

WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2009

***PROCEEDINGS OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE PROVINCE OF THE
EASTERN CAPE***

The House met at 10:00.

The Serjeant-at-Arms announced the Chairperson, the Honourable Mr Justice Somyalo, who was received by members standing.

**CALLING OF MEETING OF LEGISLATURE
OF THE PROVINCE OF THE
EASTERN CAPE**

The Secretary read out the following notice:

**NOTICE OF FIRST SITTING OF THE FOURTH PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE IN TERMS OF SECTION 110
OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Kindly take notice that I, Cecil Mpho Somyalo, Judge President of the High Court, Eastern Cape Division, have been designated by the Chief Justice to determine the time and date of the first sitting after the election of 22 April 2009 of the Legislature of the Province of the Eastern Cape in terms of section 110 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996.

Further take notice that I have determined the first sitting of the Legislature of the Province of the Eastern Cape after the election to be at Bhisho on 6 May 2009 at 10:00.

C M SOMYALO

Judge-President, High Court, Eastern Cape Division, Grahamstown

OATH OR SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

The following members made and subscribed the oath or solemn affirmation before the Chairperson and took their seats:

Abraham-Ntantiso, P N; Bam, T S; Barry, G C; Bici, J; Boya, N; Cupido, J C; Dimaza, M M; Dunywa, T P; Fihlani, K C; Galo, M P; Gqiba, N; Gqobana, S H; Haddon, D B; Jamjam, N F; Jonas, M H; Kiviet, N; Komose, D N; Korkie, J P; Kuluta, N; Kwelita, N S; Mabandla, M N; Majodina, P C P; Makupula, M; Martin, C; Masualle, G P; Matomela, M M; Maxegwana, C H; Mhlathi, M M; Mnguni, P J; Moerane, N; Mpushe, P T; Mququ, P C; Mrara, M; Mtitshana, E N; Mtongana, V; Mtsi, S A; Mvana, N Q; Mvenya, V; Ndube, M M; Neer, D; Nkayi, P V;

Nkomonye, F; Nodada, M B; Nqata, X E; Ntenjwa, M W; Pakati, X A; Peter, M M; Pienaar, J; Pikinini, I A; Ponco, A N; Qikani, A D N; Qoboshiyane, M; Qwase, M D; Sogoni, M; Stevenson, R S; Thabaneng, Z; Tom, X S; Tunyiswa-Gqoboka, B; Van Vuuren, P E; Wana, T; Woodhall, A S; Xasa, F D; Xhanti, N T.

ELECTION OF PREMIER

The House proceeded to the election of one of its members as Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape.

There being only one nomination, the Chairperson declared Ms N Kiviet duly elected as Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape
[Applause.]

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The House proceeded to the election of one of its members as Speaker.

There being only one nomination, the Chairperson declared Mr F D Xasa duly elected as Speaker of the House.

[Applause.]

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY SPEAKER

The SPEAKER: Hon members, first I would like to humbly accept this unanimity in electing a Speaker and a Premier.

I would also like to thank the House for confirming the members.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

The House proceeded to the election of one of its members as Deputy Speaker.

There being only one nomination, Mr Speaker declared Ms N Moerane-Mamase duly elected as Deputy Speaker of the House.

[Applause.]

Mr SPEAKER: Congratulations, Cde Neo Moerane-Mamase.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF COMMITTEES

The House proceeded to the election of one of its members as Chairperson of Committees.

There being only one nomination, Mr Speaker declared Mr S A Mtsi duly elected as Chairperson of Committees.

Mr SPEAKER: Congratulations, hon Mtsi.

[Applause.]

**ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
OF COMMITTEES**

The House proceeded to the election of one of its members as Deputy Chairperson of Committees.

There being only one nomination, Mr Speaker declared Ms P N Abraham-Ntantiso duly elected as Deputy Chairperson of Committees.

[Applause]

Mr Speaker called for nominations from each political party for Permanent Delegates to the National Council of Provinces.

