

## **The NCOP 2022 Africa Day Lecture**

**“From Pandemics to Endemics: Building an Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa Beyond the Covid19 Pandemic”**

**Vote of Thanks by the Chief Whip of the National Council of Provinces,  
Honourable S J Mohai, MP**

**25 May 2022**

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Programme Director, the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP,  
honourable Sylvia Lucas;

The Chairperson of the NCOP, honourable Amos Masondo;

The distinguished keynote Speaker, Professor Eddy Maloka, the Chief Executive Officer of the African Peer Review Mechanism;

Our distinguished high level commentators; Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation, and former Ambassador, honourable Dangor;

Honourable Members and Ladies and gentlemen;

This marks the end of yet another high level public engagement by this august House to mark the Africa Day. Programme Director, I am sure that honourable members will agree that this we do not only to celebrate the formation of the Organisation of African Unity 59 years back, but most importantly to reaffirm its ideals and vision in shaping our collective future.

As we do this, we look back with great sense of pride the significant milestones Africa has achieved in pursuance of the vision for Africa's unity. Key among these are the establishment of the Pan African Parliament, the adoption of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the Agenda 2063 and the African Free Trade Agreement.

Programme Director, as the key note Speaker has noted, our task of Africa's renewal and development unfold within the changing global context in multiple fronts: governance and politics, climate and environment, science and technology, energy security, deepening levels of poverty, unemployment and inequality, natural disasters, and pandemics and endemics.

This requires new state capabilities and resilience, and most significantly co-operation between key state and non-state actors, first within Africa and across the globe. Accordingly, this co-operation cannot be neutral in the context of glaring unequal economic and political power relations between the rich North and the poor countries in the South.

Honourable Members, this call for a fundamental paradigm shift in how we seek to situate the role of parliament as an apex institution of democracy in giving voice to the voiceless majority. It cannot be that parliament role remain limited to ratifying international instruments, but must extend to give voice to our people in the design, implementation and monitoring of policy interventions.

Programme Director, to the extent that we do not rise to this challenge, the more the role of parliament becomes a talk shop. This is particularly so when democracy and its institutions are facing great challenge of legitimacy in the eyes of our people.

Across the globe, majority of the people continue to stay away from the democratic elections, which we have come to term voter apathy as among the key manifestations of the declining confidence of the people in democracy and its institutions. Certainly, our generation will be judged by the generations to come on the basis of the extent to which we would have succeeded in the democratic renewal.

As we close this important public engagement today, allow me to thank, especially our key note speaker, Professor Eddy Maloka, the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, and most

importantly, the leadership of various political parties represented in the NCOP for agreeing to this event.

There is no doubt that this was indeed enriching for policy thought and action. I am certain that our people and the entire international community will cast their eyes firmly on the television screens to watch our debates this afternoon, and how they will give concrete policy perspective in taking some of the thoughts forward for Africa's renewal.

I thank you.