of the general election and 4 May shall be for members' personal account.

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Access cards: Members may return their existing access cards, whether or not they return for the new Legislature term. Each access card will be reprogrammed to reflect the members' new status, either as a former member or as a new member.

Parking bays: Parking bays will be reallocated to incoming members as soon as lists of new members are finalised. Parking cards will automatically be deactivated.

IT Equipment: Outstanding amounts on the laptops and printers supplied to members will be deducted as of April 2009, as per the contracts signed by members. Members must ensure that all software licences to the Legislature is replaced with the latest version of Microsoft licences. This can be done in one of two ways: The member can hand the equipment over to the Information Technology Unit who will carry out this procedure on behalf of a member. In this case, the anti-virus package will be replaced to provide added protection and automated updates for machines not connected to the Legislature network. This will ensure that all computer equipment has the latest software upgrades loaded. Please note: The IT Unit will assist with the removal and/or storage of personal data, if required. Once the software has been replaced, the computer equipment will be returned to the member.

Alternatively, all members will receive an email disk which will contain a set of instructions from the IT Unit which will explain the procedure to perform the software upgrade. Members must then carry out this procedure personally, together with any other procedures mentioned in above. It is strongly recommended that the first option is followed.

3G Cards: All 3G cards must be returned to the IT Unit under the leadership of Mr Cedric Sithole for re-issuing to members in the new Legislature. The return of 3G cards commences on 2 April and does not extend beyond 15 April 2009.

Library books: Members are requested to return their borrowed books to the library by the return date or no later than the day prior to the election. Members are reminded that failure to do so will result in the price of each unreturned book being deducted from members' salaries. Lost material must be reported as soon as possible so that payment can be processed.

Remote controls for air-conditioners and TV sets: Return of remote control units for air-conditioners from all members and for TV sets in respect of those members whose offices were provided with TV sets, must commence on 2 April and end on 15 April 2009. The units must be returned to Mr Zaca.

Members who need to travel through the use of members' quotas between 1 and 21 April 2009 are requested to arrange their bookings through the Travel Desk until a new list of members is released.

Regarding birthdays, may I take this opportunity to wish the following members a belated happy birthday, and if we have left out any member, please indicate to that effect:

The hon Ms Y M Nahara (16 March); the hon Ms Z M Ludidi (20 March); the hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, Mr H L Combrinck (22 March); Ms V V Tambo (23 March); the hon Mr T M Mthembu (26 March); the hon S W Mcoyi (20 March) and the hon MEC Mabuyakhulu (31 March). I am informed that the Deputy Chair of Chairs of the NCOP, Mrs Oliphant, was also born on 22 March, but we do not know in which year! [Interjections] Oh! Let me correct that. I have made a similar mistake that I made in the past. The Chairperson of Chairs in the NCOP was born on 22 March. My apologies! My humble apologies! Even though we do not know in which year she was born, I must say that she still looks very young. [Laughter] Hon members, we wish you all a happy belated birthday. We wish you many more returns as you get a little bit older each year.

Hon members, I have received late reports and I hope it will be corrected in the future. By the way, I may not have that opportunity of getting them corrected in the future. The first report says that Dr L P H M Mtshali's son died three weeks ago and was buried two weeks ago. It is a pity, Dr Mtshali, that your Whip has brought me this information late, and I have told him so. Being a Whip, he should have known better, because we do have this as a separate item. I am saying it, because we would have loved to recognise that as part of the other whom we have recognised. Nonetheless, because it has been brought to my attention and because hon members are hearing about that now, we grieve with you and we sympathise with the family. As a family, we say to you: **[Insert isiZulu 13:33:30]**. We also hope your son's soul rests in peace. I am sorry about this

mishap of things coming to my desk a bit late. Thank you very much for your understanding.

I am also requested here to share with the House that this year Prof Ndabandaba celebrates 40 years of his involvement in karate. [Applause] He also indicated in advance that he was born on 14 April, and therefore his birthday is coming very, very soon in April. I must apologise to all those hon members whose birthdays we have not announced for April, but that is what Prof Ndabandaba has done. Because he is the Deputy Speaker, I could not say no. However, he has not indicated the year in which he was born, but he does still look young, as you can all see. Prof, many happy returns! Happy returns! Congratulations on sustaining your karate exercises.

There is just one last announcement which I wanted to make, but I do not see the people I had requested to be on the gallery. [Insert isiZulu 13:35:30] What we did, this being the last day, besides the gala dinner to which we have invited some of the members that we interact with as the Legislature - some of those members are those who contribute to the life of the Legislature in one way or the other - we also thought that it is proper that we also recognise the work of our Department of Correctional Services by inviting them to again, like they have done over the years, to just showcase some of the cultural activities that they have been performing over time. This time around we were given a group from Eshowe who are inmates in Eshowe who have formed themselves and who have been assisted by the Department of Correctional Services to form themselves into a cultural grouping. I wanted to convey our gratitude to the leader of that group, Assistant-Director Dlamini who, together with Senior Officer Ms Khanyi. I wanted to convey our gratitude to them, and for them to convey our gratitude to the provincial leadership of the Department of Correctional Services who are the ones who have to release these groups when they have to go outside of correctional centres.

These matters are very important for our communities, for our nation, because what happens with these inmates is that when they are given these opportunities, the opportunities of their rehabilitation are enhanced. They are being given a chance to correct their ways. It also keeps them occupied in those correctional centres and makes them contribute, doing positive things rather than negative things. When we invite them outside the centres, it is a token of our appreciation as an institution, both for the work

done by the correctional centre, but also to them for indulging in positive activities, rather than negative activities. Many a time when they are involved in such cultural activities, it minimises the chances of them thinking about gangsterism and breaking away from correctional centres. I therefore wanted to explain it to you, but also, on your behalf, thank the correctional centres and to thank the inmates themselves.

We usually encourage that we do indicate our appreciation by just a clapping of hands, if that becomes necessary. In this case I think it is necessary that we do show our appreciation to our correctional centres ... [isiZulu 13:39:42] [Applause] I thought we were all appreciative, but I did see that some members are not appreciative. It is regretted. It is regretted. I thought that we were all appreciative of positive developments in our society. Nonetheless, the beauty of democracy is that you are allowed to differ, and therefore, if it is not appreciated, there is no crime in that.

Having said all of that, these were the announcements. Because I have concluded my announcements, I will request that the Deputy Speaker takes over presiding over this House in continuance from Item 4 to Item 8.1, after which I will then rejoin the House and then proceed from that stage onwards. I am therefore just requesting your indulgence. Can we just proceed in that manner? Oh, before I do so, there is a booklet here from our Administration. This booklet will be distributed to you. I can see some members are already reading it. It is exactly what I have been reporting to you. It is now being given to you to assist you. During your spare time, please go through it so that you remind yourselves of what needs to be done.

Hon members, I now request the Deputy Speaker to take over the Chair.

#### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS BY THE PREMIER**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon members, we will proceed from where the hon Speaker has left off. Does the hon Premier have any announcements to make? Are there any announcements from the Premier's Office?

**DR J S NDEBELE (Premier of KwaZulu-Natal):** Mr Speaker, thank you. There are no announcements to make.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, hon Premier.

## **5. TABLING OF REPORTS OR PAPERS**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I understand that item is irrelevant in this sitting.

## **6. FORMAL MOTIONS AND NOTICES BY THE CHIEF WHIP**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I suppose the same applies to Item 6, unless the Chief Whip has something to say?

**MR V C XABA (Chief Whip of the Legislature):** Mr Speaker, my apologies. I have no formal motions. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. It looks like Item 7 will be like Item 5, if I understand correctly.

## **7. NOTICES OF BILLS OR MOTIONS**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Apparently they are irrelevant in a sitting of this nature. In that case, we will proceed to the Orders of the Day.

## **8. ORDERS OF THE DAY**

### **8.1 The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature Close-Out Report by the Speaker**

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr Speaker, it is over to you. Oh, I see there is a member standing up. It is the hon Whip of the IFP, the hon Bhengu [[IsiZulu 13:43:59](#)]

**MR T W MCHUNU (ANC):** Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. This is a speech which I am just handing out in view of the report that I am today tabling here in this House, which is tabled for the purpose of informing the House of its own processes, the processes that we started in 2004.

The purpose of giving the report is to actually say to those who will return and be the leadership of the Legislature after 22 April 2009, these are some of the matters that this Legislature has been grappling with and that in some cases we indicate what is

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outstanding and where the matter is at, after which we want consideration by those who will come in, for them to consider whether to take these matters forward and how to take them forward.

As I start therefore, hon Speaker, firstly I must say a word of appreciation to all of you for the manner in which we have worked together as the Legislature, as well as Members of the Executive Council, over these years. I do have to say to you, I definitely have had my work bearable, but not easy.

I want to say to you today, as Speaker, I decided to deliver this report, being mindful of the fact that what I may call successes may not be so for some amongst us. Some comments that I have made in the report may appear as a criticism of my predecessors or they may appear as self-congratulatory rhetoric. I want to assure all of you members that I intend not to criticise, but also not to gloss over the challenges that we face.

I have seen it fit to prepare this five year report of the Legislature as a tool that can assist the new political administration that will come into being after the elections. This has never been done before in the history of this Legislature. I have decided to take this course of action as I believe that this will be useful to whosoever may come after us and I say it because I have firsthand experience of having been Speaker in 2004 and having to grapple with what matters were before the institution? How to deal with them? What state they were in?

I want to start therefore from the beginning, the 2004 national elections. These elections saw a change in the political leadership of the provincial Legislature. The new leadership inherited a situation that had no administration head, no clear agenda and perhaps no clear future. Therefore our chief aim was to lay a strong foundation for good governance. After our research and our wide consultation, our exercise resulted in a document dubbed "Agenda for Change" and it is important that we laid this groundwork because it should inform those who will come in, that this is how we proceeded, this is what we found, but also to indicate to them that if it is necessary, they may also go a similar route.

The primary aim of the "Agenda for Change" document was to map a sure future for the Legislature and its people. The first goal thereof was the filling of the position of the most senior official in the Legislature and that is the Secretary. In doing so we wanted to plant

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the seeds of stability and certainty within the institution. We wanted a man or a woman who could drive the process of modernisation and change. We were able to fill this position by employing a woman leader, Miss Nerusha Naidoo. That in itself was a huge milestone as never before had anyone contemplated that such a critical position could be headed by a female.

As Speaker, I further committed the Legislature to a transformation agenda which was to be underpinned by transparency and good governance. I also stressed that public participation was to become our key strategic thrust in full support of the Constitution, as well as our policies. Since then our Legislature programmes have been informed by this particular vision.

We also observed that our Legislature was achieving limited success in terms of our public participation on legislation and oversight roles, as we did not improve on our planning processes. Without any procrastination we began to plan our Legislature sittings as well as our committee meetings in advance. Prior to welcoming into office, these activities were decided upon on a weekly basis, thus robbing us of the much needed time to plan and improve, amongst other things.

I am happy to report to this House that we have been able to achieve proper planning and currently our annual calendar of activities is finalised well in advance in order to give us adequate time and create certainty on activities taking place in our institution. Whilst on that score, I also need to indicate that our Whippery is presently engaged in planning for what processes are necessary in the forthcoming term and that we are not doing it for ourselves, we are doing it for the institution and those who will come in, rather than come in and then start planning your own programmes on that day.

As we have stated above, the Legislature has developed and implemented the “Agenda for Change” to improve institutional arrangement processes. This has necessitated that management committees, that is the Rules Committee, Programme Committee, Committee of Chairpersons and Whips Committee, be focused more on policy and strategic issues. Subsequently a resolution was also taken that the Parliamentary Executive Board be dissolved and that we remain with the Rules Committee which is the committee that deals with policy issues pertaining to the Legislature.

