



DA

# The DA's year in Parliament: 2022

*Getting Parliament to work for the people.*

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## Message from the Parliamentary Leader

As the DA Parliamentary Leader and Leader of the Opposition, it gives me great pleasure to present the DA's parliamentary review for 2022, in which we share with you our parliamentary activities for the year. I can honestly say that we have fought hard on behalf of not just DA voters, but everyone living in South Africa.

There are 84 DA members of parliament in South Africa's 400-member National Assembly and a further 13 DA members in the 90-member National Council of Provinces. Our role is two-fold.

First, to hold the executive (President Ramaphosa and his cabinet) to account by overseeing their work and ensuring they are carrying out their mandate and spending public money in the best interest of the nation. We do this by carrying out oversight visits, by submitting parliamentary questions, by calling ministers to appear before Parliament for questioning, and by taking appropriate action where necessary.

Second, to ensure that South Africa's legislation, the set of rules which determine how the country operates, is carefully considered and designed to improve people's lives and produce a more prosperous country, and to avoid unintended negative consequences. We do this by calling for debates on matters of national importance, by voting against harmful legislation, and by proposing better legislation in the form of Private Members Bills or changes to current legislation.

Put simply, our dual role is to be a watchdog and to fight the battle of ideas. In both roles we have fought hard to promote the DA's vision of "an open, opportunity society for all" and to promote our core principles which are a commitment to the rule of law, a social market economy, non-racialism, and a capable state that delivers to all. This document sets out some of the main battles we have fought and issues we have driven.

In some matters, we have made real progress or even emerged victorious, such as our fight against the ANC's longstanding and hugely damaging policy of cadre deployment that has so destroyed the capacity of the public sector to deliver; our fight to have "Public Protector" Busisiwe Mkhwebane impeached for protecting power abusers from the public rather than the other way around; and the changes to the ministerial handbook that gave unlimited taxpayer-funded water and electricity at ministers' homes, so shielding them from their own failures that have caused such suffering to the nation.



In other matters, our efforts were over-ridden by ANC MPs who continue to protect ANC wrongdoers in government, or turn a blind eye, rather than hold them to account. DA proposals to address the cost-of-living crisis which has left 80% of families unable to afford 3 meals a day were ignored, but we will keep fighting for them ahead of the budget in February 2023. Similarly, our call for an ad hoc committee to investigate the alleged theft of millions of dollars in cash from President Ramaphosa's Phala Phala game farm was voted down by ANC MPs.

This was reminiscent of ANC MPs failure to hold former president Jacob Zuma to account for his role in state capture when they protected him in 8 motions of no confidence. In his report on State Capture, Chief Justice Zondo delivered a scathing rebuke of parliament's failure to fulfil its constitutional role of holding the executive to account. In response, the DA has proposed changes to electoral legislation to make MPs responsive to the public rather than party bosses.

But whether successful or not, the common thread is that we have consistently fought to uphold the Constitution and to improve the material wellbeing of everyone who lives in this beloved, beleaguered country. We have consistently strived to give a voice to the voiceless and to promote the common good.

The Parliamentary precinct is the physical place where the people of South Africa can come together to debate issues, to make sure that our shared resources are being used for the benefit of all, and to make sure that the "rules of the game" as set out in South Africa's Constitution, are being upheld.

It is very sad that almost a year on, our National Assembly is still a burned out shell after the January fire with no firm plan for restoring it, and there are still make-shift barricades around Parliament's perimeter. They give the impression that parliament is closed for business and closed to the public, which is the very opposite of how it should be. The DA continues to fight for the House to be refurbished and the barricades removed.

In the general election of 2024, a vote for the DA will be a vote for an open, vibrant, independent, people's Parliament that is a government watchdog not a government lapdog, that upholds the Constitution, and that works towards a united, prosperous South Africa for all.

Kind regards,

**John Steenhuisen, MP**  
*DA Leader*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John H. Steenhuisen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature.

## Message from the Chief Whip

Parliament, like the rest of the world, was already struggling to change the way it conducted business to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, when we were greeted in the new year with the news of the devastating fires which ravaged large parts of the parliamentary precinct. The fires not only resulted in the gutting the National Assembly Chamber and rendering of the Old Assembly Building and extensive parts of the National Council of Provinces Building inoperable, but it also arguably resulted in the hollowing out of many of Parliament's accountability mechanisms to the detriment of the ideals of representative and participatory democracy as envisioned in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996.

The Democratic Alliance has taken various steps through the relevant parliamentary forums during 2022 to ensure that Parliament becomes fully operational once more and that public forums for the consideration of issues affecting ordinary South Africans are re-established in line with the constitutional values and principles underpinning an open, accountable and democratic society. Efforts to ensure that Parliament finds an alternative, temporary venue to accommodate Plenaries of the National Assembly while the Chamber is rebuilt are ongoing.

We have also taken action to propose a number of structural reforms to Parliament's accountability mechanisms in line with our parliamentary reform document, including the re-introduction of interpellations and arguing for the establishment of a dedicated Portfolio Committee to oversee the President of the Republic.

I am proud to share the record of the activities of the Democratic Alliance's National Assembly Caucus in Parliament for 2022. We pulled together as a team and used the various parliamentary mechanisms to hold Members of the Executive to account despite the myriad challenges we faced, including the way Parliament conducts its business due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the gutting of the National Assembly Chamber and adjacent buildings by the fire, and the continued hampering of our efforts by the ANC chairpersons and presiding officers.

As is evidenced by the record of our activities in this report, the Democratic Alliance will continue to use Parliament strategically to drive issues that matter most to South Africans in the runup to the 2024 Elections. We will also continue to focus on overhauling Parliament's accountability mechanisms and ensure that Parliament not only implements the Zondo Commission's recommendations as they pertain to Parliament, but also that the various committees exercise the necessary oversight over Government departments' implementation of the remedial action as directed by the report.

Kind regards,

**Siviwe Gwarube, MP**  
*Chief Whip of the Opposition*



## Message from the DA Leader in the NCOP

The point of departure for our 2022 review of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) stems from the role and function of the NCOP as stipulated in the Constitution: the NCOP represents the provinces by participating in the national legislature process, to ensure provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of government. Simply put, if the NCOP functions optimally, it has the ability to provide real legislative change and reform. However, the majority party brought the NCOP to a mere rubber stamp of the National Assembly (NA). Exemplified by the Electoral Amendment Bill, the Constitutional Court gave Parliament two years to deal with the Bill. The NA spent 23 months on this Bill, allowing the NCOP one month to implement its legislative mandate.

The fact that we represent provinces, endeavors such as Local Government Week, Provincial Week and Taking Parliament to the People, are fundamental in bringing the core mandate of the NCOP to life; which is being the connection between local government, provincial government and the citizens on a national stage. With these initiatives, we are reaching the people, obtaining the requisite knowledge to formulate recommendations - which should hold the executive to account, but the implementation there of is woefully lacking.

This reminds me of a quote by Winston Churchill - "however beautiful the strategy, you should occasionally look at the results".

The people of South Africa deserve an NCOP that understands their needs and takes responsibility to ensure that these recommendations are being implemented through good governance. But if the status quo remains the same, the NCOP will continue to be a toothless rubber stamp of the NA and remain an institution out of touch, with its accountability mechanisms watered-down

The DA in the NCOP however strives towards the fulfilment of the NCOP's full potential when legislation is processed, as the main focus remains the needs of the provinces and not only the party mandate. A differentiator from the NA is that the NCOP deals with the interventions of failing municipalities, interventions stem from Provincial Parliaments not undertaking what they are mandated to do, which results in the amount of interventions the NCOP deals with. There are proper procedures in place to deal with a failing municipality, however, these mechanisms are by-passed so that a politically motivated intervention may be implemented which is not geared towards the best interests of the municipality and its citizens.

As the above will no doubt indicate, there is plenty of work to be done within the NCOP to achieve its full potential, but the DA within the NCOP will not stop the charge towards an NCOP that delivers on its mandate.

Lastly, I would like to convey my thanks and appreciation to the DA team in the NCOP that continues to be dedicated and innovative in ensuring the core issues that impacts citizens' everyday such as localized policing, the state of roads, land reform and the cost of living are brought to the forefront at the NCOP.



Kind regards,

**Cathlene Labuschagne, MP**  
*DA Leader in the NCOP*



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# The big issues



## Parliament burning

On **2 January**, the year started with tragedy for Parliament, as a fire caused extensive damage to the National Assembly Building.

The DA immediately called for an **independent investigation** led by fire, arson, and forensic experts to assess how the fire started and spread across the Houses of Parliament. The DA also demanded an urgent meeting of the **Chief Whips Forum** to receive a full report on the situation to determine where Parliament would sit while repairs took place, how SONA 2022 would be conducted and from where Parliament's staff would work.

“It is absolutely important that Parliament's business is not derailed by these tragic events of the last few days. We hope that like a phoenix rising from the ashes, our Parliament too will rise from the ashes.”

**- John Steenhuisen after the Parliamentary fire**

We also called on **Minister De Lille to come clean** on the failings of her Department when it was revealed in an initial post-incident report prepared by the City of Cape Town that the last time the fire sprinklers were serviced was in 2017 and there was no indication that the scheduled maintenance for February 2020 had ever been done.

On **21 January**, the DA wrote to the Chair of Chairs, and the Leader of Government Business to request they urgently intervene and reprimand Ministers De Lille and Cele and the Speaker after they cancelled a meeting of the Joint Standing Committee on Financial Management of Parliament. The meeting was meant to address how a security breach which led to the Parliamentary fire had occurred. The failure of the Ministers to attend this meeting indicated a lack of accountability on the part of the executive towards Parliament.

Linked to the fire, Parliament erected wire fencing along the entrance to the Company Gardens in **June** to allegedly protect the building.

In **October** the DA welcomed the announcement that Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana had allocated R2 billion for the repair and refurbishment of Parliament over the next three years. We made it clear that we will be requesting **strict timeframes** and **quarterly progress** and expenditure reports to ensure accountability during the rebuilding process. The DA further welcomed the announcement that DPWI would be bypassed, with the funding being provided directly to Parliament for the rebuilding effort.

The DA condemned, in **August**, the barbed wire fencing. SAPS stated that the fence was erected as an extra security measure after breaches to the precinct, however, the DA insisted that access to the Gardens be restored and so that Parliament ceased to resemble a prison yard. The DA was **successful in our calls for the barbed wire to be removed**, with full access to Government Avenue being restored to the public in **September**.

## Public Protector

The Committee for Section 194 Committee was established in 2021 following the DA submitting a motion to initiate an inquiry to establish whether Advocate Mkhwebane should be removed from office.

The Committee began its inquiry in July. This Committee is the largest in our Parliament's history with the DA having 7 members in the Committee. There have been 41 inquiry days to date.

**Number of DA members on Section 194 committee: 7**

**Inquiry days of Section 194 Committee: 41**

Several attempts to derail the Committee have occurred since its inception which the DA has repeatedly resisted. These have included motions of no confidence brought against members of the Committee and walkouts by legal representatives without any satisfactory explanation.