**APPOINTMENT OF PERMANENT
DELEGATES TO NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF PROVINCES**

(Draft Resolution)

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, I move in terms of Rule 34(1) that the House appoint the following persons as Permanent Delegates of the Province of the Eastern Cape to the National Council of Provinces in accordance with sections 61 and 62 of the Constitution.: Mazosiwe, S; Qikani, AND; Nesi, B; Ranto, Z; Mlenzana Z and Van Lingen, E C.

Agreed to.

The SPEAKER: Therefore those people whose names have been read are Permanent Delegates of the Eastern Cape to the NCOP. I congratulate all of them.

[Applause.]

CONFERRAL OF AUTHORITY TO VOTE

(Draft Resolution)

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, I move in terms of Rule 34(1) that the House confer authority to vote in terms of section 65 of the Constitution on the Eastern Cape's delegation to the NCOP to vote in favor of Mr M J Mahlangu as Chairperson and Ms M D Ntwanambi as the Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces.

Agreed to.

OATH

Mr M Nyusile made and subscribed the oath/solemn affirmation before the Speaker and took his seat.

[Applause.]

Mr SPEAKER: I would like to congratulate the hon member Nyusile on his assumption of office. [Applause.]

STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL PARTIES

Mr M P GALO: Hon Speaker, our Premier hon Madam Noxolo Kiviet, hon members and hon guests, I am honoured and privileged to be one of the People's Assembly for good governance in the Provincial Legislature. First and foremost, I must thank the people of the Eastern Cape and the people of Matatiele in particular for voting for the African Independent Congress for the first time in the national and provincial elections. This demonstrates the fact that the AIC is preparing the people to take centre stage in governance and striving for a people-driven and people-centred government.

We will very soon be an alternative new political home for the poor masses of this country. [Interjections.] The AIC is the only political organisation formed by the poor masses of this country post-2004 as opposed to other political parties which were formed by parliamentarians at higher levels of influence. The AIC is the only voice of the voiceless, not only in the Eastern Cape, but in the country as a whole.

Having said that, hon Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to congratulate Madam Noxolo Kiviet on being elected by this House to be our Premier in this term of office. Representing the AIC in this Legislature I will work tirelessly as an agent of accountability to ensure that the vision of this Provincial Legislature as outlined in one of the policy documents is fulfilled. That will only happen if you as our Premier are treating us as equals, irrespective of political affiliations and only if we are working as a collective to advance the aspirations of the poor people of this province, to eradicate poverty as the worst enemy of humankind and to save the people – for example the people of Second Creek in East London - who are reduced to having to eat from the dumping site.

I once again congratulate you. God bless you. [Applause.]

Mr M M MHLATI: Hon Speaker, hon Judge-President of the Eastern Cape, hon members, our esteemed guests, it gives me pleasure to congratulate Ms Kiviet on her election as the Premier of this province. The UDM wishes the Premier a successful tenure as political head of the

Eastern Cape government. The UDM does not doubt your commitment and dedication to duty, as has been reflected during your time as leader of this Legislature. The UDM appeals to the ruling party to rally behind you and support you wholeheartedly in improving good governance in this province.

The two centres of power are an enemy to stability and service delivery. [Interjections.] [Applause.] The UDM would like to pledge its full support in your endeavors to turn around the rampant mismanagement crippling this Provincial Government. It is hoped that the ruling party will deploy to the Executive women and men who have capacity to add value to the daunting task of changing the image of this administration for the better. This is not pay-back time. [Laughter.] This is the time to place people to key positions based on competency and capacity. [Applause.]

People who have failed in running municipalities cannot be promoted to run departments. That would be a clear indication of lack of commitment where people who have delivered potholes in our town are promoted to create havoc in our department. [Applause.]

Mr R S STEVENSON: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, Chief Justice, hon members, hon guests, fellow democrats, on behalf of the DA we would like to congratulate the hon Premier and the hon Speaker and other office bearers on their election.

Hon Premier, you are a straight talker. Last night in your speech you showed your common touch. However, you are also a good listener and as Speaker you were impartial and showed fairness to all parties. These are qualities that stand you in good stead. [Applause.]