The Rules Committee itself did form a sub-committee and I make a point in this report

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that there are many policy issues that have been left unattended and these policy issues are sitting with the Rules sub-committee. They are enumerated in the report and I hope that the incoming Rules Committee will find a mechanism of dealing with these outstanding reports which are reflected in the report itself and probably use a similar method of creating a sub-committee.

However, by and large I am satisfied with the manner in which our Rules Committee, as well as the Rules sub-committee, has dealt with matters within their ambit in a very pragmatic manner.

Again we had the organisational arrangements for the institution that we needed to look into and this was done in order to attract and retain strategic competencies in the Offices of the Speaker and Secretary and we did come up with the restructuring programme which was facilitated by the Secretary, which resulted in a revised organogram which we approved in 2005.

The issues that remained were the issues of job evaluation, which have been started, but which we improved by talking about job evaluation and job grading. To this effect we employed the services of Performance Solutions Africa (PSA) to perform that task. I need to thank Mr Geoff Schreiner of PSA for assisting us in this matter, but I also want to take the opportunity to thank the shop stewards of Nehawu as well as their members, for the level-headed manner in which they approached the whole organisational review process. Without the cooperation of the union and its members, we would not have achieved the milestone which resulted in us adopting a revised organogram last year and which is now being implemented.

In the report we also do make a point about the experiences of implementation themselves, which are not very, very easy – as you implement the decisions, new programmes come to the fore.

In the report we also talk about the new Legislature facilities which everybody will remember is an issue that was raised quite early in our term. We have made a point time and again in the past of what this facility that we sit in is and that is a museum and we have made it important as well that what this facility is, is an old facility and we do need a new, modern facility and it's one of the issues that we thank Cabinet for, for having assisted us to talk to and to work through all the processes and we can safely

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say that it is one of the issues that will have to be taken forward by the incoming administration after the end of our term and we are certainly thankful to the Premier and Treasury for all the work that they assisted us with as we dealt with this issue.

We are also all aware that the engine room of our work in the Legislature is in the committees. I think we need to thank our committees for all the work that they have done and in the report we do indicate what has been done by our committees in adopting new strategies of performing their oversight function and the Chair of Chairs has very ably led many of these programmes of the multiparty delegations and of workshops to revamp our committee system.

We want to convey our thanks and say to all our committee chairs, we think you have done very well in your task, but what we do recognise especially is the work of Scopa and the Finance Committee which also has done very well and I am certain that if it was not for this work of Scopa and the Finance Committee, today we would not have the Executive being so proud of its own handling of finances. We have also contributed, as the Legislature, through our oversight function through these two committees and I am sure that the Auditor-General is not under-estimating when he is praising the KwaZulu-Natal Administration for the manner in which finances have been handled. We have handled them very well and it's unprecedented as well.

In the report we also talk about Taking the Legislature to the People and we do indicate that public participation is a cornerstone of the Constitution of the country, but also a cornerstone of our Legislature work, beginning 2004 and now, and we do make a point that we have reached many people, we have afforded an opportunity to many people of KwaZulu-Natal to participate in these events.

What is unfortunate is that initially we had intended to hold these activities in all of the districts of our province, but we do make a point that we did not finish that. If the administration that comes in, deems it fit, we suggest that they consider taking these programmes to the districts where we have not taken them before, but it obviously depends on the approach taken by the administration which will come in after 22 April 2009.

We also innovatively introduced the concept of sectoral parliaments which were also done in the manner that we did in the form of the Workers' Parliament, in the form of the

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Youth Parliament, in the form of the Women's Parliament. What we were unable to do, which had been requested of us, is to hold parliaments for the disabled. We did have one symposium for the disabled, but we want those who come in, to consider holding that symposium, whichever form they take, for the people who are disabled. Also, the business sector, as well as civil society, did approach us, indicating that they also are interested in having their own parliaments and being able to articulate their own issues in their parliaments. Now it is all of these matters that the new administration will have to delve into, discuss, see if they agree with taking them forward or not. [Interjection] *Angizange ngimuzwe-ke uMongameli.*

All that we are saying therefore, members, is that these sectoral parliaments were held in certain districts, so we were not able to complete the task of holding them in different districts as well and these are the matters we are highlighting in the report. We talk about *Iso Elibanzi* in the report and we indicate why *Iso Elibanzi* had been conceptualised. We also indicate that there are some shortcomings which were discussed, but there was strategic agreement on what this newspaper needs to do and how it needs to be handled. One of the major weaknesses is that we were unable to realise its printing in the English language properly, although we were able to put it onto the website, but we have not been able to do the English distribution, which is what the new administration has to go into, but these are all matters that have to do with how members address it.

I have indicated in the past in this Legislature that we really have a state of the art media gallery now. If there are any improvements, they are just needed, but we think we have done our best in this institution with these facilities. What is beautiful about our state of the art media gallery is that it is transferable to the new legislative precinct which we are going to be embarking upon.

We have also made a point about the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme, we have described it, we have indicated what its objectives were and what it has done, but it depends on whether the new Speaker will want to go into that one, depending of course who the new Speaker is. If members are unfortunate to have the old Speaker being the new Speaker, you can be rest assured that these things are going to continue, but if you have a new Speaker, which can also happen, I am certain that the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme may either continue or not be preferred by the incoming

Speaker. [Interjection] I hope, Mthiya, when you come in, you will look into these matters very well. Nadeco seems to be very eager to play a Speaker's role – I hope, members, you will take that into account as you go to vote. [Laughter]

What is important is that the other programme that we also started, which we left midstream, which we are reporting on, is the KwaZulu-Natal Speakers' Forum. I have indicated to you, members, that we formed that Speakers' Forum, but that at this stage it sits with an interim structure which needs to be formalised and the structure is led by the Speaker's office here and these are all reports to us that are necessary, they are in fact just a handover from this administration to the next administration. I have indicated as well that I also did favour this idea of members debating this report, but debating it with a view to making contributions of how we can strengthen the report, because what the report does, it just puts facts of things that have happened here, it does not do anything else, but if you think these things did not happen, you can indicate.

I will also request that even if you have ideas of how to strengthen this report further, after we have left today's sitting, you still have a week in which you can provide your views to the office of the Speaker and they will be incorporated, as long as they strengthen the report. What we want to discourage is to party politicise a report of this nature because it is not supposed to be a report that is party political, it is just a handover administrative thing to leave those who in future are going to handle the work of this Legislature.

However, I am glad, hon Deputy Speaker, that you have provided an opportunity for members to make comments here. We will take those comments, I still think we will retain that opportunity that if no adequate comments have been made, it can still be made in future and if we get submissions in the Speaker's Office, I give an undertaking that we will definitely incorporate or if we do not incorporate those matters, we will respond to any member who has made those submissions and indicate why we are not incorporating those matters.

Therefore feel free, hon members, but regard this report as an attempt by the Speaker's Office to indicate what work was being done, how it was being attended to, for the purpose of those who will come in and therefore the report itself will be concluded long before the elections and it will therefore become a tool to be used after 22 April and that

is why you have an opportunity.

With those words, hon Deputy Speaker, I therefore hope that in line with you having given members an opportunity to make comments, in line with that I hope you also expect me to respond after the comments, because that is how I understand the procedure to be. If you could just rule on that and indicate as well to me how many minutes you are going to give me for responding. Thank you, hon members.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon Speaker, we thank you very much for the objective, exhaustive and well-meaning close-out report in respect of the Legislature for the last five years.

Now, hon members, we have all heard what the Speaker said and from this chair, hon Speaker, we shall allow you to respond because this is a matter of your brainchild, you have got to report to the comments of the members. I therefore rule that you be given time to comment. I am not so sure how much time you would request, but I think eight minutes is reasonable – are you happy with that, Speaker?

**MR T W MCHUNU (ANC):** It is actually more than reasonable, Deputy Speaker, so let us leave it at eight.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, Speaker. So, hon members, I have got a list of speakers in front of me here and the first member to comment will be the UDM, hon Msomi, Nomndayi, for three minutes. Over to you.

**MR B J MSOMI (UDM):** Somlomo, angibonge ukuthola ithuba elifana naleli. Cha angisho ukuthi nami benginesikhalo sokuthi singathulelwa ireport singayixoxi kuyobe kudalwa yini, kodwa-ke ngiyabonga ukuthi sikwazile ukuthi siyilungise le ndaba.

Asibonge ngombiko kaSpeaker awethulile. Okuningi kwakho siyakwazi kwenzekile. Ngiyafisa nje ukwazi ngoba kuke kwaba khona irestructuring ukuthi ngabe mhlawumbe-ke ngoba sengathi kukhona isivumelwano esingakasayinwa kodwa sekwenziwe amarecommendations esithinta abasebenzi ukuthi ngabe yinto ezothatha isikhathi esingakanani ngoba kuyahlupha lokhu ukuthi uma kukhona uguquko abantu baba nama expectations abo but if it takes long bagcina be demoralised abantu so singajabula ukuthi ...ngebhadi-ke nansi item iyaphela and I do not know ukuthi kuzokwenzakalani kodwa bekungaba kuhle ukube ibikhona iplan eshoyo ukuthi le nto kufanele ibe

iphothulwe nini.

Ngifisa futhi ukukhuluma Somlomo ngeSpeaker's Social Responsibility ukuthi luhle lolu hlelo kodwa-ke uma ubheka kwezinye izindawo njengakwamanye amaqembu uyabona ukuthi kusenenhlese yepolitiki. Besingathanda ukuthi ngoba siye sikhale ngomasipala abayenzayo le nto, kungaba ngcono ukuthi kube uhlelo okuthi uma luzokwenzeka nathi njengamaqembu akhona la sibe nalo izwi ngoba ngendlela okwenzeka ngayo uke uzwe kuthiwa sekwenzeke endaweni ethile ungazi ukuthi iyiphi icriteria esetshenzisiwe ukuze kuyiwe lapho kusizakale labo bantu, noma asikaze sicelewe nantyi njengabantu abamele lapha ukuthi uma ngifuna ukuthi kuyiwe ngakithi kufanele ngenzenjani. Ezinye zezinto lezo ebengithi angiziphawule. Ngaphandle kwalokho Somlomo, ngiyabonga.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** [Insert isiZulu \(2:18:22\)](#) [Hon member from the ACDP, for 10 minutes ...](#) [Insert isiZulu \(2:18:27\)](#).

**MRS J M DOWNS (ACDP):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is indeed the first time ever that there has been a close-out report of this nature and I thank the Speaker for that because I think it is an important ending to a five year sitting.

I do not want to discuss the political issues contained in the report. We have done a lot of discussion on all of those things. Just to say, that we really believe that the Taking Parliament to the People process could have been more cost-effectively done. I think the Legislature in the new term is going to really have to look at its budget and the way that it does its business in the economic downturn that we currently experiencing. We have to find ways to be more effective and more cost-effective in the way that we do things as a Legislature.

My thanks go to the Speaker for his leadership over the last five years. It is much appreciated. We may have differed politically, but I think we all have the same aims as to have a very good Legislature which has a very good accountability model. My personal thanks to the Speaker for singling out the Portfolio Committee on Finance and Scopa most of which I have led in the last term on the Scopa side indeed we have worked non-politically in both those committees to bring the Executive into account and to make sure that we as a Legislature practice our oversight role effectively. So, thank you for that it is appreciated.

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**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much hon member from the ACDP. The next member to comment is from the MF for three minutes.

**MRS S THAKUR-RAJBANSI (MF):** Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I want to thank the hon Speaker for the close-out report. I believe that the Speaker has been truly a transformational leader, because in his time he certainly brought about huge positive changes to this parliament. I also want to single out our thanks to our very efficient Secretary of the Legislature, because she certainly has put all agreed plans into action.