The DA has also appealed the Western Cape High Court order declaring the President's decision to suspend the Public Protector unlawful and invalid, with the DA believing this judgement to be incorrect. The DA has argued that the High Court order requires confirmation by the Constitutional Court under sections 167(5) and 172(2) of the Constitution. As a result of the DA's appeal, the Public Protector remains suspended while the Committee proceedings continue. The DA will never be afraid to use legal action to ensure that the rule of law is upheld in South Africa.

The DA's members remain committed to the inquiry and have been providing robust contributions and interrogations of witnesses as the proceedings have progressed. The DA will work towards this Committee completing its work in a timely, fair, and efficient manner.

## **Phala Phala**

On or about **9 February 2020**, a very large sum of money was stolen (the exact amount is unconfirmed) from President Cyril Ramaphosa's game farm, Phala Phala, in Limpopo. The Presidency has since confirmed the theft, in which "proceeds from the sale of game were stolen".

On **01 June 2022** Arthur Fraser opened a criminal case against President Cyril Ramaphosa and claimed that he had evidence the President '**concealed a crime**'.

On **3 June** we **wrote to the Commissioner of SARS**, Mr Edward Kieswetter, alerting him to this sum of money, and called on SARS to investigate whether this sum was declared and whether it carries tax implications, as per the Income Tax Act and Tax Administration Act. Secondly, **the DA wrote to the SARB** to ascertain whether this sum of foreign currency pertains to an illicit flow of funds and potential money laundering on the part of the President, as per the Currency and Exchanges Act of 1933.

In a statement released on the **6 June** DA Leader John Steenhuisen **called for full disclosure on what happened and posed various questions** regarding exactly how much money was kept on the farm and in what currency.

On the **9th of June** Steenhuisen said **Phala Phala is President Ramaphosa's Nkandla** and called for the Presidential Protection Unit to answer for Phala Phala farm cover-up. The **DA Also wrote to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police** and requested that she summon the leadership of the SAPS VIP Protection Unit and the leadership of the Presidential Protection Unit to appear before the committee.

"Do you recall the shame of Nkandla and the arrogance of your predecessor? How exactly are you different to your predecessor, Mr President? Phala Phala is your Nkandla. It will forever be a big, ugly stain on your presidency."

**- John Steenhuisen**

On **21 June the DA announced 9 steps** to hold President Ramaphosa accountable for his failure to publicly disclose all the relevant details surrounding the theft of four million US dollars from his Phala Phala residence in 2020.

1. Write to FBI
2. Write to Financial Intelligence Centre
3. Direct questions to SARS Tax Fraud Department
4. Write to the Secretary of Cabinet in the Office of the Presidency to request sight of President Ramaphosa's declaration of financial interests
5. Write to the Public Protector
6. Write to the National Police Commissioner
7. Request the chairperson of the portfolio committee on justice and correctional services, Mr Gratitude Magwanishe, to summon the Minister of Justice to explain why South Africa didn't respond with a case number
8. Write to the to the Minister of Public Works about the subsequent security upgrades at the President's Phala Phala farm, and whether they were paid for, in full or part, using public funds.
9. Has written to SARS and SARB

On the **26 June** Steenhuisen, wrote to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, requesting that she urgently establish an **ad-hoc committee** to investigate the matter. It was requested that this committee must then summon, among others, President Ramaphosa, the Justice Minister, the National Commissioner of SAPS, Minister Kodwa and Major General Wally Rhoode to explain to Parliament their involvement in the saga and to answer the many questions that remain unanswered at that stage.

On **9 July** the Democratic Alliance announced that the Party will urgently be **considering its legal options** to challenge the Speaker of the National Assembly's decision of refusing to establish an ad-hoc committee. He further stated that the Speaker's reference to **Section 89 of the Constitution** is a convenient copout to try and justify her decision.

On **4 August** DA leader, John Steenhuisen, and DA's Deputy Chief Whip, Siviwe Gwarube, visited the Union Buildings to view President Ramaphosa's declaration of interests as head of the executive. Access was granted to both of them following a request made to the Secretary of Parliament in the wake of the Phala Phala revelations. No media was permitted.

On **17 August** the DA made the decision to not support other opposition parties (EFF, UDM, Cope, PAC and the ACDP) in their bid to move a Motion of No Confidence (MONC) in President Cyril Ramaphosa, and continued to push for a **transparent ad hoc committee** in Parliament.

At the end of **August**, the DA nominated three retired judges, retired judge **Jeanette Traverso** and retired justices **Yvonne Makgoro** and **Dikgang Moseneke**, to serve on a Section 89 Parliamentary Inquiry panel to investigate whether President Ramaphosa should be impeached.

On the **1st of September** the DA argued that the Speaker operated outside the rules of Parliament when she arbitrarily ended a Question Session in the National Assembly wherein President Cyril Ramaphosa was supposed to answer questions from various political parties. Despite the best attempts by the ANC, the opposition parties managed to get this matter brought back from scheduling again.

On the **21st September 2022** the DA scored a victory for accountability with Phala Phala debate as we secured an opportunity to bring to the floor of Parliament. The **following day**, the DA would have led a debate on the role of Parliament in holding the President and various state institutions to account for the alleged theft and abuse of state resources on the President's residence.

On the **22nd of September 2022** the DA with the support of other opposition parties managed to, once again, secure an opportunity to table the debate and the House will need to vote on whether the ad hoc committee should be established. The DA lobbied all political parties represented in the Assembly to support the Party's call for this ad hoc committee to be established.

On **28 September 2022** the ANC in Parliament protected President Cyril Ramaphosa and his cabinet from accountability. The governing party voted against the DA's motion to establish an ad hoc committee that would have investigated matters surrounding this theft.

On **16 November** The DA called for Parliament to extend its programme to deal with Phala Phala report after the Section 89 Independent Panel has requested a 13 day extension to deal with the workload before them . The DA further reached out to other opposition parties on this matter to support the call to extend the programme of Parliament.

## **Zondo Commission findings**

For too long, Parliament has failed to perform its oversight role over the executive effectively and has acted merely as a **rubber-stamping lapdog for ANC** executive decisions. This follows countless recommendations on how to fix Parliament over several decades which have gone unheeded. Furthermore, in the **final State Capture reports**, a variety of recommendations were made on how to improve Parliament's oversight effectiveness.

At the end of **July**, the DA outlined our 10-point plan to reform Parliament so that it will perform effective oversight and operate more independently of the executive in the future.

1. Establish a committee to oversee the Presidency
2. Require the Speaker to account before Parliament and to answer questions from ordinary MPs
3. Increase representation of opposition committee chairpersons and providing for greater regulation of committee systems
4. Improving oversight and ensuring meaningful public participation through increased Parliamentary budget allocations to portfolio committees
5. Enhancing the effectiveness of Parliamentary Protection Services
6. Increasing the frequency of Presidential Oral Question Sessions
7. Creating penalties for cabinet members who fail to appear for meetings or answer oral questions
8. The reintroduction of interpellations (mini debates) into the Rules of the National Assembly
9. Creating sanctions for Ministers who fail to answer PQs timeously, inadequately or at all
10. Ensuring that Parliament processes and takes timely action on the recommendations contained in the State Capture Report

The DA has already made firm progress towards realizing these reforms. One notable example being the ongoing discussions now underway in the Rules Committee, on the **introduction of Interpellations**. There are also alternate discussions underway which the DA is supporting to establish a committee to oversee the Presidency. The DA will continue our drive to fix Parliament in the coming year.

The State Capture Commission made a variety of findings pertaining to the functioning of **Parliament** and recommendations on how its **oversight role** could be improved. The DA applied pressure throughout the year for Parliament to begin setting up its own processes and systems to look at the role of Parliament in relation to State Capture, and how it will deal with the recommendations of the report.

The **ANC however refused to begin implementing Zondo's recommendations**, choosing instead to kick the can down the road by waiting for Ramaphosa to formally table the report alongside an implementation plan. This once more demonstrated the ANC's unwillingness to proactively address dysfunction within Parliament.

## Cost of living

As the cost-of-living crisis bites deeper and deeper into the pockets of South African households, the DA has this year taken various parliamentary steps to alleviate the burden of high and unaffordable prices.

In **June** the DA has called for a **debate of national importance** in the National Assembly, with the aim of addressing the rising cost of fuel and providing practical solutions. We have since this debate, submitted our **Fuel Price Deregulation Bill to Parliament**. By ending the unnecessary taxes on fuel, and deregulating the fuel price, the DA estimates we can lower the price at the pumps by up to R9 a litre. Right now, R9 a litre off the fuel price would make an enormously positive impact on people and businesses.

With inflation standing at 7.5% year-on-year, the DA has proposed a **review of the current zero-rated list of food items**, with a view to dropping the 15% VAT on those items most commonly purchased by the poorest 50% of households, such as bone-in chicken, tinned beans, wheat flour, margarine, peanut butter, baby food, tea, and coffee. Across the globe, governments are taking bold action to help struggling people through this cost-of-living emergency, yet in South Africa, the ANC Government remains sitting on its hands.

The DA formally requested the Minister to convene an expert panel to analyse the **expansion of the zero-VAT rated food basket**. In a Parliamentary question, the minister confirmed that he will not be convening an expert panel on the zero rating of certain food items. This is despite him saying he is willing to consider it a sitting in Parliament. Instead, the Minister referenced an outdated 2017/18 report to supplement his reasoning.

In his mid-term budget speech, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana failed to even mention South Africa's cost of living crisis, let alone address it. The DA will keep up the pressure for these interventions ahead of his February budget, because we know that the socioeconomic cost of ignoring this crisis is far higher than the cost of addressing it.

### **Number of time Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana mentioned the cost-of-living crisis in MTBPS: 0**

On **25 October**, we presented the DA's **alternative Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS)** for 2022, amidst a government-induced economic crisis of more debt, slow growth, record unemployment, unreliable energy, and the rapidly rising cost of living. Our economy can be rescued and placed on a path to recovery and growth. Our alternative MTBPS set out how this can be achieved. This entailed action steps such as:

- Establish a base to accelerate economic growth by **reforming State-Owned Enterprises** for private investment and relieving the economy of anti-poor policies.
- Reverse the upward debt spiral by **containing debt** and managing expenditures.
- Fight the high cost of living to **protect vulnerable South Africans** by introducing a conditional Basic Income Grant, increasing support for small, medium, and micro enterprises, and reducing taxes by cutting the fuel levy and removing VAT from an expanded food basket.
- **Fight corruption** by bolstering the capabilities of institutions that combat organized and sophisticated crime.

In **early November**, we published our intention to introduce our **Responsible Spending Bill** in the Government Gazette. The purpose of this Bill is to introduce statutory fiscal rules aimed at containing national debt and debt service costs. The rules ensure that the primary budget is in surplus, the wage bill is contained, and increases in government spending are dependent upon economic growth. These rules will apply to different debt level bands, adjusting as debt levels reduce. The rules will be binding on the government, while allowing for reviews and exemptions under specified circumstances, and subject to Parliamentary approval. The bill is now open for public comment and all citizens are encouraged to send their comments.

