



**MINISTRY**  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**BUDGET VOTE 1: THE PRESIDENCY**  
**Debate in Support**  
*National Assembly*  
*2 June 2026*

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**Honorable Speaker,**

**The commander in Chief of the Armed forces of the republic of South Africa, Honorable President Cyril Ramaphosa**

**Honorable Deputy President, Paul Mashatile**

**Ministers and Deputy Ministers**

**Honorable Members of this esteemed House,**

**Fellow South Africans,**

I rise today to speak in support of Budget Vote 1 of the Presidency with conviction, with purpose, and with a deep sense of responsibility to the millions of South Africans whose lives are shaped by every rand allocated and every decision made from the Union Buildings. Today, we gather not just as representatives of our respective constituencies, but as stewards of a vision that has guided our nation for three decades. In this debate we must reaffirm our commitment to vision, which aims at improving the quality of life for all citizens and freeing the potential of everyone.

This is not simply a financial debate. This is a debate about whether the government is delivering on the promise made to our people not just in words, but in deeds. It is a debate about whether we are honoring the sacred compact that binds the State to its citizens.

Honorable Members, this year marks 30 years of our Constitution — that is not merely a document, but a living expression of our collective hope and dreams, rooted in transformative aspirations of the freedom charter. Arguably, it is one of the most progressive and transformative founding documents in the world. Our Constitution was born out of the vision of the Freedom Charter which solemnly declares that housing, security, and comfort shall be the birthright of every South African, regardless of race, gender, or geography. The constitution is our most powerful tool for change. It is an instrument designed to ensure that every person in our nation has access to housing, security, and comfort.

Budget Vote 1 affirms the Presidency's commitment to leading a State that lives by its Constitutional obligations, and we support it unreservedly.

Honorable Speaker, a people cannot build their future without water, without shelter, and without access to opportunity. The Presidency has committed to advancing an integrated and sustainable human settlements policy, one that ensures universal access to basic services and economic inclusion. We stand firmly in support of this direction.

Water is life, and for too many communities, that life remains uncertain. We therefore welcome the urgency reflected in this budget, together with the Presidency's direct interventions and hands-on approach to strengthen ailing municipalities, restore failing infrastructure, and secure reliable access to water for all.

Honorable Members

Investing in ECD is not optional spending, it is economic policy.

As President Ramaphosa said in the 2026 State of the Nation Address, that “Our focus now is on establishing a firm foundation for learning in the early years of a child’s life, for it is one of the most powerful levers. We have to unlock the potential of our nation”. Close Quote.

Quality early childhood programmes increase school completion, employability, and long-term productivity. **Similarly** to the (NHI)National Health Insurance, **despite** ongoing contestation, functions as normative foundation of a state that affirms health equity for its most disadvantaged citizens. Although debated, anchors the principle that every citizen’s health, especially the poorest, carries equal weight in a just health system.

All of this requires infrastructure, roads, sanitation, energy connectivity to name but a few. We support this budget vote’s commitment to building that foundation.

Honourable Members,

Freedom finds its fullest expression in dignity. We therefore continue to invest in dignified housing, the upgrading of informal settlements, and support for military veterans who helped secure our democracy. Every home delivered, every title deed issued, and every settlement upgraded brings us closer to the constitutional promise of a South Africa that belongs to all who live in it. Yet the journey is not complete, and the pace of delivery continues to accelerate. More needs to be done.

Honorable Speaker, the storms of KwaZulu-Natal, the floods that displaced thousands in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo, the wildfires in the Western Cape, these are not distant threats. They are present realities. Climate change does not discriminate, but it hits hardest those who have the least resources to recover.

Through the Emergency Housing programme, the government continues to provide temporary accommodation, relocation support, and the restoration of damaged structures, going beyond emergency response to address the root of vulnerability. But our ambition must be greater still. Our responsibility is to build climate-resilient human settlements capable of withstanding future disasters and protecting the dignity of our people.

Honorable President, this is precisely where Innovative Building Technologies

(IBT) become not just relevant, but essential. The Department of Human Settlements is embracing faster, safer, and more sustainable methods of construction. The recent IBT Presidential Summit confirmed a watershed moment, these technologies are no longer experimental alternatives. They are a necessary and permanent component of modern housing delivery.

Our government is now institutionalising IBTs, within the mainstream human settlements programme to accelerate delivery, strengthen disaster response capability, support localisation, and critically to create economic opportunities for women, youth, and emerging enterprises. This is transformation and infrastructure development working as one.