On the institutional transformational unit, because I believe this is key especially if you have to improve the standards of to that of other world Legislatures, I believe that the Outreach Programme has been very successful. This has been where we have taken Parliament to the People because we knew the people could not come to parliament. What I do think is, and should be done in the next parliament, we should improve the Petitions Directorate. In this way, we will be able to bring civil society concerns to parliament.

I have always have said this in parliament that we can have the most grand strategies but implementations of these strategies are only as good as those that can be implemented. Unfortunately that has been a weakness in our parliament. So, implementation has to be looked at — monitoring and evaluation — and these of course will be the key challenges for the new Speaker.

With these words, on behalf of the Minority Front, we do accept this close-out report. Thank you.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you very much. We have the next speaker from Nadeco for three minutes.

**REV A H MBATHA (NADECO):** Thank you hon Speaker, our appreciation for the IFP's insistence that we should get this opportunity.

From our side, we appreciate the report that has just been presented to us. My view is that [insert isiZulu \(2:22:39\)](#) is that you have led parliament with a lot of integrity. The honesty and integrity that you showed, unfortunately worked against you where you had to relapse to your political party supporting rulings at some stages. That made us to know and quickly see that this one now was now longer from our Speaker — full of

integrity. It is from a political party member. [Laughter.]

My own observation is that you have led this Legislature with a lot of passion that it has to be visible and do things that can change people's lives. Unfortunately, you could not change the machine over five years. Until now you have not been able to make Ministers accountable to this House. I mean accountable in the true sense of the word. You have not been able to deliver the goods to the communities who presented to you their problems. You have not been able to make a difference on the implementations that had to emanate from the committees which report to your office. In my own view these shortcomings were not because of your personality. They were because the machinery is huge. You need a lot of time to change it. I have a suspicion that you are not going to be Speaker next year. I want you to be the Speaker next year.

Hon Speaker, with these few words I have said my say.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon Mthiya, we thank you for your prophecy. The next speaker will be from the DA for three minutes.

**MR R E KEYS (DA):** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I would like to express our thanks and respect to the Speaker for his five years. At times he was directing the parliament, but at times surviving was more important.

We, as the DA, have opposed many of what has been proposed by the Speaker, the ANC and rammed through the Chief Whip's meeting at times. Like for this debate we were told in the Whip's Forum, by the hon Chief Whip that we will not debate the issue. I am glad to see that he has seen the light of day and realised that this is important.

The DA has supported this city as the capital of KwaZulu-Natal. That is why we supported the move to have this city declared the capital and fund the renovation of the building across the road.

**AN HON MEMBER:** Always!

**MR R E KEYS (DA):** However, we do not support the R800 million fool-hardy and irresponsible spending on a new legislative centre, especially when we do not have enough schools, clinics, doctors, teachers and nurses to serve the people in our province. In that sense we would consider that this R800 million is really a monument in

stone to the ANC's fool hardiness. We oppose the way that the programme of Taking Parliament to the People. However, in true democratic system where we have lost the vote, we participated in that process and we raised concerns regarding that it became the Executive's platform. We had our little show in the Chamber, but the Executive had their platform with the public. In the Whip's Forum we were able to address that and get it changed so that the executive was answerable through this Legislature's structures.

Then we talked about *Iso Elibanzi*. Unfortunately It has been perceived as an ANC canvassing tool every time we have said let us make it a multi-lingual paper and recognise every citizen in this province, because every citizen has a right to know what is happening in this province. It has been consistently rejected and it has remained isiZulu kuphela.

We supported the sectoral parliament, but the main economic engine of the province is excluded and that is the business sector. We have pressed for it. We would like to see it happening.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the Speaker, the staff of the Legislature for the efforts they have put in to ensure that this parliament of KwaZulu-Natal runs effectively. It has been a very difficult position for members of staff to have to deal with the likes of the ANC and the DA and the IFP all together. A great gratitude to them, thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon Keys, we thank you for your contribution. We now proceed to the next contribution from the IFP for two minutes.

**INKOSI JN NGUBANE (IFP):** *Sawubona Somlomo.* Democracy means more than government of the people by the people for the people. We are grateful for this report esiyethulelwe uSpeaker wethu. Kodwa okufanele ukuthi kwenzekile yilokhu kokuthi izinto kufanele sibone ukuthi siziqhuba kanjani ngaso sonke isikhathi. Lo msinjwana nje obe khona ngaphambi kokuba kuqalwe le debate awudingekile, wenziwa ukungahloniphani nokungawanaki amanye amaqembu, bese kuba khona umsindo ongenasidingo. Yikho-ke lokhu okwenzekile.

I think there is a lot that has been said by our Speaker here in his report, but what surprises me is that it is against our procedures and rules njengoba kade ngisho nje. Ngeke uthathe ireport uzoyethula lapha unekomidi lakho uthole ukuthi ikomidi lakho

aliyazi le report ezokwethulwa lapha, ngoba akuhambisani nemithetho nenqubo yethu esiqhuba ngayo lapha. Uma ngizwa ngibuza amalunga ekomidi athi awayazi le report ayiqabuka nje manje njengoba yethulwa lapha kanye nathi. Manje kusho ukuthi nje le report eka-Speaker akuyona ireport yale Ndlu. Ekomidini lika Speaker wonke amaqembu amelelekile.

All our parties are represented there *uma kukhuluma iReport* with the approval of his committee which is represented by all parties, that automatically becomes a Legislature report. In this case uma ngabe ikomidi lingayazi ireport ungasho kanjani ukuthi ireport eza lapha ngaphandle kokuthi ireport kamhlonishwa uSpeaker kuphela. Yilokho ngithi ngesikhathi esilandelayo kuyofanele lezi zinto ziqhutshwe kahle ukuze sikwazi ukuthola ithuba lokuthi siphawule ngaleyo nto esifuna ukuphawula ngayo. Ngidabuka Mr Speaker that you have deprived me to debate the report as the procedure towards tabling the report was not well followed. I thank you.

**MR S N MTHETHWA (ANC):** Somlomo ngivumele ngithi Macingwana nyanga yemikhonto usebenzile. Konke okukhulumile kanjalo kodwa kunalokho kukhona engingathi awukushongo ngoba umbiko wakho ngqo lo. Ungakunaki lokhu okuyinkulumana ngoba ngesikhathi sikwi meeting kwakungathi uzobhodla ipolitiki ube usungasaphendulwa muntu yilokho ababekusaba kakhulu **[AKUZWAKALI]**.

Uyabona awukushongo ukuthi isiphiwo sakho onaso sokulalela abantu, umuntu umlalele nje. Awukhulumanga lutho ngesiphiwo sakho esingafani nathi thina sopolitiki abanye sokuthi uma ubona ukuthi konakele cela uxolo. Ngesinye isikhathi uze ucele uxolo nala ongonanga khona. Ukuzethemba kwakho ubu – challenge noma ubani uthi asixoxe uma kukhona ukubona ngokungafani. Ngisho abasebenzi bale institution uma bengakhuluma iqiniso bangasho ukuthi cha besino baba noma sino baba. Kwathina la eNdlini uma singakhuluma iqiniso nje sivumelane singasho ukuthi bekungubaba wethu sonke. Lokhu uShandu akushoyo umfundisi uqinisile, ngiyamvumela mina. Ubuke u-rule impela sibone nathi ukuthi hhawu usekhohliwe yini ukuthi owongangakuphi kubonakale isikhundla sakho sokuthi ungu Somlomo wangempela.

Somlomo, siyakuqala lokhu okwenzayo lesi sigqi ophethe ngaso sokukhipha umqingo ongaka sonke emahhovisi ahlukeneyo uthi asi- contributhe la sisho ukuthi senzeni emakomidini awu umuhle lo msebenzi. Angithi-ke sengiya ngasekugcineni ngithi kinina

nonke singabandawonye futhi-ke singabalapha KwaZulu-Natali la siphambane khona yingoba bekusetshenzwa. Anginifisele nonke ubuhle nonke nokhetho olunenkululeko nokuthula kodwa ekugcineni ngifisa ukuthi umphumela wokhetho enginifisela wona ngifisa sengathi ningangaphumeleli nonke kuphumelele nje uKhongolose ukuze akwazi ukuthi abeke uMongameli oqhamuka la KwaZulu-Natali. Eh kodwa bekungukusho njengosopolitiki. Ngiyabonga Somlomo.

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sibonge Dingiswayo ngomnikelo wakho. May I at this stage before I call upon the hon Speaker to respond give this opportunity to the House Chair of the NCOP, hon M Oliphant three minutes to access the province where she comes from over to you, hon Oliphant.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Over to you Hon Mrs Olifant.

**MRS M OLIFANT (NCOP):** *Angibonge Somlomo.* **Insert isiZulu** [REDACTED] :34:35 NCOP because that was the only province that participated ama-debates in the National Council of Provinces for the whole term. Secondly, **insert isiZulu** [REDACTED] XXX02:35:20 and also when we visit the province for oversight they were part and parcel of that programme of the National Council of Provinces. We also want to thank the Premier, as leader of the delegation to the NCOP, for allowing members of the National Council of Provinces to interact with the executive and also when we were doing the follow-ups in the Executive and they were responding accordingly. We therefore want to say thank you very much for the report and as the members of the NCOP. Even if we do not have voting powers we accept the report as it is and we believe that, of course, it will be the only province as well to have such a report following the National Council of Provinces. Thank you very much.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We thank the house chair of the NCOP for those positive remarks in respect of the Province. We now give this opportunity to the Speaker to respond. Over to you Macingwane.

**MR T W MCHUNU:** Speaker, thank you very much. I think it has been good that you have allowed these contributions from members but, I also want to say that members will have the opportunity of going through the Report. If it can still be strengthened further, I am still leaving that option open to all members. Just throw a submission to the Speaker's Office. Everything that has been said will be weaved into the Report where we

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think it can strengthen the Report even from what has been said here now.

Nonetheless, I think the contributions by all parties are positive. I think we have got to contribute positive contributions. UDM, you are posing only two questions – the main one being that a signed agreement has not been implemented and when will it be implemented. Well, I am not fully aware but we can discuss this even outside because everything that we did in terms of the organogram — if that is what you are referring to – was signed by me in December, for implementation beginning January 2009 and I know that the process of implementation has started and that is the process I was indicating. It is beginning to show some weaknesses and we are re-visiting some of the provisions that were agreed to last year. Some people have been adversely affected and I am certain that we will be dealing with that.

That matter of 22, I hope it is the same – a draft policy on remuneration and reward has been developed. These are some of the matters that are left with the sub-committee, these are matters that I am saying to the incoming speaker, please take them forward, please follow them through and ensure that they get implemented. There is not much we can do with them now – everybody is campaigning and we cannot call the sub-committee to order now. That is our short-coming that is the issue. It will be dealt with in the new Legislature.

On the issue of the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme, I think it is a slightly different matter because when I indicated the conception of the Speaker's Social Responsibility Programme, it is just work that is done by the Speaker as a public representative, just like any other public representative. In the past when hon Mcoyi, for instance, was saying to me how can members be a part of this? I did say to him you as a member can do exactly what I am doing. In other words, I have not been selfish, I have been saying to members just do what I am doing – wherever you are, whatever you can — it is not a question of you participating in what the Speaker is doing rather than you doing what the Speaker is doing as a public representative. But, we can discuss all of those matters because in the main if there is an area that needs to be improved; just put it into writing and let us see how we can improve on it. It also depends on who will come in next time.

The contributions by hon Jo-Anne Downs. Thank you for your comments and

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complements as well. Thank you. Your ideas, your views have been said, they are known and they are correct. We need to constantly work on the cost-effectiveness of that programme. That cannot be disputed. We agree with you. It is just the practical ways of doing it, but I am hoping that you will be part of this Legislature and you will participate in the debates of whether to take it forward or not, and to close it as a programme. In terms of the Report, thank you very much. I am certain that what we are starting has its own teething problems where we have had short-comings. I am fully aware that there will be short-comings. Anything that you start will have short-comings. In this close-out report as well we have had short-comings. That is fine, we accept all criticism.