We are now witnessing a changing of office bearers and there are two quotes that come to mind in relation to change. The first one by Joan Wallach Scott reads as follows:

Those who expect moments of change to be comfortable and free of conflict have not learned their history.

We hope from our side in the opposition that the conflict that there was in the ANC has come to an end so that service delivery can be a lot smoother. [Interjections.]

There is a second quote by Pauline R Kezer which states:

Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches; letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.

The people of this province want governance to reach new heights when it comes to creating opportunity for all our people. The people of this province are hungry for change, and if we are to bring about that change

one has to deal firmly with the corrupt, incompetent and lazy civil servants who sabotage service delivery in our province. Service to the people must come before self service.

The DA believes, Madam Premier, that you need to take bold steps to deal with these people, otherwise nothing will change. The expression “the more things change the more they stay the same” must not poison the future of this province. The right people need to be employed in the right jobs. There needs to be fitness for jobs.

Secondly, the DA believes that the incoming Legislature must be unashamed and unafraid in flexing its muscles. It needs to exercise its oversight powers to the fullest. This province cannot afford to have sweetheart oversight if we are to correct the many problems that we have. There also needs to be a clearer distinction between the role of the Legislature and the role of the Executive.

Hon Speaker, hon Premier, the DA wishes you well in your new roles and we pray that God will give you the courage and the vision to bring about the change that this province desperately needs. We will be there to encourage you when you do right and we will be there to point out your failures and offer constructive alternatives when you do wrong. My party is committed to making a difference and being a force for change in this province. Together opposition and government can take this province to new heights. [Applause.]

Mr N KULUTA: Hon Speaker, hon Judge-President of the Eastern Cape, hon Premier of the Eastern Cape, I have the honour of standing in front of the Legislature on behalf of Cope and congratulating our brand new lady Premier, Madam Noxolo Kiviet.

You come to lead the Legislature and the Government of the Eastern Cape at a time when the people of the Eastern Cape still remain poor. The people of the Eastern Cape still need clean water. They still need dipping tanks down there at home. You are the only beacon of hope this time around and we are certain as Cope that the experience that you gathered when you were a leader of workers, the experience that you gathered when you were leading in various structures of the ANC, the experience that you gathered from all these years in this Legislature, will give you enough experience to be able to deal with the daunting task ahead of you.

Under your leadership a corrupt Civil Service will be a thing of the past, we hope. Under your leadership a lazy and inefficient Civil Service will be a thing of the past, we hope. Under your leadership monies that are meant to develop and better the lives of the people of the Eastern Cape will never be sent back to the national fiscus again because of the efficiency of the Civil Service. If you steer this ship in the correct direction you will receive our fullest support as Cope.

We are requesting you, Madam Premier, to deal harshly with the incompetency down at the level of the municipalities, because that is where you will gather all this mess that leads to non-delivery on the ground.

With those few words Madam Premier, may God bless you. We have no reason as Cope to sabotage your good work towards reaching these goals. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, we would like to acknowledge the presence in the House of the Judge-President, as you are aware. We also have Rev Finca in our presence, the head of the Independent Electoral Commission. [Applause.] We also have the Director-General of the province, the head of administration in the province, Heads of Departments, as well as many officials and guests present here. We would like to acknowledge you all.

This actually concludes the... [Interjections.]

I call upon the ANC.

Maybe I thought I was speaking on his behalf! [Interjections.] [Applause.]

Mr C H MAXEGWANA: Hon Speaker, hon members, distinguished guests, officials of the government and the Legislature, it is indeed a great day for the ANC and women of this province, as they for the first time in our 15 years of democracy and governance unleashed a woman capable of leading the province, as well as leading the ANC. Well done to the ANC of Dube, of Luthuli, of Makgato, of Thambo, of Nelson Mandela, of Mbeki, of Gedleyihlekisa Jacob Zuma. [Applause.]

In congratulating the hon Speaker, we must congratulate the ANC too, for it has once more got a vote of confidence from the people of this province and the country. South Africans have spoken and said loudly that this tried and tested people's movement, the organization of the poorest of the poor, the organisation of the workers will once more lead us. This is what the people of this province said. They said to the ANC: lead us again. Yes, we know you will, hon Speaker and the ANC.