## **Cadre deployment**

Following years of DA warnings about the danger of the ANC's cadre deployment policy, and the resultant Zondo Commission revelations on how it aided state capture under the direction of former president Jacob Zuma, 2022 was the year in which the DA made significant progress in the fight to end cadre deployment.

In **January**, after months of sustained pressure by the DA, the State Capture Commission made public the minutes of the ANC's cadre deployment committee meetings which showed that between December 2018 and May 2021, under the presidency of Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC's cadre deployment committee interfered in the appointment of senior public servants to at least 96 different government departments, agencies and the boards of state-owned enterprises.

In line with the Zondo Commission's position for change in the appointment of senior managers to SOEs and state institutions, the DA submitted its **End Cadre Deployment Bill** to the Commission in **February** to ensure that it is aware of the proposed legislative approach that the DA had already put on the parliamentary agenda.

Subsequent to this, in **June** the DA officially presented the Bill to Parliament's portfolio committee on public service and administration for processing under the formal title 'Public Administration Laws General Amendment Bill (PALGAB)'. The Bill seeks to make it a crime to appoint anyone on the basis of political loyalty rather than merit and will direct the Public Service Commission (PSC) to ensure that all appointments are based strictly on merit.

The DA then took a historic and unprecedented legal action in the **North Gauteng High Court** against the ANC itself, to have their long-standing policy of cadre deployment declared unconstitutional and illegal. Predictably, in July, the ANC defied the Zondo Commission by challenging the DA court case to abolish cadre deployment.

Not only was the ANC intent on defending their cadre deployment policy, they were prepared to use state resources in the process. In legal papers presented to the DA, Ramaphosa, Minister of Public Service and Administration, Thulas Nxesi, and the entire Government of South Africa announced that they "intend to oppose" the DA's court case seeking to declare ANC cadre deployment unconstitutional and unlawful, as recommended by Chief Justice Raymond Zondo in the final volume of the State Capture Report.

Despite the ANC's false bravado, their internal policy documents revealed that they were terrified of the DA court action to end cadre deployment. Discussion documents published ahead of the ANC's policy conference proposed that:

"Consideration should be given to introducing more objective, meritorious and fact-based criteria into the processes of the deployment committee, so that its positions are publicly defensible, including in court if challenged."



Even so, the ANC still went ahead with their plan to sabotage the End Cadre Deployment Bill in Parliament. During a meeting of the parliamentary portfolio committee on public service and administration, the ANC deliberately sabotaged the DA's End Cadre Deployment Bill in order to protect the corruption network that unleashed state capture on our country. The ANC's clearly predetermined decision to reject the Bill in the face of overwhelming evidence that it would cut corruption and improve service delivery, was a profound betrayal of the people of South Africa.

The sustained pressure from the DA finally paid off when in **October** cabinet adopted DA policy to abolish cadre deployment. The National Framework towards the Professionalisation of the Public Sector, which was approved by Cabinet on **19 October 2022**, made a wholesale adoption of the DA's policy to abolish cadre deployment and replace it with merit-based appointments throughout the public sector.

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# Written Questions



## Number of questions asked per party (up to 4 November 2022)

DA	2 269	54.8%
ANC	34	0.8%
EFF	1 064	25.7%
IFP	523	12.6%
FF+	154	3.7%
OTHER	98	2.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 142</b>	<b>100%</b>

In 2022 all parties had a total of 27 opportunities to submit written questions in the National Assembly.

As can be seen in the table above, the DA asked 2 269 (55%) of the total 4 142 written questions in the National Assembly at an average of **84 questions per opportunity**. The 2 269 questions asked by the DA's 84 members translates to an average of 27 questions per DA MP.

In comparison, the ANC submitted 34 (0.8%) of the total 4 142 written questions at an average of **1 question per opportunity**.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) submitted 1 064 questions (25.7%) of the total 4 142 written questions at an average of **39 questions per opportunity**.

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) submitted 523 questions (12.6%) of the total 4 142 written questions at an average of **19 questions per opportunity**.

The Freedom Front Plus (FF+) submitted 154 questions (3.7%) of the total 4 142 written questions at an average of **6 questions per opportunity**.

Other opposition parties asked a total of 98 (2.4%) questions this year.

## Significant DA questions



### Bheki Cele blows more than R600 Million a year on catering and accommodation

The DA submitted a Parliamentary question to the Department of Police asking how much has been spent by Minister Bheki Cele and his department on catering, accommodation, and entertainment since May 2019.

It was revealed that **Minister Bheki Cele spends R600 million** a year on catering and accommodation alone. This spending comes at a time when SAPS bemoans its inability to uphold its constitutional mandate to protect the citizens of our country due to financial constraints.

## ANC Poverty cabinet blows R1.4bn on parties and dinner during the lockdown which could provide meals to 250 000 children for their 12-year school career

Through a **series of DA Parliamentary questions**, it was revealed that during the past 3 years, which ordinary citizens mostly spent under lockdown – the ANC national government spent at least **R1.2 billion in public money on accommodation**, another **R157 million on catering**, as well as **R12 million on entertainment** for Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other cadres employed by national government departments.

To put the total amount wasted on parties, dinners and hotels – over R1.4 billion – into perspective: this amount would have been enough to **provide school meals to over 250 000 needy children** for the entire duration of their 12-year school career.



## ANC government spends almost R13.5m a month on only 10 of the overseas official residences, staff residences and chanceries

A series of Parliamentary questions to the Department of International relations and cooperation revealed that they spend almost **R13.5m a month of taxpayer money on official overseas residences, overseas staff residences and Chanceries**.

10 most expensive official residences that the republic is currently renting:

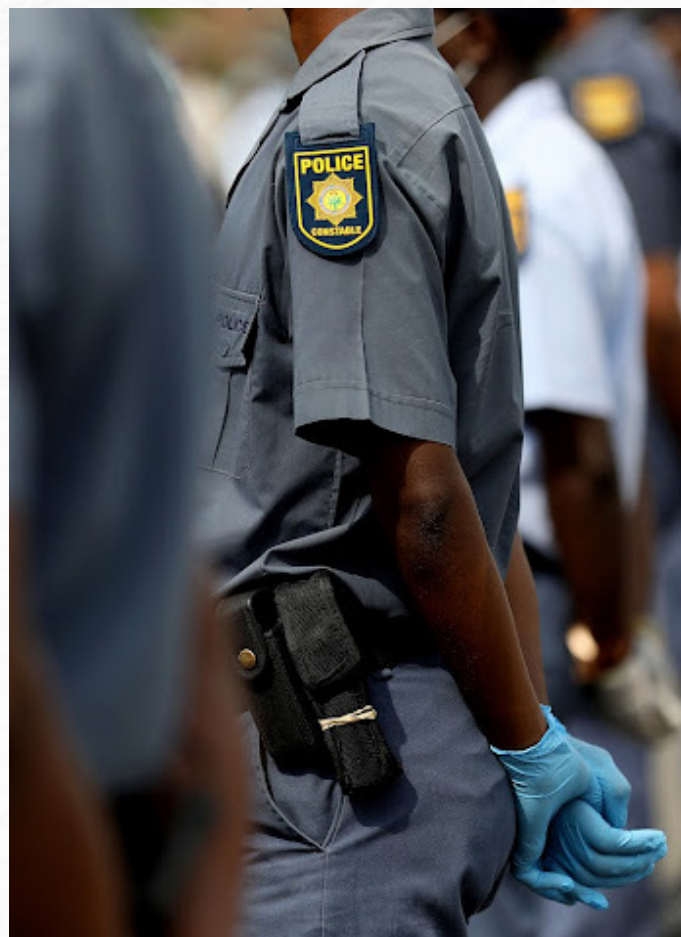
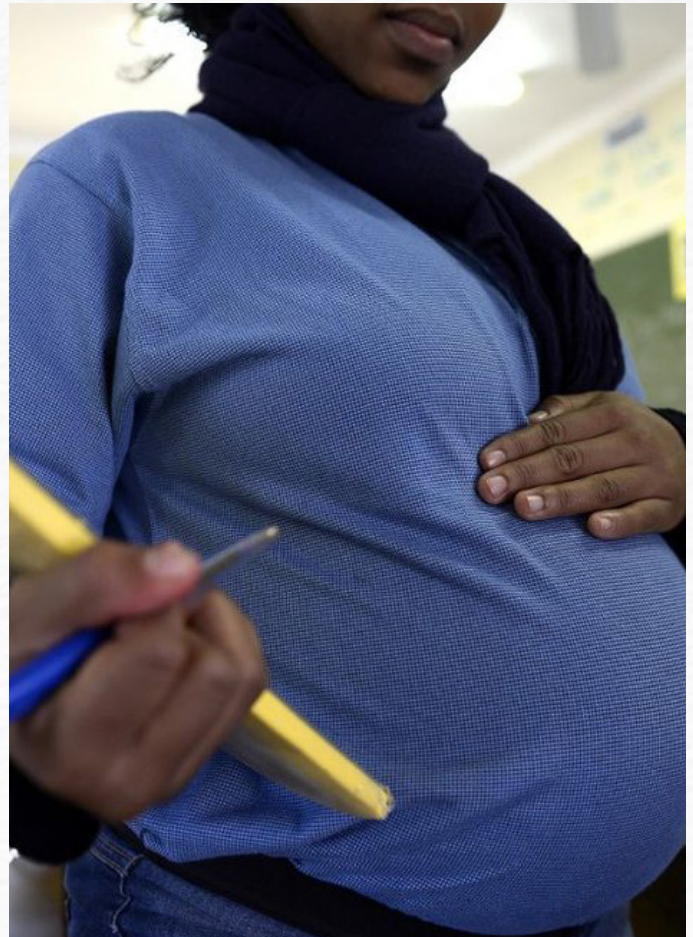
Mission	Occupant	Monthly rent in Foreign Currency	Monthly Rent in Rand Value as at 29 August 2022
Dublin	Official Residence	€16 000,00	R268 790,00
Addis Ababa	Official Residence	USD 16 500,00	R278 279,00
Moscow	Official Residence	€ 15 000,00	R251 991,00
Accra	Official Residence	USD 15 000,00	R252 981,00
Khartoum	Official Residence	\$15 000,00	R252 981,00
Dakar	Official Residence	XOF 9 000 000,00	R230 495,00
Luanda	Official Residence	\$14 000,00	R236 116,00
Los Angeles	Official Residence	\$13 950,00	R235 272,00
Beijing	Official Residence	¥90 000,00	R220 719,00
Kuwait City	Official Residence	KWD 4 000,00	R218 795,00

## 90 073 girls as young as 10 years old, gave birth to a child in the space of one year

Teenage pregnancies are fast becoming another pandemic that South Africa faces.

The DA was shocked, after it was revealed in a parliamentary question to the Minister of Basic Education, that an amount of **90 073 girls** between the ages of 10-19 gave birth in the space of one year.