To the MF also, their contributions (she is not around) are similar to hon Mrs Down's contributions. Their improvement of the programme through the petitions is perfect.

*Mfundisi!* Clearly, I do not know what to say about my rulings – they made you different – interpretations of what you say. I am sure you heard it when uNyambose was also speaking. There is a difference of opinion on that one. However, I certainly agree with you on the delivery programmes and making the Executive to account after our multi-party delegation it is clear we have to improve on it because they are used to it. Our multi-party delegation visits are very important and useful but they have to just be strengthened.

In terms of *Iso Elibanzi*, from the DA and on Sectoral Parliaments, the views are noted. Where we can strengthen them and I did say about business people. I am sure you heard me saying so; whoever comes in must look at how to practically implement it. It is not an easy thing because you have to say who gets represented and you must determine that. Be there; be in so many organisations of business including Small Business. So, it is not the ignoring of the issue it is just how to practically put it into practice and then the cost obviously. *Iso Elibanzi* — we are also not ignoring — it is the cost-factor. We will have to look at that but it is not really because we are ignoring the matter.

IFP, Inkosi did say that he is not debating and I therefore I do not think he warrants any responses if he was not debating. However, as I have indicated, whatever teething problems in introducing this aspect of giving a close-out report must be accepted as just

something that is unplanned, that is not intended and is just unfortunate that it has happened. Nyambose, thank you very much.

I do thank all of you members; by the way, we have worked very well. We may have had our differences on certain issues and how what we to do how to do it but, that is a part of why we are politicians and why we are here in this Legislature. Thank you very much. We will still say goodbye to all of you later in the day to those who will come. If you do not come; goodbye, we hope to meet again. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We thank you very much Mr Speaker for your response. Hon members, I now have the pleasure of proceeding to the next item 8.2 farewell messages by retiring members. I have got a list of names but I will just kick-start the process and I will hand over to the Speaker when he comes over here. The first speaker to deliberate is from the DA hon “my sister” Ambler-Moore, for six minutes.

**MRS H M AMBLER-MOORE (DA):** Thank you Mr Speaker. Can I just say on behalf of my retiring colleagues to pack 15 years, 15, 25 and 31 years into six minutes is going to be quite a challenge. So, we would really like to ask you if it is a few seconds over can you be merciful to us. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

I did not realise we would have this opportunity to say goodbye today, so I kind of said goodbye in February and I thought it was a fine speech I would repeat it today. As I sat down to prepare it I thought it is probably the hardest speech I have ever had to do but then I remembered that the first speech I made in the Durban’s City Hall which was in 1978, was to open all the libraries to all races. Now, as you know maiden speeches are not supposed to be controversial and that caused a heck of a hullabaloo. The Liberals were defeated and to my amazement, it took another 12 years before Mr Mandela was released and then another four years from 1994 when the first democratic elections were held.

Like my colleague Mr Roger Burrows and I have been involved a long, long time. The first time I was involved in an election was 49 years ago to get rid of apartheid I helped in a no-vote campaign when the then Nationalist Government wanted us to leave the Commonwealth. I pretty well worked in every election since then. I was very involved in the Black Sash — as many of you know — and joking with Archbishop Hurley that there was hardly a street corner that we had not protested on with our placards. By 27 April,

which is Freedom Day and my grandson's second birthday – we would know if we will be returning to this House. As I thought about this I wondered what I would wish for you in this provincial parliament in KZN.

When I first came into this House in 1999, things were pretty hostile. I often went home and had a good cry but we have learned to respect one another. We have learned to accept one another for who we are. Recently, the ANC Youth League leader urged the supporters to fight the enemy and he considered the enemy, Helen Zille and Joe Seremane as well as the DA Youth Leader whom he referred to as “the garden boy”. Mr Speaker, we are not enemies. We are all South Africans, wanting this country to succeed and I would wish that the incoming members remember this and the respect and courtesy that has been shown to us in this House continues.

I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and the staff for the many kindnesses that have been shown to us by you all over the years. I will miss you and I pray that this respect and courtesy filter down to Local Government. I raise this because on Tuesday, I attended the Ethekwini Budget meeting and I was appalled at the average racist comments made when ANC Councillor referred, in isiZulu, to the DA Councillor as a pig. But the worst was Councillor Gumede who said: “When the [isiZulu](#) (02:48:46) begins in Umhlanga we will flood the area with black people. Hopefully this will force the DA into the sea and they will be eaten by sharks“. This kind of hate speech was allowed by the Speaker. I do not think you would have allowed that here, Mr Speaker.

Members of that body will be coming to this House in April and it was because of the leadership of all parties that we still remember the need to operation interest of the cities and times in our provinces, especially Ethekwini Metro. I wish that all members of this Legislature take their oversight role far more seriously. Too often I have heard in committee meetings hon MEC we are with you and your department, but we should be saying — and I know hon Burrows is going to cover this — we want you MEC and your department to be running efficiently, honestly, transparently and financially sound. We are watching you and if you are not achieving, but we think you should be, we would be holding you MEC and the HOD accountable.

I would wish to the Portfolio Committee a far bigger role in ensuring financial stability instead of sitting back and letting the Portfolio Committee of Finance and Scopa do the

work first. The classic example — and I hold myself culpable — is the financial chaos and mismanagement in the Health Department. I wish the chairpersons of committees had been chosen for their skills, not for the part they played in the bad days of the struggle. The future of this province is too important for those kinds of appointment. We need dedicated, competent people who will lead. In the selection of HODs I would wish that the best person for the job holds the position. I wish for a dramatic turnaround in the Department of Education. Hon Mrs Cronjé has done wonderful work but more work needs to be done and it is in the words of Barrack Obama; “Can we do it? Yes we can!”

I wish we will considering praising ourselves for what we have achieved and acknowledge what has not been achieved in so many places. I wish for a bigger budget for the Safety and Security and that they blue lights brigade abuse be discontinued. I wish that the incoming Premier insists that his MECs abide by the law of the land. In Psalm 26 verse 12, the Psalmist says; “My feet are firmly on the ground”. This might seem an obvious statement but to face the challenges in this province, we need to put our feet firmly on the ground. Things were better over the last fifteen years in a row, but much more needs to be done.

There is a quote from Shakespeare where Marcellus says to Horacio in Hamlet; “Something is rotten in the state of Denmark”. Everyone of us in this House knows that something is rotten in KZN and indeed, in the whole of South Africa. I was privileged yesterday to attend a meeting with mostly clergy without Archbishop Tutu and be warned that the church is stirring. 90% of the speakers were African and every one of them has had enough of the corruption that is going on in this country.

I wish that the incoming people forget that the struggle — you cannot really forget the struggle — but people be remembered that it was about things South African citizens from the apartheid bondage and as God has created us in His image and equal, this is what we should be - not some more equal than others. I was very distressed at the end and I want to quote Archbishop Tutu who said ... [Time expired.]

**THE SPEAKER:** Mrs Ambler-Moore I was informed when I resumed the chair that you had requested that we be flexible and lenient on time but what you did not indicate - and I was not told this - was that you are making a political speech and not a farewell speech. I was not told that.

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**MRS H M AMBLER-MOORE:** I do not believe it.

**THE SPEAKER:** I was not told that you are making a political speech which in terms of the Rule must then be limited to time. A farewell speech is a farewell speech, but yours is talking about things that are debated in the Council, statements of each and every one, your likes and dislikes! It is not a farewell speech. I do not think it is a farewell speech. That to me is a problem. I did have an intention of honouring your request but, who is now going to respond to all of the issues that you have raised? That is the problem.

**MR BURROWS:** Mr Speaker?

**THE SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr Burrows?

**MR BURROWS:** I rise on a point of order. You will be aware that the letter that we received from yourself with your signature, to the party, requested the names of persons who are retiring and subsequently we were informed that a sitting had been arranged at which members who are leaving could give their farewell messages. There was no dictation that in a parliament people could not make political messages. If that had been the case, certainly we would have honoured it. I have also a speech here that will touch on politics. It is inevitable, I am sure with respect the hon Premier is going to mention politics. It is going to be inevitable and you are going to hear what we like and what we do not like. Now, with respect, Sir, I would ask that in this instance, in this very last sitting day that at least the five of us who are speaking you grant the opportunity of flexibility. We are not asking for a response but you are hearing us for the last time and we are going to walk out of this place today and you will not see us again.

**THE SPEAKER:** Mr Burrows, it is the six minutes that I am talking about. If it is a political speech then it is acceptable; six minutes is six minutes. If it is flexibility of time that we are talking about and I am not arguing about the content – who says what – and in so far as I know you can say everything but please assist me when I must now make a decision about flexibility. What should it be based on?

**MR BURROWS:** I will assist you by repeating your words, “Some rulings of yours we will disagree with but they are your rulings.”

**THE SPEAKER:** One minute more Mrs Ambler-Moore.

**MRS H N AMBLER-MOORE:** I thank you Mr Speaker, I only require 30 seconds. I want to say to the new government let us get our priorities right and I can assure you that the Democratic Alliance will be right with you. Let us work towards a corrupt-free government and administration.

I wish you well in this beautiful province of ours. I will miss you all and the hurly-burly. I thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you Mrs Ambler-Moore.

## **8.2. FAREWELL MESSAGES BY RETIRING MEMBERS**

**MRS L R MBUYAZI (IFP):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and Premier, Ministers and hon members, leaders of the different parties. I also want to thank everybody present in this august House. Unfortunately, I did not know that I was supposed to make a speech today, but I am going to try and say something that I have on my heart right now, although I did not prepare anything, I just learnt when I saw the Order Paper that members who are leaving will have to give farewell messages.

However, on that note rule I just want to start by saying, although I wanted to brief my leader first and also the party that brought me here to be a member of parliament, I want to tell you just a short story. I started in Cape Town where I remained for 10 years and I did not know that I was on the list. I wanted a job as a presiding officer. I said “Oh...”, because there are these things that are going around, they were saying there is somebody who is called “presiding officer”, because we did not know anything during 1994. So I said, “Oh, if I can get that job, I will be okay”. So I wanted to be a presiding officer, they told me that if you are a presiding officer, you are in charge of the whole voting station and at that time, mind you, I was a principal. Being a principal, you know, you wanted to be in charge, so I said, “No...” – I did not know about these things, party agents or what, but I said, “I want to be presiding officer”.

Then when I came to that place, somebody said, “Is Mrs Mbuyazi here?” and I said, “Yes, I am here” and I thought. Oh, good, I have got the job now. [Laughter] They called me and gave me a form which had “IEC what-what-what”. I said, this is the form that is employing me – your name, ID... I could not read properly at that time, so I saw my name and what-what and I had to sign and fill in my ID. I filled that in and I said,

“Yes, where am I now going to be this presiding officer?” because they said there was a place Obonjeni, people going there would go by helicopter. So I thought I was going to that place. Then they said, “No, you stay put, you are not going anywhere now, you are a Member of Parliament” — *hawu*, just like that, “You are a member of...” – that is what happened to me.

So I said, “Okay, a Member of Parliament”. In fact I was thinking about Ulundi at the airport, being a Member of Parliament at the nearest. The list came – I was not worried when I was given the job, I taught voter education, we went outside with the women and told them how to vote, because nobody knew about voting, so that is what I did.

Now I just want to tell you this, that when the results came in I did not know anything about the list, you know these lists that show what position I am. I did not even know about that, I did not know which position I was in. Then people were called that were to start at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature. Someone phoned me, I think from Cape Town, and told me that, “You must go to Cape Town and there is a desk at the airport”. I said, “Where?” “Cape Town”. “How can I go to Cape Town without knowing Cape Town? Where am I going to stay?” That is what happened to me and then I found people with a poster saying, “Mrs Mbuyazi” – “Oh I’m known here – now where am I going to sleep?” They showed us hotels, they gave us hotel rooms and we slept. Then they said later, “You are now going to the inauguration of the President, Dr Mandela”. “Me, going there, who am I?” [Interjections] Then, “How am I going to reach Pretoria?” You know there were questions that one was asking during that 1994 period – “How am I going to reach that place?” Then buses took us to the airport for flights to Pretoria and that is how things happened.

