



Parliamentary Caucus

National Assembly

Budget Vote Debate on Human Settlements

Comrade A M Seabi ANC, (MP)

2 July 2025

Accelerating human settlements programmes to realise the ideals of the Freedom Charter of a democratic government guaranteeing housing, security and comfort for all South Africans...

Honourable Chairperson;

Honourable Minister Simelane

Honourable Deputy Minister Mahambehlala

Honourable Members;

We, the African National Congress, wish to declare at the outset that we support the Budget Vote for Human Settlements, as tabled by the honourable Minister Simelane. We believe that this budget will provide momentum for implementing human settlements programs, which are part of our ANC-led government's ongoing efforts to progressively achieve the ideals of the Freedom Charter, ensuring housing, security, and comfort for all South Africans.

We were gathered here just a week ago when the country celebrated the 70th anniversary of the 1955 Congress of the People, where the Freedom Charter was adopted, which became a summation of our people's aspirations for a democratic South Africa and, as a living document, continues to guide the democratic government's programs for creating a national democratic society that is non-racial, non-sexist, and prosperous, free of hunger and homelessness.

As the African National Congress, we are proud to say that it is in the human settlements sector that our government has an impressive record of fulfilling the Freedom Charter. Today, our democratic government has successfully provided close

to five million subsidised houses, which equals almost a third of households—that is, 29.9%—that reside in government-subsidized RDP houses in the country. There are few countries in the global south that have achieved such an impressive record.

Honourable Chairperson, our endorsement of the budget stems from its ongoing commitment to the development of high-quality, affordable, and climate-resilient housing units for those most in need in our country. In the medium-term development plan spending (2024-2029), the department, in collaboration with provinces and municipalities, aims to provide 237,000 fully subsidised Breaking New Ground housing units for those in need.

This year, R23.3 billion has been allocated through the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) and the Urban Settlements Development Grant (USDG), each receiving R14 149 943 and R9 249 964, respectively, for the implementation of this programme to ensure housing, security, and comfort. It is through this allocation that the ANC-led government will continue to implement housing programmes that are in line with the objectives set out in the Freedom Charter that dismantles apartheid spatial planning and creates integrated, sustainable, and spatially just human settlements, which are connected to the country's transport system with proper infrastructure, which includes social, recreational and educational facilities.

The ANC, which represents the hope of our people, remains dedicated to expanding the constitutional right to access adequate housing to include the millions of our working masses who are continuously denied access to adequate housing by the exclusionary policies of the property market. Only the ANC-led government has taken steps to broaden access to affordable social and rental housing through the implementation of the Rental and Social Housing Programme.

The Rental and Social Housing Programme has been allocated R967 975 million to promote the provision of affordable rental housing for the working class and the missing middle to alleviate the burden of the rising cost of living, especially in such cities like Cape Town, where the private rental accommodation is too expensive for our people, thereby pushing them away from the central business district to the outskirts of the urban centre.

Honourable Chairperson, we are pleased that the Social Housing Regulatory Authority (SHRA) aims to deliver 3,000 social housing units as part of the commitment to provide

15,000 social housing units by the conclusion of this 7th administration, while also ensuring that 2,793 social housing units are occupied in this financial year. The basis of the ANC's support for the budget relies on its commitment to progressively transform the apartheid males-only hostel into community residential units that accommodate families as per the Freedom Charter, which states that laws and policies that break up families must be repealed.

We, the African National Congress, proudly acknowledge that, in the past thirty years, a substantial Black middle class has been established, estimated at 3.4 million individuals, representing 7% of South Africa's Black African population. Because the property market is changing slowly and still leaves Black people out of the housing sector, our ANC-led government has taken action by introducing the First Home Finance (formerly FLISP) to help the missing Black middle class find housing, as part of its effort to improve access to housing and meet the promises of housing, security, and comfort made in the Freedom Charter.

The department has set aside R559,665 million for the Affordable Housing Programme, which facilitates affordable housing finance managed by provincial departments and the National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC). This program is expected to benefit 4,742 households during this financial year, with R501,921,440 allocated for its implementation.

Honourable Chairperson, President Ramaphosa declared in his 2020 State of the Nation Address that his administration would establish a new smart city in Gauteng's Lanseria area within this decade. This initiative aims to create urban centres grounded in the democratic principles of nonracialism, nonsexism, and egalitarianism, utilising environmentally sustainable technologies from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As the ANC, we wish to urge stakeholders involved in the development of the Lanseria new smart city to accelerate project implementation, acknowledging the progress made in building basic infrastructure, particularly the commencement with the R320 million water treatment plant late last year. It is essential for this Portfolio Committee to get a briefing from the department and the Gauteng province about further advances in the implementation of this significant project in our country.

The ANC endorses this budget as it aims to restore the dignity of rural inhabitants by eradicating a minimum of 8,047 uninhabitable mud structures during this financial year in the Eastern Cape, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, North West, and Limpopo Provinces. Also, in this financial year, the department will establish a Framework for the Eradication of Asbestos Roofs to assist provinces in executing this crucial initiative as part of government efforts to foster habitable homes and communities.

Honourable Members, public entities play an important role as implementing agents of some of the Department of Human Settlements housing programmes, and we are pleased with the completion of appointed Board and Council members, which was conducted in an open and transparent manner. We wish to congratulate Minister Simelane for overseeing this process of appointing new members to housing entities and councils.

We know that the opposition will try to distract the Minister in her work by putting forward allegations that have not been tested in the courts of law, and we of the ANC support the Minister due to her strong work ethic; she is dedicated, diligent, and consistently ready to assist not only this Portfolio Committee but has also demonstrated her efforts to realise housing, security, and comfort for the victims of the recent flood disaster in Mtatha in the Eastern Cape province.

Once again, the ANC support the budget vote as tabled.

I thank you.