In South Africa, most pregnancies under the age of 14 constitute statutory rape. Not only is the child sexually assaulted or coerced, but their early pregnancy affects their education. What is alarming is that 1 in 3 girls that fall pregnant do not go back to school, confining them to a cycle of lifelong poverty and disrupts growth and development.



## 1 300 fewer detectives since Bheki Cele became Minister of Police

While the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele, is telling concerned citizens and community organisations to “shut up” and telling police officers to “shoot to kill and ask questions later”, policing in the country is collapsing.

In an answer to a parliamentary question from the DA, Minister Cele admitted that **since he became the Minister of Police the number of detectives has decreased by more than 1 300** while a reply to another parliamentary question revealed that **20% of the vehicles allocated to detectives were not operational** as of 22 May 2022.

**Worst offending departments with highest percentage of unanswered questions  
(as at 21 November 2022)**

Department	Number Of Questions Asked	Number Of Questions Unanswered	Percentage
Communications and Digital Technologies	92	37	41%
Public Enterprises	165	60	36%
Public Service and Administration	86	22	26%
Defence and Military Veterans	112	26	23%
Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	50	11	22%
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs; Finance	194; 134; 96	37; 25; 18	19%
President of the Republic	57	10	18%





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# Oral questions



## President:

### How many times has the President answered oral questions in the House in 2022?

The President is required to appear at least once in a quarter in the National Assembly to respond to oral questions. The President answered oral questions in the National Assembly on **four occasions**, answering 24 questions in the process.

During the oral question session on 30 August 2022, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Ms N.N. Mapisa-Nqakula, MP, adjourned the Plenary before the President could respond to questions posed to him about the Phala Phala game farm theft saga. The DA subsequently fought for accountability in the NA Programme Committee meeting later that week, and managed to convince the Speaker to include the additional question to which the President had not responded in his next scheduled oral question session on 29 September 2022.

Earlier in the year, the DA also had to fight to schedule an extra oral question session for the President to account to Parliament and to answer questions on burning issues facing South Africans, after no oral question date was scheduled for the Second Term. The DA demanded in a letter to the Speaker that the President appears before the Assembly once per quarter in line with Rule 140, and an oral question date was subsequently scheduled for 29 September 2022. The Zondo Commission found that Parliament had failed in its responsibility of demanding accountability from the Executive on behalf of the people of South Africa, and the DA has been at the forefront of the battle to ensure that Parliament's oversight mechanisms are strengthened.

## Deputy President:

### How many times has the Deputy President answered oral questions in the House in 2022?

The Deputy President is required to appear at least once a quarter while the National Assembly is in Session. The Deputy President answered oral questions in the National Assembly on **four occasions**, answering 24 questions in the process.

## Ministers:

### How many times have Ministers answered oral questions in the House in 2022?

Ministers in the five Clusters answered oral questions in the National Assembly on **fifteen (15) occasions**:

Cluster	Date of Oral Questions		
Cluster 1: Peace & Security	2-Mar-2022	31-Aug-2022	27-Oct-2022
Cluster 2: Social Services	9-Mar-2022	7-Sep-2022	2-Nov-2022
Cluster 3: Governance	16-Mar-2022	14-Sep-2022	9-Nov-2022
Cluster 4: Economics	23-Mar-2022	21-Sep-2022	16-Nov-2022
Cluster 5: Economics	4-May-2022	28-Sep-2022	23-Nov-2022

## Oral questions in NCOP:

### How many times have Ministers answered oral questions in the NCOP in 2022?

Only three of the five Clusters answered oral questions in the National Council of Provinces on **eight occasions** with a total of **17 Ministers**.

Cluster	Date of Oral Questions		
<b>Cluster 1: Peace and Security</b>	Justice and Correctional Services - 23 Aug 22 Police - 23 Aug 22	Defence and Military Veterans - 24 Aug 22 Presidency (State Security) 24 Aug 22	Home Affairs - 25 Aug 22 International Relations - 25 Aug 22
<b>Cluster 2: Social Services</b>	Basic Ed - 18 Oct 22 Higher Ed - 18 Oct 2022	Health - 25 Oct 22 Social Development - 25 Oct 22	Human Settlements - 3 Nov 22, Sport, Arts and Culture; Water and Sanitation
<b>Cluster 3: Governance</b>	COGTA - 3 Aug 22 DPSA - 3 Aug 22	Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities - 4 Aug 22 Presidency (Governance)- 4 Aug 22	
<b>Cluster 4: Economics</b>	None	None	None
<b>Cluster 5: Economics</b>			

## The most hard-hitting questions asked by the DA:

### Ghaleb Cachalia

Whether the Government has considered declaring a national state of disaster to respond to the Republic's energy crisis and to assist Eskom as a matter of urgency to mitigate the further negative consequences of protracted and more frequent periods of electricity blackouts; if not, what (a) is the position in this regard and (b) other steps will the Government take to address the Republic's energy crisis; if so, what are the relevant details?

### Response

*"The government has not considered declaring a state of disaster to respond to the energy challenges that we are facing in the Republic of South Africa."*

Instead of admitting that the government has failed in terms of supplying energy to South Africa, he went on to blame everything but themselves.

*"The evidence proves a scheme by the Guptas to capture Eskom, install the Gupta's selected officials in strategic positions within Eskom as members of the board, the committees of the board and the executives, and then divert Eskom's assets to the Gupta's financial advantage. Clearly the evidence before the commission further revealed quite clearly that part of the reason why some of the state-owned companies have performed as badly as they have and why some rely on government bailouts year in year out, is the calibre of some of the people who are appointed as members of the boards of these companies or who are their chief executive officers and chief financial officers. State capture contributed to the energy crisis, as the commission's evidence revealed."*



After a follow up question, the Minister finally admitted the following:

*“It is also a well-established fact and this is also in the report of the Zondo Commission, that there has been neglect on the maintenance side for many years, particularly during the state capture period, in order to ensure that “the lights stay on.” That is the legacy that we now have to overcome.”*

## **Andrew Whitfield**

Whether he has commissioned any studies and/or investigations into the decentralisation of policing services in the Republic; if so, what are the relevant details.

### **Response**

*“The answer is: No! Section 205(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 stipulates that the SA Police Service is structured to function in the national, provincial and local spheres of government, then comes districts and stations. In terms of section 272 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, the national commissioner is responsible for exercising control over the managing of the SA Police Service, in accordance with the National Policing Policy and direction of the relevant member of the Cabinet. On number two: No, there is no need identified at the present moment for the alternative approach to the structuring of the SA Police Service.”*

In a follow up question to the Minister, Cele became annoyed and referred to Andrew Whitfield as the Nazi, Joseph Goebbels, and then called the Western Cape constitutional delinquents for wanting to have decentralised control over their own policing after Cele’s continued poor performance.

## **Dion George**

With reference to the rapidly rising cost of living, what are the details of the steps the Government has taken to relieve the burden on poor households.

### **Response**

The Minister made no effort to detail his plans on how the government would assist struggling households, instead he said, inter alia, the following:

*“There has been no announcement of any intention to increase the number of food items that are zero-rated for value-added tax, VAT. The current basket of food items that are zero-rated are well-targeted towards poor households. In 2018, when the VAT rate increased from 14% to 15%, the Minister of Finance appointed a panel of independent experts to consider and review the list of zero-rated food items. Through this process, two food items; white bread, wheat flour and cake wheat flour were added to make the current list of 21 food items. The analysis of the independent panel indicated that extending zero-rated to further food items would be inefficient since high income households tend to benefit more from such measures.”*

## Darren Bergman

What is (a) her department and (b) the Government's positions on the legitimacy of the Russian Federation's referendum that recently took place in Ukraine?

### Response

The response showed the ANC's bias towards Russia despite emphasising respect for territorial integrity. The Deputy Minister Responded as follows:

*"South Africa abstained on the resolution entitled: "Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations" on 12 October 2022. South Africa abstained. We provided reasons for this action in our Explanation of Vote. We were of the view that in the context of the conflict escalating at the time, the resolution should also have dealt with specific measures aimed at ensuring cessation of hostilities. Our Explanation of Vote also clearly outlined that South Africa does not support breaches of International Law. This includes emphasising respect for territorial integrity, including that of Ukraine."*

## Leon Basson

Whether, with reference to the current water shortages experienced in large parts of Gauteng, any plans have been put in place to expand the capacity of the Rand Water purification plants; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) total number of additional megalitres will be added daily and (b) are the further details in this regard?

### Response

In answering a follow up question, the Deputy Minister admitted:

*"One of the issues that I admit we have actually neglected is that our investment in water resource infrastructure has not been commensurate in terms of population growth and GDP growth, and these issues have caught up with us."*

## Other important questions asked by DA MP's:

- **Leon Schreiber** asked what the reasons are for why the Cabinet decided to ignore the Zondo Commission's finding that it is unlawful to consider recommendations of the ANC Deployment Committee.
- **Lindy Wilson** exposed the massive extent of the backlog in surgeries in government hospitals.
- **Michael Cardo** asked what the government was doing to ensure that an additional 2 million jobs are created in the economy by 2024.
- **Glynnis Breytenbach** asked whether the NPA is conducting any investigation into matters relating to the theft at President Ramaphosa's Phala Phala farm.
- **Henro Kruger** asked what the ANC will do to make it easier for SSMME's to do business in South Africa after President Ramaphosa had already established a Red Tape Unit and since the ANC had already rejected DA proposals on how to help these businesses.
- **Michele Clarke** exposed the shortages of thousands of nurses in the public sector hospitals in each province.



# — Legislation

## Key DA Private Member's Bills

This year the DA spearheaded many Private Member's Bills to champion issues that would make a difference in the lives of ordinary South Africans.

### Cut Cabinet Perks Bill:

In **October**, the DA revealed that President Cyril Ramaphosa changed the Ministerial Handbook to allow for free water and electricity at Cabinet Members homes. On **11 October** the DA filed a complaint with the Public Protector calling for the abolition of the Handbook in its entirety. In this complaint the DA sought to challenge the very legality of the Handbook itself.

On **17 October**, the DA delivered an ultimatum to Ramaphosa to scrap to scrap the Ministerial Handbook and replace it with an open and transparent process where Parliament decides on Cabinet benefits, failing which the DA would and civil society would march on Bryntirion Estate in Pretoria. The DA achieved success when President Ramaphosa **withdrew the Handbook amendments** that same day.

Following these revelations, on **2 November** the DA announced its intention to introduce a Bill designed to **rein in the President's dictatorial powers over this handbook**. The Bill will seek to end the impunity with which the President is able to force taxpayers to pay for additional perks and benefits for Cabinet members. The President will instead be forced to subject decisions on perks to proper costing and assessment, and by introducing Parliamentary oversight over any changes the President makes to the Ministerial handbook.

The Bill highlights the DA's commitment to good governance and ending the abuse of taxpayer money through benefits provided in the Handbook. The DA's Cut Cabinet Perks Bill will be introduced into Parliament early next year.



## Cyber Commissioner Bill:

On **11 November** the DA announced its intention to introduce a groundbreaking new Chapter 9 Institution – the Cyber Commissioner.