Furthermore, let me not leave this out, when we arrived there they told us that there is a place Plein Street, when you go the library you go to that... Let me remind you, the buildings are in lanes... [Time expired]

So with that short word, because I did not plan my speech properly, let me say goodbye to everybody and I say I wish you well and those two girls there, thank you very much that you are our ministers as women and I thank everybody, especially my party and everybody ... **xx Zulu 03:03:07** [Applause]

**THE SPEAKER:** ... **xx isiZulu (continued)**

These are interesting stories, but that is what we expect of farewell speeches and I am certainly glad that you did so, but I want to take the opportunity to apologise that you were not properly informed, but the matter was discussed at the Whips meeting and that is where members were informed that this is how the programme was going to go. So if you were not informed by your Chief Whip, we are sorry about it. However we also note and know that you have been unwell. We want to say sorry about that and we hope you do get better, even when you are no longer with us here.

Let us proceed. Hon member Bhengu?

**MR G B BHENGU (IFP):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, colleagues. Well I was born on 25 August 1940 and I was educated as a teacher – I taught for over 21 years.

### **END OF TAKE DDD13**

**MR G B BHENGU (IFP):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and colleagues. Well, I was born on 25 August 1940. I was educated as a teacher, I taught for over 21 years. On 7 December 1977, I was elected to the then KwaZulu government. Today I am in politics for 31 years. So, when I talk, I talk with a background of experience.

I will like to take this opportunity to thank my party, my president, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, for the trust he conferred on me for so many years. In 1994, I was put into the first Senate of South Africa in which we worked as a Constitutional Assembly to transform it to become an NCOP with a final constitution which was passed in n 1996. Then from the Senate to the NCOP until 1999, I was the Deputy Chair of Committees. After the national election of 1999, I was employed to the National Assembly and on 25 August 2003 I was deployed to KZN Legislature.

I must express my gratitude of knowing the experience because I can tell you we have members here of the NCOP, there is a great difference between national Parliament and the KZN Legislature. We have worked well with them for the past nine years without any insults. Stating facts, I remember after being here hardly for one month I heard one debater calling a Premier a Satan that has been thrown from heaven and I was shocked. Unfortunately in 1996, my better half from Durban had a collapse of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> vertebrae of the spinal cord and that affected her lower limbs. She had to be hospitalised and an operation that took over eight and a half hours at St Augustine where it was

declared that she will never ever be able to lift anything more than a kilogram. Then as a person that might be known to quite a number of people that I am first a committed Christian, which is committed to my work, because I regard my work as God's work and not mine. That is a disadvantaged where I am unable to serve my family with full dedication in this 31 years. In 2004, when I was elected back after serving one year in this Legislature, I was given an ultimatum by my good wife and my children, who are already grown up and having their own families that my 2009 I must commit myself to them and I must retire so . So, I can give time to their good mother. So I have honoured that.

I am grateful to God for giving me good health. I hear people suffering from so many illnesses, but I do not even have a single one. You check my sugar, you check my BP it is sharp. Only God knows that He has been so wonderful to me and I am so grateful to Him. I am not that type of a person who believes that things who are created by God other than Him alone. If you read your Bible well, my colleague, Mr Msomi, you will know that what is revealed is for us and our children is hidden for God and I believe in that.

I will continued to serve my party as I am retiring and serve the good country in whatever they want me to use my abilities to serve them, but always according to my principles.

My numer one principle that I must be able to with my wife and do justice to her, because she left her home for me. [Hear! Hear!] She gave me three good children that are outstanding.

Lastly I must emphasize that I would love to thank the members of this good House for the working relationship we had had. I know, God knowing, there is nobody that I have had an issue with, because I stated my facts here. What I want to make plain as I am retiring, unfortunately the good Secretary I must say I have tried to transplant so many things from national and she has been so keen to adopt it.

You can see changes in technology and you can see changes in your province. I have been successful to court her and I am grateful to her to listen to things that are good and I thank her for that.

**THE SPEAKER:** Hon member, you have ten seconds.

**MR G B BHENGU (IFP):** The only thing that I am still worried about is members'

benefits. I am leaving this House and I do not know if I ever want to go to Cape Town or wherever if I will be regarded as a member. I know that my colleagues nationally are leaving in the knowledge that they are secured. I am leaving that homework with you, Speaker. Please clear what is not clear in my mind as a member who served the country for the past fifteen years?

#### **END OF TAKE DDD14**

#### **DDD15**

**MR R M BURROWS (DA):** Sir, I hope I am hopefully not going to not run over the six minutes. I came into politics with a strong feeling of, what I call individualism. I do not see myself as a member of a tribe or a race or even a political party. I see myself as an individual as I think each of us should. I regard each person individually irrespective of what their background, their gender, their race, their demography is and it is from those individual talents that one in fact than works for the country and for the good of the country.

In all my political life, which started at university, when I was an Executive Member of NUSAS (National Union of South African Students) in the 1960's and our president was banned and our marches were attacked, through into the 1970s. I have always fought a very strong anti-discriminatory drive. Discrimination is the hypothesis of individualism. If I attack your race, Mr Speaker, I do not attack you as an individual. I must see past that and I must speak to you as an individual. That is what discrimination is. It stereotypes people. In defence of human rights I hope that over the 25 years without having national and provincial politics, I have never spoken against human rights.

I worked, you obviously remember, with a colleague who you know very well, Peter Gastrow, and I was looking at some of Peter Gastrow's records the other day when the name of Willies Mchunu came up and I looked at this card and I saw in the 1980s what you were doing in your Trade Union Movement and the fact that you were imprisoned for a time in Eshowe. Then I know why the Eshowe people are here because you were in infirmed there! And that is the connection! So I trust that when I saw them singing and dancing today, I trust that you could do it so well, although I noticed you were only there for a fairly short time. However, it is in defence of human rights, in defence of freedom of speech, of freedom of association — the pillars of this country — that we must fight and

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we must defend.

I will not fight for Zuma. I will not fight for Zille. I will fight to defend the Constitution and when we stand here, we stood here each of us and in three weeks' time, a month's time, they will stand here and they will say, "we solemnly swear to obey, respect and uphold the Constitution". That is what we defend. We must see past the race and the party and the politics of it all. We are here, yes to transform South Africa but it must be transformed in its totality and I will catch a bit on that in my other speech. We must see how important it is that the 2.8 million children that we have got in our schools — every child where they are in this province or this country — benefits from South Africa and all it has to offer.

I am not a great member of a political party. Some of you know the story that I was elected to parliament in 1984 and my membership card came two weeks after I got to Parliament. I had never belonged to the PFP in those days. I go along with what Groucho Marx, the famous comedian said — not Carl Marx, the other Marx — Groucho Marx said, "I had never belonged to a club that would accept me as a member". Now think about that! I say that about anything. I am not a great joiner of things but I want to thank my political party because it stood by me and I stood by it over the many years. You know, education and Burrows are inescapable. We have had years of it together. I have had years of it in the national Parliament and I have had years of it here. One of the things that I know after 22 April is that I am not going to give it up. You are going to see Burrows. We will talk about education. I do not care who will become the government of this province, I am going to try and make sure that it does the best for education. It does the best in finding money of the R45 billion needed to make our schools all equal. We have got to go out and find that money for everybody.

I trained as a historian and I respect the hon Premier and all that he has done over that. If you know, sometimes we politicians have a very short vision. We see it in days or in months, occasionally in years. But, you know, I was asked earlier today by a journalist what is my outstanding moment in the 25 years I have had. It was the swearing in of Mr Nelson Mandela in Pretoria which I referred to earlier. That was not a day or a month or a year thing. That was a century thing. It changed this country!

As I end off, I would like to thank you all. All parties, all members over the years, thank

my own party, thank my colleagues who are here and not here, thank my family. It has been a good game. It has been a good wicket to play on. You are going to see me back here may be a week or two but you are not going to see me disappear. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr Burrows for everything you have said, including that little bit about Eshowe. However, I can ensure you that it had nothing to do with what you know. Although, obviously, when these guys from Eshowe did speak to me, I asked about one of the long standing members of that correctional centre, B K Ntuli. They remember [insert isiZulu \(3:19:42\)](#). Those were the days.

I now want to give the opportunity to the hon Premier, *ubaba uNdebele*, who has six minutes to say goodbye to us.

**DR J S NDEBELE (ANC):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Thank you Deputy Speaker, members of the Provincial Executive and members of this Legislature for the opportunity we have had to be together in these past 15 years. Today will be day number 408 of the Sitting of this Legislature since its first sitting on 11 May 1994.

As you know, after 15 years, in this Legislature I have decided last January that I was not going to make myself available in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal for the next term. Much has been achieved in KwaZulu-Natal over the past 15 years. Memories of the past are overwhelming. It has been a wonderful journey. It has been an ambitious journey for which I will be eternally grateful to all of you. Even as I see the members here, I realise that there are a lot of other members that are not here. We must remember the members that started with us in 2004. MEC Dumisani Makhaye, MEC Prince Gideon Zulu — *umntwana wakwaZiphethe*, Deputy Speaker – Inkosi Mhlabunzima Hlengwa, MEC Faith Gasa, Anthony Greenka, Sibusiso Ngidi, Fikile Molefe, Walter Felgate, and earlier on of course was that fountain of knowledge I C Meer.

Since 2004 a certain foundation has been laid for a democratic and prosperous KwaZulu-Natal. During the past five years, KwaZulu-Natal's dream of stability, peace, democracy, investment and development has been firmly rooted. Targeting the challenges of underdevelopment in our province has been one the key priorities of our provincial government. We took our province from being regarded as a pariah to a province of hope. It has been an honour to serve as an MEC for Transport for two terms

– becoming the longest serving Transport MEC in the country. It has also been an honour to serve as the fourth Premier of this province under our democratic government and the first Premier to come from my party, the African National Congress.

Five years ago I stood before you on April 22 and said, we have a new beginning. It has been quite an exciting journey. Over the past five years and we held together through some stormy seas. We also know that tomorrow will be better than today as we pass on the baton to new leaders. We have achieved the ideals of a non-racial and non-sexist government. Today we have four MECs who are women and eight Heads of Departments who are also women. This is in line with the ideals of Inkosi Albert Luthuli who said that the government and the people should itself be democratic to the call. The next five years, are going to see even more attention been given to education, better health, decent jobs, fighting crime and development and for rural development.

Our numerous achievements since 2004 include the fact that KwaZulu-Natal is now a global player. We have recognised our heritage and continue to right the wrongs of the past. We have inculcated a culture of human rights in the province and we are on track to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup. We take pride in the fact that together we have created a Kwazulu-Natal that is peaceful, with a vibrant economy, with a pride of its ancestry and a clear vision of its future. We should now all strive and exert all our energies to build on this solid foundation which has been laid in KwaZulu-Natal. The future of peace, democracy and development is here in this Legislature.

Let me end by thanking my wife Zama — unfortunately she could not be here — and my children Nombuso, Zwelonke and Ntandoyabantu, for their unstinting support that they have given over the past 21 years. Without that support life would really be impossible. Let me also thank the members of this House, leaders of political parties, each and everyone of you; IFP, DA, ACDP, NADECO, UDM — all the parties in this House. We have developed a camaraderie and an understanding even as we differed, we differed knowing what each others point were – and that is a very important step towards understanding. I want to thank you very much. I hope that that culture continues. We want to thank you especially, Mr Speaker, the deputy Speaker and the Secretary of this Legislature and all the staff. Really, if there were ever a unit that was always ready to assist each and every one of us — and I know this was not accorded to me, it was accorded to every one of us. I want to thank you for that. You have created a real

leadership of this Legislature and it has been a very firm foundation. We hope and wish that it continues. Let us wish all of you the best for the elections and assure you that your health, lives and faith are all safe in the ANC.

