



DEBATE ON THE SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL BY HONOURABLE MEMBER NONCEBA
GCALEKA-MAZIIBUKO AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENT, ON 21 APRIL 2026,
CAPE TOWN

ACCELERATING ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND STRENGTHENING NETWORK INDUSTRIES TO INCREASE
THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE ECONOMY THROUGH INCREASED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

HONOURABLE SPEAKER, AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS,
SANIBONANI

During the Opening of Parliament in 1999, uTata Mandela said:

"South Africa did not experience what others did because we have credible and sustainable fiscal and monetary policies combining discipline and flexibility. Despite the difficulties that we have experienced, deriving from the global economy, we have resolved that we shall not cut the social spending required to build a better life for all, including the Poverty Relief Programme that now runs into billions of rands."

MADAM CHAIR,

Ngathi we have forgotten, who we are!



We are South Africans.

Singabantu bokuqala.

Singabantu abakhathalelayo.

uMgcini wabazalwana, umgcini woodade is who we are!

It is for this reason, we collectively agreed that the Special appropriation supports Operation Vulindlela programme, so that we can test our ideas and make the necessary trade-off to better the lives of ordinary South Africans.

We agreed that an important transport sector is commuter rail. It is the most affordable source of transport for working-class workers, and over the past years we have increased the number of function rail routes, and PRASA is currently implementing a General Overhaul Strategy to Extend the useful life of key components by 10–15 years. Our strategic efforts led by the People's movement, have maintained commuter services during the multi-year rolling stock ramp-up, and enable safe transition from old to new stock without service collapse. This is the modernisation of the rolling stock fleet (Isitimela Sabantu).



The trains are manufactured by majority young and female South Africans, in Dunnottar, Nigel, South Africa, at the Gibela Manufacturing plant. Namhlanje, we see new fleet deployed in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape. The current plan targets 600 new Electrical Multiple Units, with more than 300 received to date.

The Special Appropriation Bill allocates 5.7 billion to fulfil commitments with Gibela to ensure the rolling stock programme is on track. Tina as the ANC in Parliament will continue to play our oversight role of ensuring that PRASA manages allocated funds in an optimal manner. We shall monitor the conditions set by the Minister of Finance, and the ANC will continue to support the National Treasury in linking allocation with performance and compliance conditions, which are linked to the realisation of intended outcomes of spending. In the year of delivery, let us celebrate the doubling have doubled from 39 million to 77 million passengers over the past year. The agency expects to exceed 100 million passenger trips by the end of the financial year. These are not just numbers but a significant improvement from the sixth administration.

The Special Appropriation Bill allocates funds for the iron ore corridor and the North Corridor Reinstatement, which will restore the functionality and efficiency of the routes. Support for Transnet infrastructure at R8.3 billion is part of the backbone of the functioning of our economy, and the ANC supports the allocation.



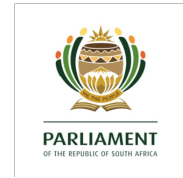
PHAKAMA SOUTH AFRICA, PHAKAMA!

We are in a period of digital transformation, some of us may be called before technology. That is fine, I am one of them. Nonetheless we are all certain that technology has transformed our lives and asiyi kubuya umva.

Sentech is a critical digital infrastructure state entity that supports our signal distribution. Measures to support Sentech are welcomed to improve their operations, and we call on the Minister to also focus on providing support for SABC to serve its public mandate while adapting to the changing creative sector.

The special appropriation is about allocating funds to support areas already prioritised by the government for the period ending 2025 and 2026. The ANC fully supports the special appropriation as a result of improving budget conditions, which required spending on prioritised areas.

PHAKAMA SOUTH AFRICA, PHAKAMA!



uTata has spoken and I shall this house of his words he said in this house in 1999:

"The foundation has been laid - the building is in progress. With a new generation of leaders and a people that rolls up its sleeves in partnerships for change, we can and shall build the country of our dreams!"

PHAKAMA SOUTH AFRICA, PHAKAMA!

AMANDLA!