The Bill recognizes that cyber threats are a new phenomenon which has arisen since the Constitution was initially adopted in 1996. Today, cyber security is fundamental to safeguarding the rights of citizens and ensuring that state infrastructure is protected. With the state currently being unprepared for cyber-attack, there is a need for a dedicated specialized office to assist the state in modernizing its cyber security capabilities and protecting against the loss of personal information and interception of data.

The Bill will be introduced into Parliament early next year.



## Responsible Spending Bill:

As South Africa's debt burden continues to rise with government borrowing increasing, the DA took firm action by announcing its intention to introduce its Responsible Spending Bill on **20 November**.

The Bill will introduce statutory fiscal rules aimed at containing national debt and debt servicing costs in South Africa. These rules will apply to different debt band levels, thereby adjusting as debt levels reduce.

This Bill will ensure that government is **no longer able to recklessly fund its activities through unsustainably increasing national debt**. The Bill will ultimately place the country on a sustainable fiscal path, thereby reducing interest payments which can then be used for important service delivery purposes.

The Responsible Spending Bill is currently open for comment and will be introduced into Parliament early next year.

## Social Impact Bill:

The DA announced its plans to introduce its Social Impact Bill into Parliament and called for Comment on the Bill's aims on **21 April**.

The Bill will amend the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA) to **remove crude race based BBEE considerations**. This will be replaced with recognition of contributions made towards a set of Sustainable Development Goals which will directly focus upon the root cause of inequality in society.

The DA conducted an analysis of the comments received and announced on **17 August** that the responses were overwhelmingly positive, with **83.3% of comments received indicating support for the Bill**.

The Bill is currently in development and will be introduced into Parliament next year.



## Public Finance Management Amendment Bills:

The DA brought two Private Members Bill before Parliament this year aimed at plugging the lacunae in the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), with the aim of extending Parliament's oversight capacity in relation to granting or refusal of government indemnities and securities and to amend section 65(2) of the PFMA to ensure the timeous tabling of financial statements and audit reports.

Even though National Treasury supported these Bills 'in principle', the ANC decided to vote against the desirability of these two bills, to allow for the executive to bring its own legislation along similar lines. This displayed the ANC's continued culture of deference to the executive, even when presented with workable non-partisan Bills by the DA.

## Anti-Land Invasion Bill:

Orchestrated and illegal land grabs are becoming an increasing crisis across South Africa, placing an immense financial and logistical burden on all major Metropolitan Municipalities and thousands of private land and property owners.

The DA recognises that to create inclusive and well managed cities, the **issue of illegal land invasions must be urgently addressed**.

To achieve this, the DA announced its intention to introduce the Anti-Land Invasion Bill on 2 September in the Government Gazette. The Bill seeks to criminalise those who directly or indirectly incite or arrange for illegal land invasions onto a property without the owner's consent.

The Bill also requires the courts to consider the personal circumstances of unlawful occupiers before it considers whether the government must provide alternative housing as we have seen that many unlawful occupiers invade land for the sole purpose of jumping the queue in being provided with an RDP house.

Finally, the Bill will allow for the government to provide alternative accommodation anywhere in its jurisdiction and not be hamstrung by having to relocate a person within a radius of where they invaded the land.

This Anti-Land Invasion Bill is in its final stages of development and will be introduced into Parliament next year.





### Fuel Deregulation Bill:

The rising cost of fuel has had a tremendously negative impact on South Africans, with prices at the pumps becoming increasingly unaffordable for all South Africans.

The DA took firm action to address this problem by developing a Bill which will deregulate the fuel industry, thereby increasing competition at the petrol pump. This will result in a free market for petrol, thereby driving the petrol price down. A notice of intention to introduce the Bill was published in July with the DA requesting comments on the Bill.



### Remote Gambling Bill:

In **September** the DA published its notice of intention to introduce and call for public comment for our draft Remote Gambling Bill.

Interactive/gambling is not currently regulated in South Africa. By not regulating these activities, the erosion of the rule of law and criminal activity is being encouraged - while the public is not sufficiently protected. This lack of regulation is further resulting in revenue and jobs being lost to other jurisdictions.

The DA's Remote Gambling Bill aims to fill the gap in law relating to interactive gambling by effectively regulating the industry. The Bill will be brought before Parliament next year.



### Coalition Bills:

The DA is preparing for a future where one-party electoral domination is ended. Due to this reality, there is a need for comprehensive legislation to manage coalition politics with an aim of improving governance stability.

On **13 October**, the DA announced its intention to introduce legislation in Parliament which will regulate coalitions and enhance their stability.



## Through these Bills, the DA will seek to:

1. Set an electoral threshold requiring political parties to secure between 1 or 2% of the overall vote to qualify for seats in a legislature or council. This will reduce the fragmentation of our politics and reduce the phenomenon of small ‘king maker’ parties – thereby increasing coalition stability.
2. The DA will seek to formalise coalition agreements, by creating legal requirements that coalition agreements are drawn up and clearly set out the principles that partners must adhere to, including the conflict resolution procedures which must be followed in the event of a disagreement. These agreements must also be made public, with coalition partners being legally required to publicly commit to honouring their coalition agreements.
3. The DA will seek to establish an independent registrar of political parties which will impartially administer coalition agreements and ensure that coalition partners commit to the maintenance of their coalition agreements.
4. The DA will investigate extending the time period allowed for the President, Premiers and mayors to be elected following an election result. This will provide political parties with more time to negotiate functional and binding coalition agreements.
5. The DA will investigate, in consultation with other parties, the feasibility of limiting the frequency with which motions of no confidence can be brought within a legislature. Such a frequency limit would provide a governing coalition an opportunity to govern without the constant threat of being removed.

The DA is working towards finalising and introducing these Bills ahead of the 2024 national elections.

## Key Executive Bills

### National Health Insurance (NHI)

The doomed to fail National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill is being pushed through Parliament at all costs by the ANC. South Africa is unable to afford the costs of NHI let alone the **rampant corruption** that will occur if a single fund is used to pay all healthcare providers in the country.

The DA has seized every opportunity to speak out against the NHI various statements and speeches. We submitted our concerns regarding the Bill during the **public hearings** session on **23 February**.

On **8 April**, the DA sent a formal request to the **Socio-Economic Impact Assessment Unit (SEIAU)** in the Presidency that a new risk assessment for the NHI Bill be conducted.

On **15 May**, we **voted against the Motion of Desirability** and opposed the Bill at every stage of the clause-by-clause deliberations, which started on **1 June**. We questioned and highlighted the unlawfulness of certain sections and pointed out the impossibility of NHI's implementation. We wrote to the portfolio committee chair to pause deliberations after the North Gauteng High Court declared **sections 36 to 40 of the Bill unconstitutional** and requested that the Ministers of Finance and Health make presentations on the proposed cost and funding model of the NHI on multiple occasions in committee meetings, as well as letters to both Ministers and the committee chair.



On **15 May**, we **voted against the Motion of Desirability** and opposed the Bill at every stage of the clause-by-clause deliberations, which started on **1 June**. We questioned and highlighted the unlawfulness of certain sections and pointed out the impossibility of NHI's implementation. We wrote to the portfolio committee chair to pause deliberations after the North Gauteng High Court declared **sections 36 to 40 of the Bill unconstitutional** and requested that the Ministers of Finance and Health make presentations on the proposed cost and funding model of the NHI on multiple occasions in committee meetings, as well as letters to both Ministers and the committee chair.

When the **Minister** finally appeared in Parliament on 17 November to answer to the many objections and concerns raised at every part of the process, he **failed to provide any clarity on the cost and funding of the NHI**, nor could he provide satisfactory answers to any of the other myriad concerns.

Lastly, after the Minister and the ANC dominated Health Committee having continued to ignore all reasonable requests and queries from the DA to reconsider the implementation of NHI, the **DA has now threatened legal action** should they continue to push the NHI Bill through Parliament with its majority and has reserved its rights to approach the Courts to have the Bill declared unconstitutional and unlawful.

The DA will continue to fight the NHI, including approaching the courts if necessary.



### **Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill (BELA):**

The DA has been the voice of opposition to the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill (BELA) in Parliament. The party has extensively communicated on the problems with the BELA Bill as it seeks to give government unprecedented powers to determine language and admissions policies within schools. This takes the decision to determine language and admission policies out of the hands of school governing bodies who know their local communities needs best. The DA has adopted a whole of society approach in opposing the BELA Bill, with the following actions constituting key moments in the past year:

In **February**, the DA launched our **#StopSchoolCapture petition**, which has now received almost 30 000 signatures. This petition was handed over to Parliament in August and will be submitted to the Department of Education soon.

On **5 July**, the DA organised a **successful protest** against the BELA Bill, where a memorandum was handed over to Gauteng MEC of education, **Panyaza Lesufi**. At this protest, the DA outlined numerous concerns outlined in our formal submission to the Parliamentary Committee on Basic Education.

On **13 June**, the DA **submitted our comments opposing the Bill to Parliament**. The Party hopes that our concerns will be heeded by Government. The DA's principled stance against the Bill was confirmed in **November** when most submissions from the public to Parliament concurred with the DA's position and indicated widespread societal reservations with the Bill.

The DA will be continuing to lead the opposition to the BELA Bill over the coming year.



## Prevention of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act (POCDATARA)

The Bill was introduced by the ANC to avoid South Africa's grey listing. However, the ANC's Bill included numerous provisions which were **vague, conflicted with various rights** in the Bill or Rights and opened the possibility of abuse by the State against journalists and opponents.

With the **DA's pressure**, the Police Committee agreed to a **host of changes** which resulted in the Bill becoming a Committee Bill rather than an Executive one.