Do it with us and together we will do more! [Applause.]

Sibambisene siyokwenza lukhulu. *(By working together we can do more.)*

Deur saam te werk kan ons meer doen. *(By working together we can do more.)* [Applause.]

When we do it, hon members, we will do it with Cde Zuma, and he will lead all South Africans. [Applause.] Nobody will stop him. Nobody will

stop Zuma. [Applause.] For he is unstoppable; and so is the ANC.
[Applause.]

This is a day to congratulate the Premier; not a day of speeches. Hon members, the Eastern Cape - Black and White, ruling party and the opposition parties, this is our Premier. Can I drink to that? [Applause.] This is our Premier. She belongs to all of us. I know those who were here during the last term - opposition parties, listen carefully, those who are new - opposition parties, do the opposition and howling against us in this House. In performing the oversight function we have acted together. In doing work out there to the people of the province, we acted together. Please let us continue as such, to speed up delivery to all the people of this province, for united in action we can do more.
[Applause.]

Congratulations, hon Speaker. We will together pull up our socks for faster change. Congratulations, hon Premier. [Applause.] She was Treasurer, she was Speaker; she is now the Premier. Congratulations, hon Premier. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I am sorry that I could forget the ANC so soon.
[Laughter.]

In my acknowledgements I missed the South African Ambassador to Greece, Madam Marasha, who is also a former Deputy Speaker of the Legislature. [Applause.] We also have former members of the Provincial Legislature present in our midst. We also have business people here and traditional leaders. We would like to acknowledge all of them. Even those I might not have mentioned, we accept your presence and we appreciate it.

Mr Justice Somyalo took the Chair.

PREMIER'S OATH OF OFFICE

Ms N Kiviet made and subscribed the oath of office as Premier of the Province of the Eastern Cape in terms of section 129 of the Constitution.

[Applause.]

Mr Speaker took the Chair.

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please accept my heartiest congratulations. You are now afforded an opportunity to say a few words, if you so please. [Applause.]

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY PREMIER

The PREMIER: Hon Judge-President of the Eastern Cape, Judge Somyalo, hon Speaker of this House and all presiding officers elected

today, my former Deputy Speaker, our Ambassador to Greece, Madam Marasha, the Provincial Electoral Officer, Rev Finca, Executive Mayors and Mayors present here, hon members of this House, members of the Judiciary present, Commissioner of Police and heads of our security services, other ambassadors present, leaders of organs of State, including Chapter 9 institutions, esteemed traditional leadership of our province, leaders of political parties, leaders of organized business and organized labour, leaders of faith-based organisations, leaders of tertiary institutions, leaders of the non-governmental sector, leaders of our disability movement, Heads of Departments and senior civil servants, Secretary to the Legislature and your team, members of international community and donor organisations present: allow me to greet you all. Good morning.

I stand this morning before you, humbled by the confidence shown in me by the ANC. At the same time I am also acutely aware of the enormous challenges facing the Eastern Cape Province and the honourous responsibility placed on my shoulders.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank hon Sogoni, my predecessor, together with his team, for laying a solid foundation upon which we can build and move forward. [Applause.]

Ebesoloko encediswa ke enikwa amandla ngumamekhaya. Ububabona behamba njengamawele. Andinakho ukumshiya ngasemva kuba inkxaso emandla esithi siyifumana kumalungu entsapho zethu ibaluleke kakhulu. [Kuhlwatywe.] *[He has been supported by his wife. They travelled together like twins. I cannot leave her out, because the great support we receive from the members of our families is important. [Applause.]]*

It is also fitting to thank all those who sent congratulatory messages to me. I will heed their advice and pledge that I will never change my character.

Ndiyaguga ngoku. Andizukwazi ukuqalela. [Kuhlekwe.] *[I am aging now. I can not start new things. [Laughter.]]*

Allow me also to congratulate all the hon members that have been assigned special duties this morning in the management of the business of this House; starting with the Speaker, hon Xasa; the Deputy Speaker, hon Moerane; the Chairperson of Committees, hon Mtsi; and the Deputy Chair of Committees, hon Ntantiso. It is not a very easy task, but I know that with people of your calibre and with the skills invested in you, you will make us proud.

