



transport

Department:  
Transport  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## **STATE OF THE NATION DEBATE**

**MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, HON. FIKILE MBALULA**

**25 JUNE 2019**

**His Excellency, the President  
Honorable Deputy President  
Honourable Speaker  
Members of Parliament, Colleagues & Guests**

President, this morning at 5am I got into a train on the Central-Line from Khayelitsha to kwa-Langa to do oversight, inspect and listen to our people, the ideas they have and together begin to address and fix their rightful demands of their government – these are our workers and general commuters who fertilize this economy and must be provided with a quality services – I have set out a set of urgent interventions needed to return the Central-Line service into an efficient, trusted and safe service.

We are going to get PRASA back on track! Whether it is the Soshanguve corridor or the uMlazi or Mamelodi.

Under your leadership Mr President PRASA will be back on track.

Speaker, we have spent a day listening carefully to the contributions of Honorable Members on the State of Our Nation.

Speaker, the ANC government regards these debates as very important for our democratic project. The debate on the State of the Nation is aimed at strengthening our democracy, institutionalize it and remind us all that we are a people with many views but one destiny, one nation and to get our nation working and our constitutional democracy sound, we must respect and welcome differing viewpoints.

We agree with Professor Wole Soyinka, on constructive criticism that; "The greatest threat to freedom is the absence of criticism".

Mr President, with that said, I want to share with the House a tweet I received this past weekend; a twitter user by the name of Kid Colt tweeted a photo of his traffic fine – the charge on the fine is “exceeding the speed limit of 80 KM per hour by travelling at 75 KM per hour.

Speaker, this speeding fine is the kind of ‘44 out of 10’ type analyses of our body politics and political economy we have been subjected to the entire day by the opposition.

This is not what Professor Wole Soyinka was hoping for.

It is therefore very clear Mr President that your marching orders to the Department of Basic Education about Tablet Computers has to be supported because with a Tablet you can access a wide array of information perhaps you could even understand that there is no New York in London.

President, Philosophers often remind us of a quote attributed to Aristotle that; "Criticism is something we can avoid easily by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing."

Speaker, the Bantu people philosophically agree with Aristotle, we say; "ikhonkotha ehambayo"

President, you have called on your government and South Africa at large to pull together and "khawuleza" in steaming

economic growth and prosperity ahead.

But, how do we make sense of the '44 out of 10' analyses and the rest of hot air? Plutarch said - "It is a thing of no great difficulty to raise objections against another man's oration - nay, it is very easy; but to produce better in its place is a work extremely troublesome."

We share the podium with Honorable Members and Honorable Critics.

Speaker, instead of people coming up here to light the candle on our discourse we heard a lot of cursing of the darkness. We cannot attend to the pressing issues of our time without history, logic, and justice.

Mr President, as the Leader of the Official Opposition stood to deliver his usual sermon, turning this podium into a pulpit – I got chills – I got chills because it was like I was listening to the Iron Lady Mrs Thatcher herself.

Thatcherism, a crude ideological frame of mind that decimated the United Kingdom's economy and social cohesion fabric. Ban Ban Ban, ban the Unions, Extend Private Education, Reduce or Cancel Poverty Wage Protection, Sell critical SOEs – strip collective bargaining constitutional protections yet they claim to believe in our constitution.

We know who buttresses this leader of the shadows in the shadows. Those are not reforms!

His reforms are to cut public education, he proposes we stop NHI which seeks to give our people access to private hospitals – he says it's expensive. Those are not reforms! What he did not have guts to say is a cut on social grants – warning shots were heard, we know that is what this staunch conservatism ideology leads – we suffered from Thatcherism in this country – Thatcherism labelled us as terrorists and defibrillated the cruel apartheid policy.

Those are not reforms! Those are deforms! He has a pocket full of 7 deforms, deform health care! deform workers rights! deform public education! deform minimum wage!

Mr President, those are not reforms but deforms and re-affirmations of capitalist and a cultural majority the Democratic Alliance truly represents.

Honorable Members we owe being here, in the seats we are allocated to the wisdom of the masses.

The ANC has listened carefully at this debate and most of what we got are '44 out of 10' type of Thatcherist analyses together with a lot of people who truly see themselves as ANC members because all they are consumed with are inter-party issues of the ANC.

We invite them to rejoin the ANC seeing that is where the heart is and in any event they left the ANC while still nursing on the National Democratic Revolution. There is yearning for the ANC and the quality of its decisions that they got to be entered into Hansard today – we thank the Honorable for that – let me hasten to remind the House about the blood that runs in the veins of the ANC – the ANC is not an Africanist movement, the ANC is not a socialist movement, it is not a capitalist movement, it is not a party for one sex over the other or one race dominating the other – we recognize the circumstances of colonialism and the uniqueness or specialty of it in the context of South Africa, we recognize that South Africa is a class based society with a deep racial segregationist and oppressive past. No party should impose its agenda on the ANC – we are a non-racial organization that wants to create a united and democratic South Africa.