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### Expropriation Bill

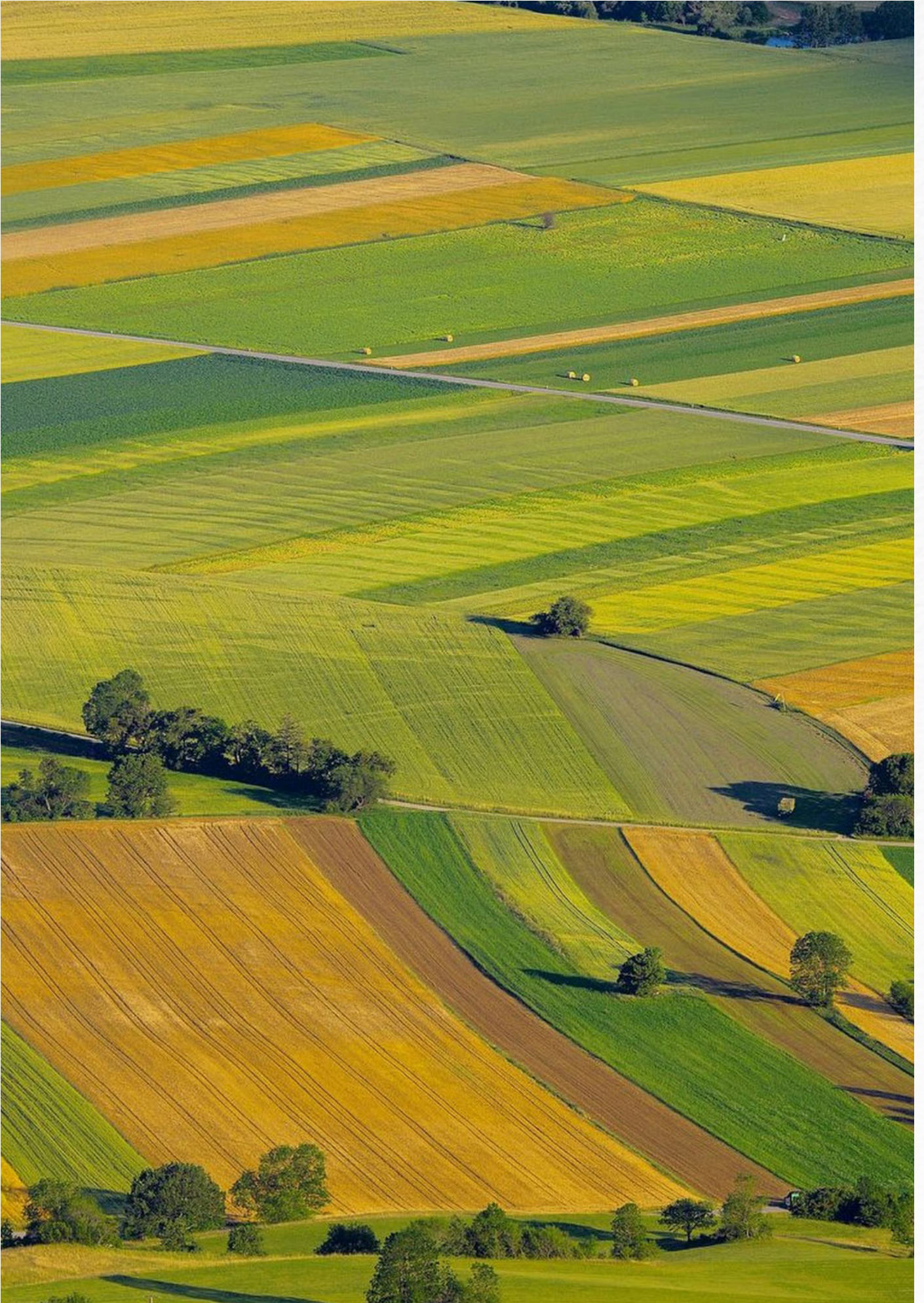
Following the failure of the ANC to pass its Constitutional Amendment to section 25 to allow for expropriation without compensation, the party then sought to **sneak expropriation without compensation through the back door**, inside of the Expropriation Bill.

The DA revealed in **June**, through a parliamentary question to Minister De Lille that the ANC government owned a total of **3 742 properties**, which have all been standing vacant – some for as long as 10 years. These properties have not been utilised, nor is there any immediate plan to utilise them. To make matters worse, these empty properties are costing taxpayers **R15.2 million a year for private security alone**. These revelations highlighted the complete unnecessary of ANC attempting to erode private property rights through their Expropriation Bill when they could instead look to their own properties to address land reform or shelter purposes. The savings on private security alone could be used to build up to **120 RDP Houses a year**.

The DA continuously opposed the passing of the ANC and De Lille's Expropriation Bill in Parliament. The party worked tirelessly to oppose the worst provisions in this Bill – and the **unconstitutional 'nil compensation' clause**. The DA achieved significant success in removing harmful provisions within the Bill, but the ANC refused to budge on the all-important 'nil-compensation' provision.

The DA took pro-active action in Parliament in **September** by **tabling critical amendments** through Rule 291 of the Rules of the National Assembly. These amendments sought to amend the definition of expropriation and to remove instances in the Bill allowing for nil compensation.

The DA will continue to oppose the Expropriation Bill as it makes its way through the National Council of Provinces.



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# Key projects

## Cabinet Member Performance Agreements

President Ramaphosa announced at the start of the 6th Parliament that he would address an ongoing lack of accountability in his government by introducing **performance agreements for every member of his cabinet**. These agreements were intended to monitor performance against specific targets, thereby enhancing accountability. After the initial media coverage of the Ministers and the President signing these agreements, they were quickly forgotten and left to gather dust.

In **March**, the DA took it upon itself to evaluate each of the 28 cabinet ministers against their own targets. The DA **identified that on average only 32% of the measurable quantitative targets had been met**. With only 3 Ministers achieving 50% or more of their targets – the highest being 56%.

Given that South Africa's cabinet achieves less than a third of their own targets, the DA **tabled a motion of no confidence in the entire cabinet in Parliament** so as restore accountability in Government. The DA proceeded to hold a **successful picket outside Parliament on 30 March in support of the Motion** which attracted significant support from the South African public. The motion was ultimately voted down by the ANC, as they chose to protect their own incompetent Ministers rather than replace them with more qualified individuals.

## Energy Implementation Tracker

To keep President Ramaphosa's government accountable on the implementation of his energy plan to address the electricity crisis, the DA **launched an Energy Response Plan Implementation Tracker (ERPIT) in August** to track progress and measure project deliverables. Real time outputs from the tracker have exposed the severe lack of measurable targets and delivery milestones.

The DA's initial assessment shows that out of the 29 energy plan project goals being tracked, 20 of these (or 70%) are still yet to move beyond the rhetoric or conceptualisation stage. This lethargic progress is a consequence of an ineffective National Energy Crisis Committee and an energy plan that lacks a time-sensitive plan of action.

## Poetry competition

We are constantly bombarded with negative news and it becomes so easy for us to forget the good things about South Africa. It is exactly for this reason that the DA did something different this **Heritage Day** by celebrating our unique country.

We launched the poetry competition for young South Africans on the **11th of August**, in two age groups – six to thirteen, and fourteen to eighteen – and asked them to tell us in a poem, in the language of their choice, what they love about South Africa.

There were great cash prizes to be won in each of the two categories. First-place winners received R2000, second-place winners received R1 000, and third-place winners received R500. The poems of all the winners were posted on the DA's website and all social media pages.

The judging panel had no easy task to decide on the six winners, for each of the two age categories.

Category 1: six to thirteen years

- **3rd place:** Sinethemba Xaba (7 years old) [“Rato la Afrika Borwa”](#)
- **2nd place:** Franco Barnard (12 years old) [“Wat ek liefhet Suid-Afrika”](#)
- **1st place:** Amber Travers (12 years old) [Untitled](#)

Category 2: fourteen to eighteen years

- **3rd place:** Lucy Parsons (16 years old) [“Rough Cut Gem”](#)
- **2nd place:** Abigail Kühn (18 years old) [Untitled](#)
- **1st place:** Nonkazimulo Zwane (17 years old) [“Engikuthanda NgeNingizimu Afrika”](#)

We encourage all South Africans to continue expressing themselves in such a positive manner, never allowing challenging circumstances to distort their vision of a hopeful future in South Africa.

## No phone or email answers

The DA **tested** the basic **capability of 140 national and provincial government departments to answer telephone calls**. From the South African Police Service to provincial departments of roads and infrastructure, we systematically made at least three phone calls to each of these departments to ask tailor-made questions related to the work of the department. The contact information was principally sourced from the government contact directory. In each case, we rang the phone for at least 30 seconds.

At the same time, we **also sent emails** with questions that members of the public would realistically ask to **37 national government departments**. For example, we asked the Department of Social Development for information on the current list of available grants. In the case of the Department of Mineral Resources, we asked for information on how to apply for a mining permit. And at the Basic Education Department, we enquired whether a learner could be expelled from school because she is pregnant. In cases where the initial email was not answered, we followed up with two additional emails.

At the end of this process, each of the 140 national and provincial departments had received at least three separate phone calls, while each of the 37 national department also received three emails. In total, the DA made 420 phone calls and sent 111 emails to ensure the accuracy of our analysis.

### National government departments:

In national government departments, where ANC cadre deployment corruption continues to run rampant thanks to President Cyril Ramaphosa's impassioned defence of this practice at the State Capture Commission, **59% of the 37 departments did not respond to any of the three emails**. Additionally, **65% of the departments failed to even answer the phone after three separate attempts**.

This even included the Presidency nor the Department of Communications, which both failed to answer the phone or respond to emails.

### Emails:

In total, **22 out of 37 national government departments failed to respond** to emails. In seven of these cases, the department did not even have a working email address at all. This means that emails from members of the public would never even reach the inboxes of these department.

### Provincial government departments

The situation is even direr in the eight ANC-run provinces, where cadre deployment corruption has hollowed out provincial administrations to such an extent that only 22% of the 91 departments in those eight provinces have the capacity to answer phone calls after three separate attempts. In contrast, **100% of calls to the Western Cape Government's 12 departments were successful**.

### The nine provinces ranked as follows:

1. Western Cape: 100% (12 out of 12 departments answered)
2. Mpumalanga: 45% (5 out of 11 departments answered)
3. Limpopo: 40% (4 out of 10 departments answered)
4. KwaZulu-Natal: 31% (4 out of 13 departments answered)
5. Free State: 18% (2 out of 11 departments answered)
6. North West: 18% (2 out of 11 departments answered)
7. Gauteng: 15% (2 out of 13 departments answered)
8. Northern Cape: 10% (1 out of 10 departments answered)
9. Eastern Cape: 0% (0 out of 12 departments answered)

## Police station phoning

The DA's research on how fast the South African Police Service (SAPS) answers its phones proves that Minister Cele doesn't care about the safety of South Africans.

Shockingly, **only 44% of the 270 SAPS stations** around SA that the DA phoned at the end of August answered their phones at all. Most worryingly, 40% of these 270 SAPS stations had faulty numbers or were not operable and the remaining 15% did not even answer their phones after 2 minutes of ringing. This means that desperate people in urgent need of their local police are being left to fend for themselves.'

Nine of the stations called appears on the **top 10 list for murder by station**. Six of them either did not answer their phones or did not have a working phone line (66.6%)

Nine of the stations called also appear on the **top 10 list for rape by station**. Six of them also either did not answer their phones or did not have a working phone line (66.6%)

SAPS is clearly broken and needs to be fixed. If SAPS members are not even able to answer the public's calls, how can it possibly effectively fight crime?

## Sassa phoning

The Democratic Alliance set out to call 212 local SASSA offices across the country, which is a 50% sample. SASSA serves the most vulnerable of our citizens and the DA wanted to test whether they answer their phones when called and whether they had a system that is online.

Shockingly, **only 4 out of the 212 local offices answered their phones**, while only 1 out of those 4 local offices, had a system that was online.

## Fruitless and Wasteful Expenditure

On **8 November** the DA revealed that at least **R1.4 billion** in fruitless and wasteful expenditure, incurred by Government departments and entities, has been carried over into the current financial year. The DA came to this conclusion by consolidating the sum of fruitless and wasteful expenditure in the annual reports of all departments and entities. Notably several entities and departments have not tabled their yearly reports in time (including National Treasury) and if they did, the above amount would likely be much higher.