We return to the Legislature to commence this fourth term of Government, reinvigorated by the success of our recent general elections. The elections were not just a victory for us as the ANC, but a victory for democracy itself. [Applause.] We have seen more parties, more voters and more youth participating in the elections. The level and

intensity of public debate and interest is unsurpassed in our recent history. The peaceful nature of those debates is a clear reflection of our transition to a more mature and vibrant democracy, and this holds well for the future of our province, our country and our democracy.

I would like to thank all those South Africans, our people, for demonstrating their commitment to building the nation. I thank you for the confidence you have shown in us in returning the ANC to power. [Applause.] More so, by returning the ANC to power with a strong majority. [Applause.] As the ANC we emerge out of the elections, steadfast in our resolve to make a more sustained impact on the lives of our citizens and with a sharpened understanding of our shortcomings. This makes the new term both a challenging and an exciting one.

Clearly the configuration of this House has changed. In this regard I would like to note the new opposition, the new party, the new faces and even some old faces in new hats, signaling that indeed we live in interesting times. We hope that all of this will translate into our continuing with our project of transforming this House into a true people's parliament, whose core agenda is advancing the interests of ordinary citizens and especially the poor.

As the former Speaker of this House, I will continue to cherish the ideal of a Legislature that is incisive in its oversight over the Executive. It is not my intention here to outline in any great detail the programme that we will be pursuing as Government in this new term. However, it is important to use this opportunity to highlight some of the critical challenges that confront us and our responses to them.

Most pressing are the related challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment. The recent assessment of our Provincial Growth and Development Plan showed that we need to drastically increase the scale and impact of economic development in the province. We have not sufficiently addressed the structural weaknesses of our economy and diversified out of the strength of the automotive sector.

Patterns of uneven and unequal development remain evident in the high levels of poverty and joblessness in rural areas of the province, especially the former Transkei.

Many of the gains we have recently made in addressing unemployment and other development are being negatively impacted by the global economic crisis.

The automotive and component sector is particularly affected, and our rural areas are feeling the effects of ongoing job-shedding in the mining sector.

Xa besikuphulo ngexesha lezolonyulo, umyalezo ebendiwufumana kubasebenzi baseDaimler Chrysler ubumnye usithi: Sindisa imisebenzi

yethu. *[When we were on our election campaign, the workers at Daimler Chrysler communicated one message, and that was: Save our jobs.]*

This calls for new levels of innovation and new forms of collaboration between Government, its entities, industry, labour and civil society. It is our intention to strengthen partnerships with key role-players, with a view to find solutions to urgently stem the tide of job loss and create new jobs. Here we intend entering into creative partnerships with national departments such as the Department of Trade and Industry, the national entities, as well as key industry associations and players, influenced by the understanding that when we work together we can and will do more.

While we put these response measures in place, we will at the same time be finalizing our provincial industrial strategy, aimed at strengthening efforts to diversify the economy and grow sectors that can quickly absorb the unemployed.

In line with the ANC manifesto we will also be greatly intensifying our rural development initiatives and we will be implementing State facilitated agricultural and agro-processing programmes, with the aim of creating decent work and addressing food security. Co-operatives will feature strongly in these initiatives.

Over and above the challenges of unemployment and under-development, the second broad challenge that we will confront is the delivery capacity of Government. While much work has been done in this area there are still worrying trends of which this House is fully aware. These include challenges of underspending, the lack of critical skills in key departments, entities and municipalities, segmented and weak planning and monitoring capacity – those who are doing the MBA course know more about this – poor project management, as well as weak inter- and intra-governmental co-ordination.

A turnaround process for Government as championed by hon Sogoni has commenced, which targeted priority departments such as Health, Education, Housing and Local Government, as well as Traditional Affairs. Over the next few weeks we will be assessing its impact and lessons and using it as a basis for consolidating our efforts to eradicate poor performance in key delivery departments.