**THE SPEAKER:** **insert isiZulu (3:27:45)** Thank you very much. On behalf of the staff we thank all of those who have remembered to mention staff as you were saying goodbye. Thank you very much.

Hon members, just because that team from Eshowe is likely to leave, I do want to reiterate our thanks.

**insert isiZulu (3:27:52 – 3:32:48)**

We want to start with your programme now. In which everybody has ten minutes and remember that means one hour and ten minutes in speaking time. Hon B J Msomi, you have ten minutes.

**MR B J MSOMI (UDM):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have noticed during this term, whenever something good to be said in this House, the UDM is tasked to set the tone. This is a good gesture for a party which stands for clean and good governance. I really do appreciate it and I hope that the public out there have also taken notice of this. Kunjalo, Speaker.

To my brothers and sisters who are leaving, I say thank you very much. I have to thank their families who have allowed them to participate in making life better for our people. I am not speaking about the “better life for all”, I am speaking about a better life. [Interjections]

**Sihlalo, angisho ukuthi ngifunde okuningi kulaba bafowethu nodadewethu, ikakhulukazi ... what I have learnt from them is to be passionate and committed to their parties. Umama uMbuyazi ngimazi kakhulu** outside parliament — I know who she is. **Ukuthi ungubani, mhalmbe abanye abala abamazi ukuthi ubani umama uMbuyazi, kodwa-ke ngiyamazi. Ukuzimisela kwakhe ngikuthande kakhulu** and I must also say ... **ukuthi uMnu** Burrows, I have also learnt something from him, to be frank, to be bold, to stand for what he stands for and that is very important to me because some people **bayadayisa** with their souls because they want to get something, but in all the debates that I have attended where Mr Burrows was participating, he showed **ukuthi** that he is a

mature politician. I think we are going to miss them and ngithike uma beyohlala emakhaya, bahlale kahle njengoba ubaba uBhengu eshilo ukuthi uzothatha lesi sikhathi ayosinika umndeni wakhe ukuthi bajabule, akwazi nokunakekela umadam wakhe. Umama uMbuyazi ngiyazi naye ungumuntu ongakaze ahlale isikhathi eside. Ngiyabajabulelake ukuthi ekugcineni bazokwazi ukuyohlala nezingane zabo. Futhi kuyisifundo lokhu kuthina ukuthi abantu abangahlali phela baze bagcine sebengasakwazi ukwenza lutho ngoba baningi abantu abakhona phandle. Lesi sinyathelo abasithathile sokuthi besaphila, besanamandla abo bazithathele isinqumo. Ngikubona kuyisifundo esihle okufanele sisithathe, sisifunde nathi, ngoba akuve kudabukisa ukubona umuntu amandla engasenawo, usekhule kakhulu kodwa ubona ukuthi uthwese umsebenzi ongaphezu kwamandla akhe..

So I think that it will be a lesson to us from other political parties ukuthi sithenge nathi umbono abawuthathile ukuthi asiyeke phela kungaze kuthiwe cha, phela yeka sibanibani. Ngikujabulela kakhulu lokho. Ngithi uma behamba kuyo yonke imizamo yabo abazoyenza behleli nabazukulu babo, bajabule ngayo yonke indlela, bazi futhi ukuthi sikanye nabo. I-contribution abayenzile kulesi sifundazwe angeke siyilibale, sohlala njalo siyikhumbula., ikakhulukazi ubuchopho ebebe nabo, i-wisdom ebebe nayo, sohlala njalo sithatha sifunde kuyona noma bengasekho. Sihlalo, noma Somlomo, ngoba isikhathi asisekho, ngiye ngasatshiswa uChief Whip wathi ucela ngisehlise isikhathi sami. So ngingumuntu ohloniphayo uma ngabe ngicelwa ngabantu abakhulu. Ukuthi uphuma kuphi anginankinga nalokho.

Ngiyabonga sihlalo.

**THE SPEAKER:** Siyabonga noMndayi. Ube wumfanekiso omuhle kabi, ngoba phela kuyavaleliswa namhlanje akuziwe ukuzokhulunywa ipolitiki kakhulu. Mrs Downs, you have 10 minutes.

**MRS J M DOWNS (ACDP):** Mr Speaker it is both a farewell to retiring members and also an encouragement with an admonition to those that are fighting to come back.

The ACDP, to paraphrase the Scripture as Paul wrote, "*We are not afraid of the Gospel of Jesus Christ*" and we hold that up as our standard and our basic value when we do electioneering. Along with that, the Bible also says that Jesus came to preach the good news to the poor and to set the captives free and before I say farewell to my colleagues

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who are retiring, I want to just bring a couple of stories, as I have been electioneering around the province, to your attention because I think it is about this that we need to be thinking and I really believe that all of our colleagues that are retiring still have a part to play in rectifying some of the situations that we have.

One of the things that came to my attention was, some ladies brought to my house a woman that had struggled for three years to get services from the Department of Health. She had had a caesarean section and during that caesarean section a swab had been left behind which had set up an infection which caused the wound to leak for a very long period of time. She went backwards and forwards to Prince Mshiyeni Hospital and they never rectified the situation, so she eventually went to CJ Crookes where they operated and they operated and found this swab and they took it out, but they then botched up the surgery again and left in stitches that did not dissolve, so the infection continued.

They finally brought her to my house when she had been to two clinics who had both turned her away saying that she needed to go and buy bandages and they would clean it up. I was devastated when she showed me. I was standing about 10 metres away from her and I could smell the infection from there that is how bad it was. The wound was that long, I am not exaggerating, and open right the way through to her stomach and in the bottom she had a 25 metre gauze bandage which had plugged another hole at the bottom. I was able to assist her and get Scottburgh Hospital to assist her, they operated, they cleaned her up and I am glad to tell you that she is okay now, but it should not have happened in the first place.

The second thing I want to tell you is about Nqutu. I was doing some electioneering in Nqutu and there are two housing developments there, two, by the same contractor who messed up the first housing development of about 150 houses, they did not put any windows at the front and then they did a second housing development, the same contractor, which is beyond me how he can be allowed to mess up twice, so there are now 300 houses which are unusable in Nqutu. However, the upshot of it is that in the houses without windows, young people have moved in there and I was chatting to the water services people in the township and they told me that where the young people have moved in — there are still backstreet abortions going on in Nqutu — just that week they had pulled out two dead babies which had blocked the sewer and my heart really hurt when I saw that, because it is just a measure of the poverty and the difficulty that is

happening in that area.

The third thing that came to my attention was that between the ages of 18 and 25, 70% of young people are unemployed, 65% countrywide, but about 70% in this province, and we have not even begun to touch that and those are the very people that are not really reached by Social Services, because we have grants for children, we have grants for the disabled, we have grants for people who are sick and we have grants for the old, but we have really not enough programmes for those people in that in-between bracket.

The fourth thing that really hurt my heart again was when I was watching Special Assignment the other day, and Mr Burrows was talking about human rights, as a country we have got to look at our human rights record in the past and attend to that and we have got to look at our human rights record going forward. I never thought in my lifetime I would see the same images that were seen by the allied soldiers when they freed the prisoners from the Nazi death camps and it is here in our neighbourhood, prisoners who are not able to get out, they are not able to provide for themselves and if they do not have family, they are starving to death and you can hear how I feel about that. It is something that as a country we have got to stand up for and we have got to do something about.

So as we are electioneering, colleagues, and to those that are retiring, please can we bear these things in mind, because it is not about whether that party wins or this party wins, it is about assistance, delivery and good governance for those people and I really believe that we have a role to play in this and I really appeal to my colleagues that when we come back in the next session – some of us will and some of us won't – that we really prioritise these issues to truly assist the people who are very poor and do not have a voice to speak for themselves on those issues.

Having said that, my plea, I am really going to miss my colleagues that are retiring, all of you are brothers and sisters in the Lord and I find it hard to lose my brothers and sisters. We have had our sharp disagreements at times, but I respect and appreciate all of you and the work that you have put into this Legislature and into making South Africa a better place.

I also want to use this opportunity to thank the staff of the Legislature for the sterling work that they have done. Again, we have had our differences on the way things should

be done and I think there are many improvements that can be made, but the staff have worked extremely hard to serve us. I particularly want to thank Sherella Engelbrecht and Eric Rood who assisted Scopa to do its duty and to do its job better while I was chairing that committee.

Thank you also to the Chief Whip of the Legislature. We have had a very cordial arrangement and we have always been able to discuss things and to make the Legislature a better running place.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the work that you have put in. Again, we have had our sharp disagreements, but we have always been able to talk about them and that I appreciate. I hope we can have a continual cordial relationship with the rest of our colleagues.

Thank you all very much, it has been an honour to serve with you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs Downs. Hon Mr Rajbansi? The Ingwe is not here. [Interjections] [Laughter] I don't think you guys are up to date. There used to be a tiger, there is now Ingwe, so please be up to date. Hon Rev Mbatha, Mfundisi?

**REV A H MBATHA (NADECO):** Thank you, hon Speaker. Seeing that hon Rajbansi was not present, I will use the Ingwe's time. [Laughter]

**MR R M BURROWS (DA):** No, he has given it to me. [Interjections]

**REV A H MBATHA (NADECO):** Hon Speaker and hon members, today is an important day in our lives. This is the day where we need to go back and compare our intentions when we came here in 2004 and look at what we were able to accomplish as we are leaving this Legislature today. We need that process in order to review our performance. I came here in 2004, pushed by the extent of poverty that I observed around me, where our fellow citizens were battling every day to make ends meet.

I am sometimes very frustrated when I look around and realise that more than 50% of our people are still concerned about their next meal; as a member of a rural community, it bothers me each day as I see young people who have potential, crumbling under HIV & Aids; the case in South Gauteng court today, where the late Lucky Dube became yet another victim of crime; the economic recession that is taking away jobs and probably

still to take more jobs; if I look at young lives with fresh brains wasted in hospitals at the University of Zululand; the anxiety in the whole nation as to whether the NPA is going to continue prosecuting Mr Jacob Zuma or not; the schools becoming death zones. If I continue, hon Speaker, you are going to think I am a psychopath. I enjoy talking about ugly things.

I still have hope for KZN, I have hope for the Republic of South Africa and I have hope for Africa as a whole. I still submit to you, hon Speaker and the members of this House, that if African solutions are modernised and promoted for the whole world to realise their benefits in democracy, our mother Earth would be a better place to live.

Our shortcoming at this stage is that we are taking a western approach when it comes to the implementation of our democracy. In my view this approach is still foreign even to the majority of the members of this House. That, hon Speaker, causes the hon members of this House to be consumed by motions and processes rather than substances and content of our transformation.

Ngithatha leli thuba Somlomo ukubonga wena, sengike ngakubonga ngaphandle kokuthi kuthiwa uthathe amalunga eNADECO, ngemizamo yakho ukwenza leNdlu ibe likhaya lakithi thina base Afrika. Ngibonge bonke ozakwethu ebesibambisene nabo emakomidini. Ngibonga ukuthi beningasihlubuli emekomidni ngokuthi sivela emaqenjini mamancane. Imibono yethu beyighlonishwa engathi sivela emaqenjini amakhulu. Ngibonga ithuba leNdlu eyanginika lona ukubizwa ngelunga lendlu yokushaya imithetho. Ngicela ukuthi niqhubeke ninikeze abaningi abezayo beNADECO.

