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Parly gets to work

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PARLIAMENT is headed for its busiest part of the year with the no-confidence debate in President Jacob Zuma taking centre stage, even if the date on which it will be held is not yet known.

Although the debate has been postponed from this Tuesday, it will likely occur at some stage within the first three weeks of this session according to DA federal executive leader James Selfe.

While the country and MPs await the debate, the normal business of Parliament will continue next week.

The major item on the agenda for this term will be the budget votes starting on Tuesday, May 16, and scheduled to end a month later on June 8.

Most of the debates will take place in the afternoon.

However, five morning sittings have also been scheduled.

Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor will start the almost month-long budget votes period by

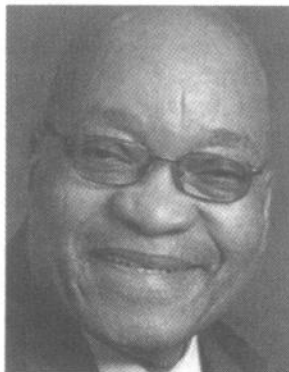
presenting her budget in the National Assembly at 2pm on May 16. Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande will follow her two hours later.

On the same day, in the Old Assembly Chamber, Nathi Nhleko, the former police minister who was moved

to Public Works when President Jacob Zuma reshuffled his Cabinet recently, is due to table his budget.

In total six budget votes are due to be taken on May 16.

On May 23, the former deputy minister of tourism, Tokozile Xasa, will step into the shoes of Derek Hanekom, the min-



President Zuma

ister she has replaced, to make her maiden budget presentation.

Sharing what can be called a newcomers' day with her will be another debutant in a new portfolio, Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba, the politician President Zuma has appointed to replace Pravin Gordhan.

Zuma, assuming he toughs out the no confidence debate, will be in the National Assembly on Thursday, June 1 to reply to his own budget vote.

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