I can assure the House that the Executive that will be announced today will be adopting a zero tolerance approach on poor performance. [Applause.]

In order to assist us to plan, implement and monitor priorities outlined in our manifesto, we will be establishing a planning commission. The role of the planning commission will be to strengthen planning capability across Government, lend political weight and authority to planning,

strengthen the strategic centre for planning, coordination and monitoring of Government activities, ensure financial resources follow priorities, create a platform through which Government can mobilize and galvanize different sectors of society behind a common development agenda.

The Legislature and Governance Sub-Committee of the ANC will give us that programme of action and we will follow that programme to the latter. The commission will also assist us to ensure that the five key areas of our manifesto - health, education, job creation, rural development and crime and justice - find concrete expression in the plans and budgets of all departments.

Hon Speaker, our overarching aim this term is to pull the province into a collective programme of action, building a province working together to create a better life for all.

Ixesha lokuthetha liphelile. Sithi isiXhosa lixhatshwe ngutoki. Abantu bakuthi bangxamile. Nathi ke siza kungxama bethuna. Ngenkolo yokuba ke xa kungxanyiwe kuyagilwayo. Futhi ke xa kugilwana sukuba kungagilwana lonke ixesha, koko sukuba kungxanyelwe ukuba kwenzeke. Yiyo loo nto ndithe andizukulibazisa. La maqhawe namaqhawekazi siza kusebenza kunye nawo kufuneka ke ayokuthatha indima yawo namhlanje hayi ngenye imini. [Kuhwatywe.](*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows*)

[The time for campaigning is over. There is an isiXhosa saying that says, "Time is against us". Our people have a great desire. We will accelerate; with the belief that when there is acceleration clashing is common. When there are clashes, that does not mean there is fighting all the time but it indicates that there is a great desire for outcomes. That is why I have decided not to delay. The heroes and the heroines we will be working with will be allocated their portfolios today not on another day. [Applause.]

Bhele, malume wam, amaziko olawulo amabini awasebenzi apha kum. Ubufanele ukuba wena ungoyena uyiqondayo loo nto. [Kuhlekwe.] [*Bhele, my uncle, the two centres of power are not an issue to me. You are supposed to understand that*] [Laughter.]

I have worked as a Speaker for five years with powers that have been changing all around me, so the two centres of power are not an issue; the issue is that Government must deliver services to the people. [Applause.] And it will do just that. [Applause.]

However, let me accept the fact that Government alone will not succeed in dealing with all the challenges that I have highlighted without the understanding, support and commitment to change by the people of this province.

Nokuba ukweyiphi na ikona okanye usuka phi na, ngoku sithi makuphathiswane. Lide eli thuba. Iphondo lethu lidityiselwa nangabantu abangazi nto. Ubeve xa bethetha bethetha ngokungathi okunye ukusilela akukho kwezinye iindawo kukhona. Inyaniso yeyokuba kukhona nakwezinye iindawo. *[Even if you are in any corner or you come from somewhere else, we must collaborate. It has been a long time. Our province is undermined by people who know nothing. When you hear them speaking it seems as if weaknesses do not exist in other areas. The reality is that they do exist elsewhere.]*

At some point I said that for me it is not about the weaknesses that matters; it is about what you do about those weaknesses. Therefore, support and commitment of the people of this province is critical and key. In fact it is central to any change that can be brought about in this province.

Imiyalezo emintsi ke ibisithi, “Bhelekazi, hlala ngolo hlobo ululo, ungatshintshi”. Ingene imiyalezo wade wophuka unomyayi wam mhlonipheki uPJ. Andinanomyayi ngoku. Ndibolekwe ngabantwana. Kodwa inye into eniyithethayo nonke. Benisithi nikunye nam nonke. Mna ke ndithi umntu angathetha yonke into afuna ukuyithetha, into ebalulekileyo kum zizenzo. Kuya kubaluleka ke ukuba umntu enze njengokuba ebethetha okanye into ebethe uza kuyenza ayenze ke.