Ngicela ukuba ukuphathwa koMnyango weSilo kwenziwe kube hfcono kunaleli thuba ebesiphethe ngalo njengephalamende. Futhi ngicela ukuba intuthuko kwezolimo nakwezamasiko, ngiyambonga ungqongqoshe wezamasiko wesibili engasebenza naye, emva kokuba omunye evellelwe yishwa. Kodwa engikuphawulayo ukuthi ngokwami ukubona leli phalamende kufanele ukuba kelikhuphule inani lemali eliyinikeza lo mnyango, ukuze lo mnyango ukhombise ukuthi usesifundazweni saKwaZulu-Natali, lapho iRiphabhlikhi lonke lethembele khona ukuthi uma ufuna ukubona amasiko ase original ungaya khona. Kodwa kuyashaqisa uma ubona ukuthi esibanikeza khona kuba kuncane uma kweqhathaniswa nakwamanye amaprovinci.

Ngithi-ke okokugcina Mr Speaker, okumnyama kodwa! Size sibuye sihlangane futhi.

Mina qobo lwami elami iqembu lingiyise ukuba ngiyosebenza engxenye, kodwa ngithi kinina nonke baklwethu, menilapha endlini, okumnyama kodwa!

**THE SPEAKER:** Mthiya, angazi noma ku-parliamentary yini lokhu okufiswa uMthiya, ngizoke ngiyo investigatha noma it is parliamentary for you to wish other members okumnyama kodwa [Laughter]. Black is beautiful! **Asiqedele**, Mr Burrows, 10 minutes.

**MR R M BURROWS (DA):** Thank you, Speaker. On behalf of the Democratic Alliance, we are going to return here .....

**MR R M BURROWS (DA):** Thank you Mr Speaker. On behalf of the Democratic Alliance, we are going to return here after 22 April 2009.

**MR A J HAMILTON (DA):** Double strength! Double strength! You wait!

**AN HON MEMBER:** [insert isiZulu word 3:50:53](#)

**MR R M BURROWS (DA):** Mr Speaker I would like to do very much as my colleagues had done and talk from a point-of-view of us now in 2009 compared to April of 2004. How have things changed? One of the interesting things, looking over the 15 years, is we had ten years of IFP-led government, IFP-ANC government for eight of those years, IFP-ANC-DA government for two of those years, but they were IFP led for ten years. We had ANC led government for five years. What is interesting to me is the relationship between the Legislature and the Executive and how it has changed, because it has changed and I regret to say that the Legislature is in a weaker position vis-à-vis the Executive. The Executive is much stronger today.

I thought about it and I looked at mechanisms that we might think through as to how we can strengthen the Legislature because these are not my words, they come from a particular political party that the hon Premier might know about. It is called the African National Congress: "Good governance needs an effective parliament; good governance needs an effective Legislature." So, what is this argument about? It is about, how do you strengthen the Legislature vis-à-vis the Executive? There are a number of ways and I am going to touch on them. Obviously, we looked at the role of Section 114 (2)(b) of the Constitution: The Legislature must provide mechanisms for oversight of the Executive. Or, another Section, 133 (3)(b): The MECs of Exco must report back regularly and have those reports debated. The Premier can tell me when have we sat in this House and

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received a report from the hon MEC for Health on the overspending of the Health Department and when did we debate that? It is a failure of the Legislature!

You know there is another point that is made in this very good ANC document. It says: "Strong caucuses, produce strong Legislatures". I am here addressing particularly, and I am sorry to interrupt him, I want to address the Chief Whip because I think he holds a key position in this. The strength of party caucuses is depending on the strength of their structural support. The hon Chief Whip may or may not know that there, again to quote your words a little earlier Mr Speaker: We are isolated in South Africa. We are, as far as I am aware, the only province which provides a sum of money to caucuses to hire staff and to pay for resources. It is equivalent to one unit which is about R23.000, R24.000 a month for six members or part thereof. Every other province and National, the staff, which are used by parties are paid for by the Legislature or Parliament and there is a minimum staff component. So, as a one member party you will still get a secretary and a media officer and a researcher. Now that strengthens his position to any committee that he goes to and carrying out his role, our role, your role, your role. This structure emphasise caucuses, please look at it in the new parliament.

We also know it is inescapable. In this parliament you follow the money. We do it in Scopa. We do it in Finance. Please, in the new parliament, give some resource allocation to Finance and Scopa, greater than you are giving to ordinary Portfolio Committees, because you need researchers in both of those Committees simply to keep pace. I did an assessment of the number of days that Scopa and Finance sat in the past year. It is over 100 days' sitting for those Committees! Those Committees are the heart of this parliament and unless you resource them adequately what you are having to depend on is what is colloquially termed institutional memory. What does Scott or Burrows or Tarr or Xaba remember of what happened five years ago or three years ago? You cannot depend on that! Please give those into resources.

We need to look — it is a debate I think — the Legislature needs to initiate a debate on executive responsibility. There are two concepts on executive responsibility. The Constitutional one talks about collective and individual responsibility, 133 (2). Members of the Executive Council of the province are accountable collectively and individually to the Legislature for the exercise of their powers and the performance of their functions. Collective responsibility must mean that they must be attending Portfolio Committees. I

can go round this House and say how often have you seen MECs at Portfolio meetings? Or with due respect Mr Premier, you. Mr Premier you attended in the beginning then you dropped away. We got your DG at almost every meeting but we were not able to interrogate you at Premier's Portfolio meetings. These are issues we need to address.

We need to address the changed position in the new structure of South African politics of the Heads of Departments – because the heads of departments are no longer in the old Westminster kind of politics and neutral public service. They are not. They are deployed members. We know they are! So who are we fooling? You know, one of the things is when you have a Constitution which says: No employee of the public service may be favoured or prejudiced only because that person supports a particular political party or cause, then I say there must be constitutional challenges going on for almost every appointment that has been made. If that is the case and if MECs are not going to resign or take individual collective responsibility, then we have got to hold the HODs and the Officials responsible and they must come and be answerable and we must summon them and they must appear before this House much more than they do.

The whole question of political service delivery, Mr Speaker you addressed it a little earlier in your presentation on what the house is doing, but I am sure you are aware of what Gauteng is doing with their Petitions Committee. We have got a Petitions Committee. It has done nothing in five years with respect to the ex-head of the Petitions Committee. He had a salary for nothing. It has been great. However, the Petitions Committee in Gauteng, I want to read to you from – I am sorry my apologies – Feroz Cachalia, who was the Speaker in Gauteng said: The contents of the petitions received by the Petitions Committee in Gauteng indicates that some marginalised and unresourced constituencies are aware of the procedure that the institution are using. They have received petitions on the following: applications for disability grants, pensions, dependants of business, complaints of inaction by our Town Treasure, inaction by the Board, inaction by the City Council Johannesburg, provision of the informal housing, evictions in Lanceria, proposed roads, land restitution ... Here, the Legislature is reaching the people. Not just Parliament to the People and hearing complaints and hoping the Executive must do it. The Legislature is picking up that issue and is following it through. I do not mind if it follows it through to particular members of the Legislature but at least we are making direct contact and have given something and not handing it over to the Executive.

This Legislature over the last five years has frozen out from contact with the SABC almost all other political parties in the ANC. You want to have anybody to go on the ANC to talk about what this Legislature and Committees are doing. It will be an ANC member. It will not be anybody else. It is just not, in fact, acceptable constitutioning. So I run out of time, and I want to say thank you to everybody. I wish everybody well who is voluntarily retiring. I will smile when I read after 26 April 2009 those who have involuntarily retired from this House.

I thank you Mr Speaker, I thanked the Secretary and I am sure I thanked all of her staff. These can be taken as my last words. You might see me again in another incarnation. Thank you very much for everything and I wish you all well and for all other parties, a not too successful election. Thank you very much.

[Laughter.]

**THE SPEAKER:** Is that parliamentary – your last... you will assist me with your wisdom. Thank you, Mr Burrows, we now give the opportunity to Dr LPHM Mtshali who has ten minutes.

**DR L P H M MTSHALI (Leader of the Official Opposition):** Hon Speaker and colleagues. Indeed this is a great day for those colleagues who are saying farewell to us in this House. What is important here is the decisions which have been taken independently to cease to participate in the activities of this House.

To the hon Premier, I would like to say that we have had a long road to travel together for ten years, in different capacities. We wish you well as you venture into the national fold.

To Mr Burrows, I wish you well in your retirement. We served together in the Cabinet of this province. Thank you very much.

**MR R M BURROWS:** Thank you.

I will say something later about my two colleagues.

Mrs Ambler-Moore, our lay minister in the Anglican Church, we wish you well and hope you that you will now be ordained as a fully fledged priest.

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As the official opposition in KwaZulu-Natal, the IFP condemns the decision of the provincial Legislature to present a close-out report on its activities over the past five years without allowing a free debate. What happened here was not a debate, but it was just a charade.

We have consistently condemned the ANC's tendency to whitewash opposing views that has defined the life of this parliament and that has, unsurprisingly, culminated in today's presentation of a one-sided close-out report without meaningful input from the opposition parties. It would appear that this House, under the current leadership, simply cannot bring itself to respect political views that differ from their own.

The focus of the close-out report, much like that of the Ruling Party itself, has been on self-promotion. Throughout its term in office, the ANC in government has behaved as if money was no object. This applies in equal measure to the activities of the Legislature, the bulk of which have been designed to promote the political agenda of the Ruling Party with little or no benefit to the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

While criticising the dubious benefits of such costly enterprises as "Taking Parliament to the People", izimbizo, or the Ruling Party's mouthpiece called *Iso Elibanzi*, the IFP has been vocal about something far more significant — that is the failure of the ANC — controlled Legislature to fulfil its oversight role as defined in our Constitution.

The Legislature has failed to oversee the provincial executive by suppressing opposing views by arbitrary application of parliamentary rules by the Speaker and his office. The Legislature has failed to oversee the provincial executive by exercising strict party political control over the work of all portfolio committees, by way of ANC-affiliated chairpersons. Finally, the Legislature has failed to oversee the provincial executive by not exerting enough pressure on the government to table important documents for parliamentary scrutiny such as the outstanding forensic audit report into mismanagement in the Department of Agriculture. In all these respects this House has failed those who elected it in 2004.

The good news is that this unhappy period is coming to an end. The IFP pledges to return to the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature after the 2009 elections the democratic spirit and respect for multiplicity of views that have been lost in 2004 when the ANC took control of this institution.

It is our intention not only to give the people of this province a better government, but allow this House to oversee its conduct so it can be a more accountable government.

Having addressed these constructive criticisms to the political leadership of this House, I would like to thank all those who have worked in this institution in whatever capacity and who did not let their narrow political agendas cloud the larger vision my party and I have striven to pursue, namely the upliftment of the people of KwaZulu-Natal. I would also like to extend my thanks to the media for communicating our message to the public.

Special thanks go to my colleagues in my own party who served with me in Cape Town and eventually joined me in KwaZulu-Natal. May you have a refreshing period in your retirement. May your health, Mrs Mbuyazi, improve, which was one of the reasons why you could not continue.

It is my sincere wish that the election campaign which is now well under way, culminates in a much needed change of government and that this occurs without incidents of political intolerance, intimidation, that have plagued this province in the past.