### Some of the biggest offenders were:

<b>SABC</b>	-	R205 167 000.00
<b>Department of Correctional Services</b>	-	R157 220 000.00
<b>SA Post Office</b>	-	R131 553 000.00
<b>SASSA</b>	-	R87 624 123.00
<b>UIF</b>	-	R82 019 848.70
<b>Department of Basic Education</b>	-	R80 710 000.00





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# Debates in the NA

## Debates of urgent national importance:

The DA has successfully tabled two debates on matters of national public importance this year:

MEMBER	SUBJECT	DATE OF DEBATE
Leader of the Opposition	The impact of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine on the South African economy	15 March 2022
Mat Cuthbert	The impact of the theft and vandalism of public infrastructure	1 September 2022

On **15 March 2022** MPs debated **'The impact of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine on the South African economy. Democratic Alliance Leader, John Steenhuisen** led the debate.

*"The ANC does not speak for South Africa on this matter, and it certainly does not speak for the DA. The DA condemns Russia's illegal invasion in the strongest terms and stands firmly with the people of Ukraine".*

### - DA Leader, John Steenhuisen

*"Government must put South Africans first and that principle lies above loyalty"*

### - DA MP, Darren Bergman

*"It is the ANC, not South Africa, that unashamedly abstained from condemning Russia's actions at the United Nations' General Assembly".*

### - DA MP, Noko Masipa

On **5 May 2022** MPs debated **'The energy crisis and the threat of a protracted failure of Eskom'**.

*"If we are to address poverty and unemployment in South Africa, a reliable electricity supply is essential".*

### - DA MP, Kevin Mileham

*"The ANC is at the root of Eskom's failure. For the last decade and a half, we as a country have been talking about the failure of Eskom, about load-shedding, about the effect this has on the economy, and for a decade and a half, we have been hearing the same excuses".*

### - DA MP, Benedicta van Minnen

*"Eskom has been run into the ground. A state of disaster around Eskom must be declared and an independent commission of inquiry must be established to address the mess that the ANC has made of this key asset".*

### - DA MP, Ghaleb Cachalia

On the **15th of June 2022** **Leader of the Democratic Alliance, John Steenhuisen**, addressed Parliament during an urgent debate on the DA's demand for the ANC government to slash fuel prices, by cutting the 33% tax on fuel.

*"When the DA removes the ANC from national government in 2024, we'll slash the petrol price by R6 per litre. We'll slash it by cutting fuel taxes and deregulating the fuel market.*

*We'll slash it because we care about ordinary people, who are struggling to make ends meet".*

### - DA Leader, John Steenhuisen

On **01 September 2022** MPs debate the **'Economic impact of theft and vandalism of public infrastructure'**.

*"Our economy is being held hostage by criminal syndicates who have damaged, stripped, and stolen our public infrastructure."*

**- DA MP, Mat Cuthbert**

*"in the DA-run Cape Town, the metro police have a dedicated anti-cable theft and vandalism unit that can serve as a model for what ought to be rolled out by the SAPS."*

**- DA MP, Cilliers Brink**

*"The impact of infrastructure theft and vandalism by criminals and syndicated is a massive financial loss to the economy through impacting our electricity supply and our rail and freight operations"*

**- DA MP, Ghaleb Cachalia**

On **08 September 2022** MPs debated **'Persistent illegal mining activities and concomitant crimes'**.

*"Illegal mining costs South African gold mining companies tens of billions of rands every year. The amount of money involved means criminals can get big payoffs, sustain officials, mine employees, magistrates, prosecutors, and policemen to make it happen"*

**- DA MP, James Lorimer**

*"The inward focus and perpetual internal battles for the sake of self-preservation made them oblivious to the needs, the plight and the sentiment of local communities"*

**- DA MP, Janho Engelbrecht**

On **28 September 2022** **'The negative impact of heavy-duty trucks on the safety of commuters on the roads and the recent loss of lives'**

*"The DA has been lamenting about the dangers of heavy-duty trucks and other heavy duty vehicles like busses for years."*

**- DA MP, Thamsanqa Mabhena**

*"Current road safety measures are ineffective, and intervention is urgently required. Freight transit is currently the foundation of transporting goods in South Africa, and it is therefore in everyone's best interests to make sure it is as secure and optimised as feasible, while also pursuing the best multimode solution for the nation"*

**- DA MP, Chris Hunsinger**

## **Other debates:**

There were several other debates in the NA this year with the DA taking part and fighting for ordinary South Africans. Key moments include:

On **10 February 2022** President Ramaphosa delivered his **SONA speech**. The following week MP's debated the SONA speech, and the DA slammed the President for a lacklustre approach in solving the country's problems.

*"Parliament has failed to truly represent the people of South Africa. It has become a do nothing Parliament that serves as a place where inept and unsuitable Ministers and Heads of State could find refuge and not have to answer for their failures"*

**- DA MP, Siviwe Gwarube**

*“Poor education adds to unemployment crises and that a country that does not develop its youth has no future”.*

**- DA MP, Baxolile Nodada**

*“The President is stuck with moribund party committed to failed ideologies”.*

**- DA MP, Ashor Sarupen**

On **03 March 2022** MPs debated the **‘High Cost of Energy’**. On this day **DA MP Kevin Mileham** called for Cabinet to ‘go’.

*“South Africans are left punch-drunk by energy price hikes”.*

**- DA MP, Mat Cuthbert**

*“High energy costs hit the poor and unemployed the hardest”.*

**- DA MP, Dr Michael Cardo**

On **30 March 2022** MPs debated a **‘Motion of no confidence in the President and the Cabinet’**.

*“People are sick and tired of an ANC government that always places them last, that more and more people are subjected to violence and unspeakable crimes, while Ministers are protected by VIP security that cost taxpayers millions”.*

**- DA MP, Natasha Mazzone**

*“The MONC presented an opportunity for Parliament to put South Africa first by voting to bring in capable Ministers, who will work hard to pull South Africans out of poverty, and who will be unapologetic about choosing policies that will grow our economy and create jobs.*

**- DA MP, Siviwe Gwarube**

On **3 May 2022** MPs had a debate on Freedom Day.

*“The true barometer of freedom is how this government tackles the unemployment and poverty crisis, and that South Africans need to be freed from government sponsored poverty and a life of indignity”.*

**- DA MP, Siviwe Gwarube**

*“The ANC does not care for South Africans and the only way to rid our government from the ANC’s increasing appetite for self-enrichment is to get rid of the ANC in government itself.*

**- DA MP, Jacques Julius**

*“The ANC scapegoats our Constitution for its catastrophic failings to create a truly free and open society”.*

**- DA MP, Dr Leon Schreiber**

On **01 September 2022** MPs debate the **‘Economic impact of theft and vandalism of public infrastructure’**.

*“Our economy is being held hostage by criminal syndicates who have damaged, stripped, and stolen our public infrastructure.”*

**- DA MP, Mat Cuthbert**

*“in the DA-run Cape Town, the metro police have a dedicated anti-cable theft and vandalism unit that can serve as a model for what ought to be rolled out by the SAPS.”*

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**- DA MP, Siviwe Gwarube**

## **Mini plenaries:**

### **Mini Plenary (Just Energy Transition) on 10 November 2022**

*“If South Africa is to truly address the energy and electricity needs of this country, then we need to accelerate the building of new generation capacity. We must accept that ESKOM cannot do this, and we must look to independent power producers to invest, build, and operate this generation.*

**- DA MP, Kevin Mileham**

*“A funded transition to green energy is a golden opportunity for our people and our country.”*

**- DA MP, Cheryl Phillips**

*“South Africa’s just transition should be a transition from an electricity-poor to an electricity-abundant society”.*

**- DA MP, Ghaleb Cachalia**

### **Mini Plenary (The state of coalitions in local government) on 10 November 2022**

*“Coalition governments are here to stay; whether the governing party is willing to accept this or not.”*

**- DA MP, Siviwe Gwarube**

*“All the problems that constitutional negotiators foresaw in 1993 and 1996, unstable coalition governments were not one of them.”*

**- DA MP, Cilliers Brink**

*“The DA remains faithful to working with parties who share values to form coalitions that deliver services to all residents.”*

**- DA MP, Solly Malatsi**

### **During the Mini Plenary (Building a culture of accountability and responsibility) on 10 November 2022**

*“A culture of accountability is yet a far-off dream that will require a very different parliament before it is accomplished.*

**- DA MP, Alf Lees,**

*“A lack of competence and capacity due to a lack of skills, qualifications and innovation contributes to the failure of governance.*

**- DA MP, Eleanore Bouw-Spies**

*“A longstanding and very big gap in the system is the lack of a Portfolio Committee on the Presidency”*

**- DA MP, Zakhele ‘Zak’ Mbhele**

### **During the Mini Plenary (Prevalence of corruption, poor management and incompetence in public healthcare ) on 10 November 2022**

*“in their infinite wisdom, the ANC government decided that expertise would always play second fiddle to cadre deployment”.*

**- DA MP, Michele Clarke**

*“Health is a fundamental human right, guaranteed by the Constitution, and is indispensable for the exercise of other human rights. Unfortunately, the country’s health services have been severely hampered by incompetence and irregularities. To add insult to injury, South Africa has failed to protect the men and women who bravely expose these irregularities and corruption at great risk to themselves.*

**- DA MP, Haseena Ismail**

*“The NHI is not the answer. Millions have been wasted on a Bill not yet passed.*

**- DA MP, Lindy Wilson**

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# Committees

A close-up photograph of a green correctional services badge. The badge is shield-shaped with a gold border and features a central emblem of a sun with wings. The text 'CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' is printed in gold at the top, and 'CORRECTIONAL OFFICER GRADE III' is printed in gold at the bottom. The badge is attached to a green fabric strap.

CORRECTIONAL  
SERVICES

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER  
GRADE III

## Busiest portfolio committees

Committee	Number of Meetings
Justice and Correctional Services	64
Finance Standing Committee	55
Trade, Industry and Competition	48
Higher Education, Science and Innovation	46
Committee on Section 194 Enquiry	44

## Least busy portfolio committees

Committee	Number of Meetings
Public Enterprises	22
International Relations	25
Employment and Labour	25
Defence and Military Veterans	25
Tourism	25

## Lowest attendance

Committee	Attendance Rate	DA Attendance Rate
Tourism	62%	82%
Defence and Military Veterans	62%	86%
Employment and Labour	62%	85.3%
International Relations	62%	85.3%
Public Enterprises	64%	87.9%





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# Motions and Member's Statements

At the beginning of the Sixth Parliament, the number and sequence of motions was determined at 23, and number and sequence of Members' Statements was determined at 17 for the duration of the Sixth Parliament by the NA Rules Committee, with the DA having 3 opportunities each for Motions without Notice and Notices of Motions, and 3 opportunities for Members' Statements whenever they are scheduled.

Members had **11 opportunities** to raise motions in the National Assembly in the Fourth Session of the Sixth Parliament. This means that **the DA has read out 33 Motions without Notice and 33 Notices of Motions**, driving issues affecting South Africans.