Mna isibophelelo endisibekayo kuni nje ngabantu beli phondo sesokuba nasiphi na isigqibo endisithathayo ndiza kusithatha ngentatho nxaxheba yenu, kodwa ekugqibeleni sakuba sisigqibo esizama ukuqinisekisa into yokuba abantu beli phondo nempilo yabo itshintsha ibengcono. Ngako oko isigqibo endiya kusenza siya kuba semdleni wabantu beli phondo. *[Kuhwatywe.]*

Phambi kokuba ndihlale phantsi, mandinibulele nonke ngenkxaso enithe nayenza ngeli xesha bendihleli kwesi situlo sisemva kwam, ngenkxaso enithe nayenza ekuthini sibe sisonke apha ngoku. Mandimyalenze utata uGalo ukuba oyena mntu ufanele ukuyalezwa ngulo usemva kwam. Andiyipathi imicimbi yalapha endlini mna. Kodwa ke le yalapha eburhulumenteni yeyabantu beli phondo. Kodwa ke, siyikhumbule into yokuba sithunyiwe. Ndithatha inxaxheba kwinkqubo emisa imibutho phambili. Nawe umele umbutho wakho apha. *[Uwelewele.]* Kuloko ke iindlebe zombutho ndiza kube ndinazo. *(Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.)*

[Most messages have been saying, “Bhelekazi, do not change but stay as you are.” I have been receiving messages until my cellphone became stuck. Hon PJ, I do not have a cell phone. I have borrowed one from the children. You have been repeating one message. You have been saying that you are behind me. A person can say whatever he or she wants to say, to me what is important are the actions. It will be important if you act according to what you say; what you say you will do, you must do.

The commitment I have made to the people of this province is that whatever decision that I will take will be through your participation. But at the end of the day it will be a decision that tries to make sure that people of this province and their life change for the better. Therefore, any decisions that I will be making will be in the best interest of the people of this province. [Applause.]

Before I take my seat, let me express a word of gratitude for the support you have given me during my term of office as a Speaker and the support you have given up until we are where we are today. Let me inform Mr Galo of the fact that the person who needs support is the one behind me. I do not handle issues of this House. Government issues belong to the people of the province. We must remember that we have been tasked. I participate in the programme that put the organization forward. You are representing an organization here. [Interjections.] I will be paying attention to the organization.]

But I want to assure you that if we can have the understanding of the message that says: whatever decision that will be taken will be implemented fast, it will be in the best interests of the people of the Province of the Eastern Cape, and it will be intended to unite us all behind the programme of accelerating change in the people's lives.

Ndininqwenelela impumelelo nonke kulo msebenzi niwunikiweyo njengamalungu ale Ndlu. Ndibulela nenkxaso esiyibonayo kumalungu athe aphumelela apha namhlanje ukuza kuhalalisela amalungu ale Ndlu. Phambi kokuba ndihlale, inye into ibicelwe ngabantwana bam. Bathe "Thina sifun'umama wethu". Ndicela ke nibayeka abantwana bam, ndibengumama wabo. Abazali bam banexhala. Badala. Ndicela ke into yokokuba nibayeke baziphumlele kakuhle, ningabaphazamisi. Ndibabulela kananjalo ngendlela abathe bandiqeqesha ngayo. Zonke ezi zinto benizithetha ezokuba uzuhlale unjalo ukuba bebengeko beningazukwazi ukuzithetha. [Kuqhwyatywe.]

Mongameli weJaji, ndiwenze made. Ibingezizo iinjongo zam ukwenza loo nto. Ndiyabulela. [Kuqhwyatywe.] (*Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.*)

[I wish you success in the functions you have been tasked with as members of this House. I would also like to express my thanks for the support we have witnessed in the members who have come to congratulate the members of this House today.

Before I take my seat, my children have made one request. They said, "We want our mother." I am appealing to you to let me be their mother. My parents are anxious. They are old. Please let them rest freely and do not disturb them. I want to thank them for the manner in which they have brought me up. If they did not exist you would not be able to say all the things you have been saying to me with regard to the fact that I must not change. [Applause.]

Judge-President, my speech was too long; it was not my intention to do that.

Thank you. [Applause.]]

The House adjourned at 12:00.