Kafushane nje, asikubeke ukuthi njengoba kwehlukwana nje namhlanje njengoba sasishilo sathi sekolamula lona ukhetho bakithi. Sivalelisa kozakwethu ebesinabo kule Ndlu, abanye babo sisebenze nabo iminyaka elishumi, abanye iminyaka nje engemingaki nabanye esasinabo kusukela ngo-1994. Okukhulu engifuna ukuba kuqopheke phansi emlandweni ukuthi le Ndlu yiNdlu yezinkulumo. YiNdlu ekulindeleke ukuba sibe yiso lomphakathi. Uma izinto zenziwa okwengozo kuhle kwabeqhude, kuba lukhuni kakhulu ukuthi umphakathi wazi ukuthi ngempela nempela kwenzakalani. Le Ndlu umsebenzi wayo omkhulu wokuba abaphathiswa beminyango, phecelezi oNgqongqoshe, babonakale beba ngaphansi kweso lokhozi. Kuyinto elukhuni kabi ukuthi kubuzwe imibuzo ibuzwa ngenhloso yokuba kucaciselwe umphakathi kodwa kuqhamuke izimpendulo ezibajikijela ngamatshe. Kahleni bafowethu ukusijikijela ngoba inhloso kusuke kungekhona ukunichukuluza kodwa kusuke kuyingxenywe yomsebenzi. Sisuke singcweka singcweka ngomsebenzi wesizwe esiwuphathisiwe. Ngakho-ke asikubuke ngaleyo ndlela.

Somlomo siyehlukana namhlanje. Kunodaba kodwa ongazange uliphethe olwaze lwadala ukuba siye kubameli. Ziyeza izindleko zalolo daba enanisifake kulona. Uma ziza izindleko kuyodingeka phela nibuyise imali yethu yamakhokhasi ethu [uhleko]. Angisoze

ngakufihla lokho ukuthi kwenzeka isimo esinjengaleso. Uma kunamaphutha ayadinga ukulungiswa. Asikufisele nawe Somlomo uma sekuphunywa la kushisa umkhankaso, impilo enhle, uqhubeke kahle. Ekugcineni kwakho konke, sengazuthi neNdlu yakho njengoba iguqa nje ingaguqa phezu kwezisekelo eziqotho zokwakha lesi sifundazwe sibe ngcono kunalokhu esiyikhona.

Ngiyabonga.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you, hon Dr Mtshali. We now request the last member to say a farewell message on behalf of the ANC, hon Lydia Johnson, MEC for the Department of Public Works.

**MRS L JOHNSON (MEC for Public Works):** Thank you, hon Speaker, for this opportunity. Hon Premier, comrade Dr Sibusiso Ndebele, as members of the African National Congress, we are proud of you, we stand very tall and we forever stand tall because of your legacy. You have placed KwaZulu-Natal on the national map, even internationally. [Hear hear] We remember in 1994 when the ANC deployed you in this legislature, you were given a portfolio which was not known, but that portfolio of Transport you lifted up. You were very innovative and creative, you came out with programmes that are even adopted and used nationally, even internationally – we are very proud of that legacy.

When the ANC and the people of this province in the majority in 2004 said the ANC must be in charge, you were also deployed to be the Premier of this province. Under your leadership we are very grateful that we have seen real change. We saw the province being stabilised, no crises. We saw development being accelerated – *imisebenzi iyabonakala*. [Yebo yebo] We saw you translating and actioning non-sexism in the Executive Council and as women that have been this opportunity to serve on your Executive, we are very grateful. [Hear hear]

We also saw you trending *umuzi wezinsizwa* in the Administration. We saw eight females given the opportunity to be in charge – we are also grateful for that. I also want to say even the AG commended and gave praise to the provincial department, also Local Government, on how finances are managed – that is the Auditor-General, not me – and it is under the leadership of our Premier.

We want to say that as the ANC we do not regret going to the people. We will go to the people, we will interact with the people, because it is constitutional, public participation, Section 118, we are required to, so we are not apologetic for doing that, because it is what is expected, to interact with our communities so that we can deliver on the services.

So as the ANC we are really grateful and we wish our Premier and we have no doubt in our mind that where you are going to be deployed, you will do what you are known for – excellence – and we know that we have always been proud of you, so we will continue to be very proud of you.

To other colleagues that are also retiring voluntarily, Mr Burrows, we are also going to remember you for your robust, constructive engagement. Even in your last speech you were still giving some kind of advice which we will always remember you for because we are coming back.

However, I want to make a comment on something you have said, that the SABC is giving the ANC so much time, but each time switch my TV set on, I see the DA and Zille, many times, almost every day she is there, you listen to the wireless, she is always there, so I do not think it is correct to say that the ANC is given too much air time, look at the DA currently, all the air time they are getting.

Member Ambler-Moore, we also want to thank you for your contribution. I served with you on the Portfolio Committee on Health, the eThekweni Council as well.

*Mama uMbuyazi*, we also are grateful. We used to talk about women's issues in the legislature and I think your contribution will also be missed, but we will remember some of the things that we shared with you.

*UBaba uMdlalose naye*, you mentioned your experience that you brought along from national and I must say that was felt, because each time you used to make reference to, "We used to do this nationally" and we could manage and adapt what you were saying and I think we also wish you well in your new endeavours as we part ways, for now, but after 22 April we will be here. May the best party, with the best policies win the election overwhelmingly and the party that is going to win the elections overwhelmingly with a great majority, is the African National Congress [Hear hear] and as we go, our people

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are ready and waiting impatiently to be able to make that cross alongside the party that is going to continue with what it started under the leadership of our Premier in 2004.

So the party will continue, the foundation is laid and is solid and as we come in, we will actually be carrying on and we want to assure you, Premier, both of us will be sitting on these benches in the majority, we will not let you down, that legacy we will keep up and we are going to make sure that the ANC flag flies high in serving all the people of this country, all the people of this province, regardless of who you are, where you come from, because we are saying we are non-racial, we are non-sexist and we are going to make sure that the ANC delivers in every corner of this province.

As we part, may we go out and work and the best party will come back, the African National Congress. Thank you.

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much, hon members, for all your inspiring farewell messages. As I have indicated ...

**THE SPEAKER:** Thank you very much hon members for all your inspiring farewell messages.

As I have indicated again when some of our colleagues who are retiring were saying farewell messages. On this occasion from the Office of the Speaker and on behalf of this office, we would like to thank all of you for all the co-operation we have had from 2004. We also wanted to say in particular to those who are leaving, thank you for your contributions. All of you had made a tremendous input to the work of the Legislature. Obviously you have had different roles and therefore you have contributed from different positions. It will therefore be fair to accept that some of you have contributed more than others. Some of you have been here since the beginning and were laying the foundations and that plays a role as well to the extent in which you have contributed. It is not by choice, it is not by design, it is just by accident of history.

That is why I am going to say Mama Mbuyazi we will cherish the memories of all the activities in which we have been involved in the Speaker's Office. Your role in the CPA on behalf of the institution and not on behalf of yourself or your party has been outstanding.

On the issue of women, as Mrs Johnson has said, both within the institution as well as

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the structures of the CPA, we will value that. Please rest, knowing that this Legislature and Speaker's Office will cherish every moment of your contributions.

I am certain that all of the people who have spoken have said one and the same thing about you. You brought experience from national Parliament. The Speaker's Office acknowledges that and it also appreciates it. Your role in the Whippery and in all of the management committees in which you have participated was excellent. So we thank you.

Mrs Ambler-Moore, regardless of your political speech, fare thee well. {Laughter.} I thank you very much for all the contributions you have made nonetheless the Speaker's Office appreciates that. Those of us who know your role even before will remember it. We thank you. You always played that role, which we have termed in some corners a motherly role. Whatever those ladies used to do was motherly. So, thank you very much.

Mr Burrows, it is very difficult from the Speaker's Office to have words good enough to thank you for your contributions. As I was indicating earlier on when I came in here, I really even know what the Premier was saying that they are going to nominate me for the Deputy Speaker's position, but it was very easy to notice who the people were whom one can learn from were. You were certainly the target to learn from — both because of your known history and your liberal views as well as what you were saying and doing in an attempt to set up processes and to put in place systems in the Legislature, which some of us knew nothing about. I hope that one day before some of us die, those of us who have started with you here, I hope this institution will find an opportunity that something will be written of the experiences of the beginnings of this Legislature. I hope it will happen. Therefore, keep well and we are certain that you will contribute in this country. It is unlike you not to. Keep up the spirit and your positive attitude — robust in nature but positive. I must say if there is one person who is teaching us how to argue robustly but in a positive manner, it is you. We may disagree on one or two things, but that is a disagreement of approach. It has never been anything personal. I think you have been very good at not attack the person, but whatever the issue was. Those are lessons that we could learn and that is why I hope that we can contribute to you. I say on behalf of the Speaker's Office as you retire, please retire quite well.

[Ndunankulu, sebeshilo](#). I did inform everybody that you were the first one to inform me

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that I was the Deputy Speaker. Now, we started together. You knew better than I knew, but I am sure we grappled together, but what cannot be denied by anybody is that there is a legacy. There is a legacy of what you are leaving. Starting from your MEC position right up to your Premier position and we need to work from that as a foundation. The Speaker's Office is very grateful for everything, every co-operation that we have had from the Premier's Office in your term. I can gladly and safely say that there are issues that we handled differently from how you thought we should handle them and you know them and we also know them. Some may not agree with us, but we know them. We also know that you have played a major role in ensuring that our offices; Speaker's Office and Chief Whip's Office, worked properly in the Legislature. You have made your contributions to ensure that those offices also worked well. You have criticised us where you needed to, but you have also given us guidance where it was suppose to be given as a leader of this institution. I am certain that you were not doing it as a leader of your political party although you had the responsibility. As a leader of this institution we value your contributions. We will miss your wisdom on many issues. When the interpretation of many situations and issues.

Members, it is on that basis that I want to announce that we invite all of you to the Gala Dinner, because we will say more than we have said here. We have chosen to say more to the Premier and to say more to Mr Burrows. I want to announce it here before we even arrive at the Gala Dinner. It may not be what anybody else could have done, but in our discussions and in our consultations we did agree that these two leaders came here fifteen years ago to this institution — both of them. Even though the Premier was not a leader of his party then, but he was the deputy leader of his party. Mr Burrows when he came in he was a leader of his party.

**AN HON MEMBER:** It was a two person party.

**THE SPEAKER:** So, it is very important that we remember that these two leaders played a major role in the shaping of this institution. We will also say a few words about some of the other leaders who we believe made a contribution to the beginning of this institution. It has been 15 years and 15 years of any legislative institution is a milestone. Therefore that milestone must be recognised by us and we think to mark and honour that milestone of this institution. We will say a few more words at the Gala Dinner and we hope that members will agree with us.

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We would have thought that some members, whose contributions were not recognised, must be recognised by this institution. Again, I want to preface that everything that we will do by saying to all of you when you start something, there will be weaknesses. Remember. That issue, again is another innovation that we try to say can this institution consider this as part of their normal processes. Those of you who will be there will hear what we will say and we want you to consider as you come back. All of you seem confident that you will be coming back next term. So, as you come back next term, consider how you can strengthen that recognition of contributions by members of this House. There are many members — it is not only the ones we will be talking about — there are many members who have contributed in this House. Some are no longer here, some are still in the House, but we must think carefully. We are not an institution that is separate from other institutions of State in the country. We must really look at how other people have excelled in making their contributions. I therefore want to say to you, as you all go to your homes from this sitting and hopefully you will come to the Gala Dinner, we want you to go very well we want you to have all your life and may you please remember all of the decisions you have taken for the good of the province. Can you honour those decisions? One of them is to play a role to ensure that these elections are peaceful, fair and legitimate in the eyes of everybody. Can you make your contributions towards that? You took that decision. Can you live up to it, please?

In making the last announcement, I am being requested by the Office of the Chief Whip and by the Chief Whip himself that as we adjourn here, to request that the members of the Whips Forum meet for a few minutes. There is something to be discussed at that gathering. As for us, we really thank you after all of this.

I now want to say to you today is officially our last sitting and we hope there is nothing that will warrant us to call an urgent sitting, but if that has to happen we will request that members do remember that you are members until after 22 April 2009. We accept that this is officially the last sitting, but you never know what may warrant us calling a special urgent sitting then please comply.

The House is therefore today rising for the last time. It is prorogue.

I thank you, hon members. May we close?

**SITTING ADJOURNED**