South Africans are well aware that the ANC has never claimed to be perfect, we have always owned up to our mistakes, we never hide them, we stumble and rise up and right now we are busy rising up for the sake of our people and we are saying we still have dreams, dreams of a nation that is a beacon of hope and prosperity.

Our imperfections are best testified through one of the most quotable quotes of our nation's father, our first democratically elected President Nelson Mandela when he said; "do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got up again."

Mr President, this is not a license to do wrong but an acknowledgement of our human fallibilities, I am not perfect, the ANC is not perfect, but do we rise up and self correct? The answer is a full yes!

Speaker, no one has a right to characterize Honorable members here as criminals belonging in prison, that is unparliamentary and an abuse of privilege.

Mr President, your clarity and visionary address has offered us a clear canvass to paint and draw-out executable and realistic plans.

Speaker, the ANC's vision document, the Freedom Charter is a document of our dreams – we are committing never to rest until the core of the dreams are realized.

It is very curious when we see this document being abused and misused in this House by groups that freelance on their ideological grounding – they sometimes wake up being Sankarists, the next day they are Sobukweist, the next they are Charterist, maybe Marxist too and then they may just cut the cake of power with conservative liberals in the halls of Tshwane and Johannesburg. This buffet menu politics is ideological freelancing with unequal opportunity assortment of the so-called commissars whom the ANC is

clearly a boomerang on them.

President, the ANC government in 2012 approved a PRASA Strategic Plan which included a potential for High Speed Rail. This transformational Strategic Plan found that indeed a Gauteng to eThekweni and Gauteng to Cape Town High Speed Rail could be feasible – in this 6th administration we shall commission a full feasibility study and financing models to achieve this collective dream.

High Speed Rail is an economic stimulant, it is a new cities and towns creator, it is an enabler and multiplier, it is an important tool towards a cleaner air strategy and indeed in speeding up our intended transitioning from road to rail and from air to rail. President, Honorable Malema's listening skills failed him when in your SONA Address you said about public rail transport, "We want a South Africa that has prioritized its rail network". President, no South African should have a problem with an introduction of rail network to Musina and Buffalo City as you said in your address.

President, you committed to making public transport and rail a mode of choice for all commuters in this country. Ours is to make sure that PRASA is reliable and safe – we shall achieve this. PRASA will be back on track.

President, as Secretary General of the ANC after our unbanning, together with our stalwarts, you rallied the nation behind a vision of a free, united and prosperous South Africa.

A vision of a society where all citizens are equal before the law and have equal access to opportunities for employment, education, business, arts and sports. It is a vision grounded on the ANC's national democratic revolution that is our blueprint towards a society that is truly non-racial, truly non-sexist and her citizens are fully emancipated.

That is the South Africa the ANC is building as mandated by the electorate at each electoral cycle.

We are deeply humbled by the gesture of the electorate, who returned us as a governing party to continue with the work of advancing social and economic transformation so we can eradicate poverty, narrow the gap between the rich and the poor and create jobs.

President, those who do not know the pains of governing must be forgiven for flippantly equating it to shopping for cool-drink. Just go figure!

Honourable Maimane decries the President's speech as "a dream of no tangible action". Not so long ago he was trying to find a Dr Martin Luther King Junior's dream inside himself – we were just lucky there was no mirror this time.

The Freedom Front Plus, The DA and the rest of course missed Mikhail Bakunin's pertinent question in his 1870 pamphlet titled 'Fragments' discussing property ownership pre-French Revolution, he asked:

"In what way did property and capital ever fall into the hands of their present owners? This is a question which, when envisaged from the points of view of history, logic, and justice, cannot be answered in any other way but one which would serve as an indictment against the present owners."

We understand the Bakunin's question well, hence we have Black Economic Empowerment, Employment Equity and indeed our Nasrec Resolution on Land.

Our existence as government is premised on Human Justice, Human Equality, and Human Freedom – Our Basic Human Rights Are What We Are All Here For. Let Us Thrive For A South Africa That Is Free Of A Threat Of Hunger For All Our People, All Our Youth, Black or White Meneer Mulder.

The President's message is loud and clear. It is a marching order to all of us whether in government, legislature or civil society that we must inspire hope through tangible action that resonates with the hopes and aspirations of our people.

Dream big or go home.

Tangible action comes in the form of the seven apex priorities, premised on the understanding that the focus of this 6th administration is on accelerated implementation, working with all South Africans.

The manifesto of the ANC, which forms the bedrock of the mandate of the 6th administration is emphatic on transforming the economy to serve all our people and advancing social transformation, amongst other priorities. It is the commitments of this manifesto that constitute the bedrock of the seven apex priorities announced by the President.

We have heard our people and we have no illusions about the mammoth task that lies ahead. Our people have embraced Thuma Mina as a mantra of national patriotism. However, they have told us to inject a sense of urgency in delivering services and expediting interventions to make a better life a lived reality.

We have committed to Khawuleza in the implementation of the 7 apex priorities of the 6th administration.

Human Justice, Human Equality, Human Freedom – Our Basic Human Rights Are What We Are All Here For. Let Us Thrive For A South Africa That Is Free Of A Threat Of Hunger, and a Threat to Dreams!

Down with Deforms!