The proof of this concept is not theoretical. It is documented. In Limpopo, two IBT houses withstood severe disaster conditions that destroyed the surrounding structures standing firm while others fell, providing safety

and protection to the families sheltered within them. That is not a pilot project. That is proof of purpose. And this House should take note.

Honorable President

We are encouraged by the tangible progress being made in KwaZulu-Natal under the stewardship of MEC Sboniso Duma. Following the commitment by all three spheres of government to provide permanent solutions for victims of the devastating 2022 floods, progress is now being realised not in promises, but in keys handed over to qualifying beneficiaries.

A few weeks ago, we witnessed the relocation of 113 households from Transitional Emergency Accommodation into permanent homes in Cornubia. These are families who endured years of hardship and uncertainty following the 2022 floods. Today, they have a place to call home. Plans are further underway, to complete an additional 450 houses in Cornubia by March 2027. We applaud this progress and urge that momentum be maintained.

To further reduce over-reliance on the private sector in disaster response, the department through the Housing Development Agency (HDA) has acquired the Transnet - owned Montclair Lodge facility. Its refurbishment and operationalisation will provide dignified emergency accommodation while strengthening the province's preparedness in the face of increasingly unpredictable weather patterns. This is the kind of proactive, state-led innovation this moment demands.

As we commend KwaZulu-Natal's response, we say clearly and without hesitation to the Western Cape Provincial Government: follow suit. Recent flood victims in the Western Cape deserve the same urgency, the same commitment, and the same permanent shelter. The people of the

Western Cape are not second-class citizens and must not be treated as such.

Honorable Speaker

Land reform remains equally important. It needs ongoing political commitment and leadership. Recent interventions through the upgrading of Land Tenure programme, Land distribution and Restoration programme have extended ownership, security and opportunity to thousands of South Africans. Section 25 of the Constitution is a mandatory directive for the State to redress past dispossession and inequality, not just an ideal. The executive commitment is essential for meaningful land reform in South Africa. Yet we must recognise that the struggle for land, ownership, and economic justice is inseparable from the struggle for women's emancipation.

Thomas Sankara articulated this truth powerfully when he said: I QUOTE "The revolution and women's liberation go together. We do not talk of women's emancipation as an act of charity or out of surge of human compassion. It is a necessary for the revolution to triumph. Women hold up the other half of the sky"Close QUOTE

Honourable members,

Few days ago, the President launched three land reform programs directly in communities awaiting justice.

The Gaesegwe Communal Property Association (CPA) which has four thousand and ninety-six beneficiaries, (4096)of whom One thousand two hundred and fifty-seven (1257)are **WOMEN HEADED** households received 12 title deeds covering four thousand one hundred and

eighty(4187) hectares, with over R20 Million in post settlement support, including 300 cattle and farming machinery.

The Barolong Boo Rapulana CPA received three title deeds covering four hundred and eleven hectares as part of the process that has restored twenty-six thousand and sixty-seven (26066) hectares at a total settlement walled of R312 Million with R40 Million development programme underway.

The Barolong Boo Seitshiro CPA received eleven title deeds covering two thousand nine hundred and fifty-three (2953)hectors with R7,75 million approved development grants to follow.

### **That is the Freedom Charter delivered.**

Honourable speaker

Every title deed handed to a woman headed household, every parcel of land restored and transferred into the hands of a mother raising children advances not only social justice, but the broader transformation of society.

Providing title deeds remains essential for spatial justice and economic empowerment; through the Title Deeds Friday Campaign, over 81,000 title deeds have been distributed nationwide.

Today, there's more than eighty-one thousand families who hold security, ownership, dignity, and generational wealth in their hands.

### **That is the Constitution made tangible.**

In Setlagole and Madibogo, 368 title deeds were given to households on land they previously didn't own. Once complete, about 2,594 RDP beneficiaries will have registered freehold titles covering 1,539 erven in

Setlagole and 1,051 in Madibogo. These parcels include residential, business, institutional, and government sites, ensuring legal recognition for the whole community.

Honorable Speaker

We support budget vote 1 — because we believe in a South Africa where every child has clean water, every family has a roof with a title deed attached, every city dismantles the geography of exclusion, and every citizen from the Cape Flats to the hillsides of Limpopo can say: This government works for me.

***At Africa Water Investment Summit in 2025, President Cyril Matamela Ramaphosa captured the essence of our democratic mission when he said: (I quote)***

***“ Let us leave no one behind”***