Members also had **10 opportunities** to raise Members' Statements in the National Assembly in the Fourth Session of the Sixth Parliament. This means that **the DA has read out 30 Members' Statements on a wide range of topics that needed to be brought to the attention on the relevant Ministers**.



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# DA in the NCOP

## Written Questions

In **February**, **George Michalakis** asked the **Minister of Defence** whether her department should not be finding was to curb irresponsible expenditure such as R75 million on advertising and **R700 million on contracted maintenance**, municipal services and cleaning services and security. The Minister defending her department's expenditure by stating that R75 million on advertising is hardly irresponsible but not justifying the R700 million. This is concerning given the state of the SANDF fleet particularly when we send troops on defence operations.

In **June**, **Michalakis**, asked the **Minister of Transport** the amount **spent on tyres and batteries** over the past two years in the Free State. The DA was shocked by the response, indicating that **R1.9 million** was spent on 134 car batteries, while **R12 million** was spent on 1814 tyres. This amounting to R14 716 per battery and R6 600 per tyre over the past two years, this procurement is fraught with concern as the average price of a NP300 Nissan bakkie battery, which is the bakkie being used by SAPS ranges from R1500 to R2000 each per battery.

In **August Sonja Boshoff's** question made waves. The DA in the NCOP were shocked to hear that **eight local municipalities in Mpumalanga passed unfunded budgets**. This was in a response to a question by Sonja Boshoff, which translates to a municipality not having enough money to meet expenditures, essentially being unable to bankroll service delivery. What is shocking is that six of these eight councils have passed unfunded budgets for the last five years. This practise is not allowed according to Section 18 of the Local Government Municipal Finance Management Act, but this continues unabated as indicated by the response.

In **August** it was revealed by the Minister of COGTA that there are **224 municipal councillors** serving in 17 local municipalities and three district municipalities who are in **arrears with rates and taxes in Mpumalanga**. This comes in the light of the withdrawal of amendments to the ministerial handbook after pressure by the DA and the subsequent public outcry that followed. But as this information reveals, it is not only ministers that are getting away with not paying for services.

## Highlights from NCOP plenaries:

On the **16th of March** the NCOP held an oral question session with the **Deputy President (DP)**, **Cathlene Labuschagne** (DA NCOP Leader) asked the DP whether the President supports the Minister of DIRCO to call on **Russia** to withdraw its troops from Ukraine and respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. And in her follow up question, why we are sacrificing our economy for ANC alliances. To which the DP responded by stating that diplomacy is the key tool to end war and to achieve peace, justifying the fact that South Africa is not condemning Russia, particularly when it comes to UN resolutions. The DP as usual was very sly in his responses, not giving away too much but at the same time, not giving enough meaningful insights.

On the **12th of May**, in a follow up question by **Beyers Smit** on Ms TC Modise question, on how both the Zondo Report and Eskom Board member Busisiwe Mavuso laid the blame for the mess at Medupi and Kusile power stations at the feet of the ANC, and that the ANC's policy of cadre deployment is directly responsible for the issues at the two power stations. The Deputy President stating that putting the blame on the ANC government or the Eskom board will not solve the problems we face. Stating that this is not running away from the responsibility but merely that putting the blame on the ANC government does not solve the problem and that a board has been responsible particularly on the costs revolving around Medupi and Kusile, which according to the DP are the design problems of the engineers and CEO of Eskom. The DP therefore says putting the blame somewhere won't fix the problems and then he puts the blame somewhere.

The DA in the NCOP **sponsored a debate on Land Reform** under the theme: Complete ownership/title deeds to land reform beneficiaries as well as ownership to those living on trust land within communal areas on the **10th of November**. This is a major theme within the DA and an issue that is being driven hard by the DA in both houses of parliament. The debate was marred by the fact that there was no member of the executive participating in the debate, which shows the governing parties disdain towards this issue (having a member of the executive is a standard

practice in NCOP debates). All four our members who participated (**Roy Jankielsohn, Willie Aucamp, Mbulelo Bara and Jaco Londt**) touched on key issues the DA is driving under this theme, but one common issue being driven was the fact that there has to be choice. Citizens must have the choice to choose a title deed if they want one.

## **How the DA in the NCOP made an impact**

On the **20th of May Tim Brauteseth** released a press statement on the **cancellation of SANRAL contracts worth R17 billion**. These contracts worth billions have been scraped due to material irregularities in the tender process. The cancellation will not only have an impact on the designated areas such as the Mntentu River Bridge or EB Cloete interchange in Durban but also on the construction industry, as these have now become a lost opportunity. A lost opportunity not only for local companies but also for international partners, as they will now view any project in SA with great skepticism. One has to wonder what material irregularities were discovered at the 11th hour and why this was not detected in the bid evaluation and adjudication process and what resolution of the SANRAL board was not complied with.

On the **14th of September** Tim Brauteseth released a press statement on the Department of **Public Works spending almost R1.5 billion on consultants over the period of three financial years**. This astronomical number is a clear indication of the lack of depth in qualified personnel at the department to handle the workload and delivery of services. With the response to a PQ indicating that the excessive use of consultants is due to “the lack of sufficient capacity”. The issue consultants bring is that of significant time delays due to the procurement process, this is evident by the fact that 10 months after the fire that gutted the National Assembly building of Parliament, no work has been done on the site. The minister should focus on building capacity within her department and not delaying projects while private consultants compete for their space through laborious procurement procedures.

In an episode of Carte Blanche, aired on the **19th of June George Michalakis spoke with Carte Blanche** regarding the **abysmal state of roads in the Free State**, the interview was filmed on a road that has been blocked off for being too dangerous with sand. The section focused on the pure lack of political will to uphold the roads within the Free State, with this segment focusing on the R30 and the subsequent back road farmers and mines had to use when this road became too dangerous to use. George Michalakis provided some political guidance as to what is happening in the Free State Road authorities with their top-heavy funding, where office employees are receiving massive salaries but there is no one being employed on the ground to do the actual work.

On the **18th of October** Michalakis released a press statement exposing how **President Cyril Ramaphosa uses the Air Force as an ANC taxi service**. The President landed in Welkom in the Free State using a South African National Defence Force (SANDF) Oryx helicopter. His visit was to participate in the ANC's Letsema campaign and engage with local ANC branches. It is of grave concern that the SANDF, a supposedly impartial organization, is involved in politicking. The ANC has repeatedly shown its disregard for the separation of party and State; therefore, the DA wrote to the public protector to report misuse of State resources by the President for party political purposes.

On the **11th of May 2022**, Michalakis released a press statement revolving **around Minister Dlamini-Zuma and the capital**. This stems back to a written parliamentary question posed to the minister two years prior, where the minister **could not indicate the capital city of South Africa**. The response two years later was Pretoria, which is correct, however, theoretically, South Africa has two other capital cities – Cape Town as the legislative capital and Bloemfontein as the judicial capital but one out of three is a pass in the education system under the ANC.

## Ministerial briefings:

The NCOP decided to hold Ministerial Briefings since the pandemic to try and “reinvigorate its oversight role over the executive”. The aim is to provide more information in addition to committees. **Eight Ministerial Briefings** were held where the Ministers and MEC’s come to present to members on the topic of the day. Members are then able to ask questions after the presentations, this does not follow the usual procedure of oral questions.

- 22 February 2022 - National Crime Prevention Strategy: “Progress in addressing crime and building a coordinated approach to crime prevention and control” intergovernmental”
- 8 March 2022 - Human Settlements: “Progress in creating integrated and sustainable human settlements”
- 15 March 2022 - Water and Sanitation: “Progress in eradicating the gaps in the provision of water and sanitation”
- 11 August 2022 - Illegal Mining: “Zama Zama’s - Finding measures to wage a concerted battle against illegal mining”
- 30 August 2022 - Fiscal Leakages: “Measures to mitigate against fiscal leakages and their impact on service delivery”
- 7 October 2022 - The scale and impact of the destruction, theft and vandalism of public property and community facilities: “measures to protect public infrastructure and community facilities from destruction, vandalism and theft”.
- 1 November 2022 - The Resourcing of the Police Service and Police Stations: “Progress in the resourcing of the police service and police stations to wage a concerted battle against crime and criminality”
- 8 November 2022 - The Township Economy: “Measures to unlock the full potential of the township economy and industries”

## NCOP Activities

### Local Government Week

From the 13-15 September 2022 the NCOP held a Local Government Week (LGW), with more than of 250 representatives from all 3 spheres of government present. The ‘week’ comprised of a lavish two day talk shop to enhance oversight and accountability in the local sphere of government, and then culminating in a debate on the above theme. These two days provided us with plenty of talk and little implementation, it was a local government week with no oversight visit, no case study, no best practice examples shared by any of the top performing municipalities but instead sitting in a hotel in Cape Town at an exorbitant expense to the taxpayers. One DA NCOP debate speaker initiated his own on the ground, first-hand accounts, instead of working on theoretical solutions. When one analyzes the recommendation of the report, and those of previous years there has been little effort to follow through on any of them resulting in little to no implementation. This event comes at a huge expense to taxpayers of South Africa and lacks a clear plan, impactful outcomes and concrete decisions are not evident.

### Intergovernmental & Cooperative Governance

Within the ambit of our three sphere governmental system, intergovernmental and cooperative governance is two fundamental themes. However, we have seen how shambolic this cooperation is, it was evident in KZN when the April floods struck, and the disconnect between provincial and national government was on show for everyone to see. In the NCOP this disconnect is all too evident as well, and it revolves around Section 139 interventions. The NCOP being the only house that deals with interventions at Parliament, there are processes in place to effectively deal with interventions whether they be section 139 interventions for Local Municipalities and

section 100 for Provinces. However, when interventions, particularly section 139 interventions are implemented, majority are based on political interference instead of ensuring and supporting local governments to become capable and effective governments in delivering services to all citizens.

## **Provincial week & TPTTP**

The disconnect between the three spheres of government was on display at the provincial week which took place on the 29th of March – 1st of April 2022, where Premiers, MEC's, Mayors and councilors were already committed in many instances due to poor planning on the NCOP behalf due to a delayed planning process. The Provincial Week gave us a snapshot of the state of provinces in a very diluted way when the delegation in the North West were taken to a renewable energy project on Patrice Motsepe's farm, instead of dealing with the real issues in the North West, particularly interventions. The Western Cape focused on housing as its theme, the delegation visited the Conradie Park Project, which showed the result of a strong political will to deal with the real issues at hand as this project is a great example of mixed use and mixed income maximizing use of state land.

At Taking Parliament to the People (TPTTP) which was held on the 14-18 November 2022 in the Ugu District Municipality; the delegation heard on a daily basis from the members of the community about the water shortages that they face and have been facing for years. However, they have merely fallen on deaf ears as the Ugu district has experienced these water problems for seven years now. At the culminating debate of TPTTP, there were more promises made to address the issues raised by residents but as we have seen, a lack of political will result in no implementation and service delivery.

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