CABINET

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Minister of Agriculture ....................................... Mr H G van Rensburg
Minister of Transport and Public Works ............... Mr R V Carlisle
Minister of Community Safety ............................... Mr A T Fritz
Minister of Finance, Economic Development
and Tourism ..................................................... Mr A R Winde
Minister of Social Development ............................. Ms P de Lille
Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs
and Development Planning ................................. Mr A W Bredell
Minister of Housing ............................................ Mr B S Madikizela
Minister of Education ........................................... Mr D A C Grant
Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport ..................... Mr I H Meyer

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Chief Whip: DA ................................................. Ms A Rossouw
Chief Whip: Opposition ........................................ Mr P Uys
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African National Congress = ANC
Congress of the People = COPE
Independent Democrats = ID
African Christian Democratic Party = ACDP

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De Lille, Ms Pauline Wilhemina ............................................. ANC
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Esau, Shahid ........................................................................ DA
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De Beer, Onel ................................................................. COPE
De Villiers, Michael Jacobus Roland ...................................... DA
Harris, Tomothy Duncan .................................................. DA
Ntwanambi, Ms Nosipho Dorothy ........................................ ANC
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The House met at 14:15

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY
ON INDEPENDENT POLICE INVESTIGATIVE
DIRECTORATE BILL [B15F—2010] (NCOP) AND CIVILIAN
SECRETARIAT FOR POLICE SERVICE BILL [B16F—2010](NCOP)

(Consideration)

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: Mr Speaker, the ANC just endorses what we previously said. We believe that there is a need for an independent commission in this country. We believe that police actions should be watched and monitored, and action must be taken against policemen who are not doing their job. That’s why we cannot understand why the ruling party is opposing this Bill. It is action that they have asked for. The big thing they talk about is independence. I don’t want to fight about the independence, I want to see that justice is done and, therefore, as the opposition, we are voting against the ruling party in this case.

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Speaker, we support the Bill.[Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.
†Mr R B LENTIT: [Inaudible] ... the ANC. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much members. Order!

†Mr MGE WILEY: Mr Speaker, the position of the committee is the same as it was previously. There’s an interesting development that has taken place with regard to this Bill. We’ve long argued that the national Parliament is making bad law. As you know, in the first round when this was referred to the Province, we did a full public hearing process and we got legal opinion, both internally and externally, in this Parliament.

However, on the basis of that we felt that both the Bills – the Secretarial Bill as well as the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) Bill, which would replace the IDC – were, in fact, flawed. We felt that it would undermine both the integrity of the Province, which already has certain instruments in place and, secondly, as far as the IPID Bill is concerned, it is not independent because it resorts under the Police. We felt that it should resort under the national Parliament.

What is interesting is that we have in the past made the allegation that national Parliament is making bad law and, despite the fact that we went with a reasoned and sound argument to the NCOP and argued that in that House, they just steam-rolled us, overruled it and it was then passed. It was passed by the National Assembly and it was passed by the NCOP. However, because of the points that we had raised, the legal advisors of the State then did not give those Bills to the President for signature, because they knew it was then legally challenge able, and they referred them. They made one or two minor amendments and they referred it back to the NCOP. That’s why we’re back here again. The point is that they’re passing bad law on the other side there, Mr Speaker.

†Ms TN BEVU: Mr Speaker, our position still stands. It’s the same position. You will remember that before it went, we voted against it.

There was no debate.

The mandate conferring authority on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament’s delegation in the NCOP not to support the Bill, was ratified.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 14 – Local Government)

†The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the hon Premier of the Western Cape, hon Cabinet colleagues, Members of the Provincial Legislature, Executive Mayors, Municipal Managers, partners in Local Government, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr Speaker, I serve the people of the Western Cape as Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and in this regard I ask myself: What do the people expect of local government? Aren’t they happy with their municipalities? If they aren’t, what can I do about it?
When I talk to people, they tell me they want water that is clean, toilets that flush, roads that are safe, and lights that switch on. They want municipalities that are honest, transparent and trustworthy. They want municipal officials to listen to their problems and do something about them. What people want is very simple. They want local government that works.

On 18 May this year, we are closing a five-year chapter of local government and opening a new one. We need to understand what has worked and say, well done, and we need to understand what hasn’t worked and change it.

Let me tell you about some of the things that are working. According to the Universal Household Access to Basic Services Index, 88% of people in the Western Cape have access to basic services, which is the highest in the country. One hundred per cent of poor residents have access to free basic services; 22 out of 30 municipalities received unqualified audits and 299 out of 348 ward committees are meeting on a regular basis. I would like to thank the Executive Mayors and Municipal Managers for helping to make this happen.

However, Mr Speaker, we need to aim much higher. We need to aim for the local government of our dreams. All of our residents should have access to basic services. All of our municipalities should have unqualified audits. All of our municipalities should be free of bribes and fraudulent tenders and jobs for pals.

We need to have local government that works for everybody. If we succeed, we will open doors of opportunity. People will access services quickly and efficiently instead of standing in queues and wasting productive time. They will live in safe environments that promote good health. Businesses will grow and flourish because municipal processes are smooth and quick.

Good governance is the pillar

Mr Speaker, local government will only work if we have good governance. This means that our councillors and officials must understand and respect the law and their roles and responsibilities.

I want to put our new councillors on a strong footing right after the elections. My department will provide a helpdesk to support municipalities from Day 1, which is the day of the first council meeting when councils must be legally constituted. If this does not happen quickly and legally, then our councils cannot hit the ground running.

It is important for councillors to be equipped for their role. In addition to the induction provided by Salga, my department will roll out seven programmes for councillors. These programmes will cover rules of order, administrative and legal accountability, oversight, delegations, supply chain management, and leadership. We will also roll out dedicated training programmes for Speakers and Executive Mayors.

These courses will help councillors to run their municipalities effectively and accountably. We are providing these programmes together with Salga and the Hanns Seidel Foundation, and I would like to thank them for their valuable partnership.
Once the councils are in place, contracts of senior officials will expire and in some cases new Municipal Managers and Executive Managers may be appointed. If we do not have competent managers in place, local government will fall apart. For this reason, I am making recruitment resources available to municipalities so that they can appoint competent managers.

I know that in spite of all this support, things may go wrong. One issue that has frustrated me is that I can only intervene when municipalities are on the point of collapse. Often, Audit Committees sound the alarm bell, and the response of some councils has been to fire the Audit Committee.

I made a proposal last year and I am pleased to say that it will soon be tabled at the President’s Coordinating Council. The solution is to make the Audit Committees and the Internal Audit Unit in municipalities independent. Audit Committees should be confirmed by the relevant MEC for local government, and they should only be dismissed with the approval of the MEC. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The MINISTER: Internal audit units pick up problems as they occur, and I am proposing that they should be paid by National Treasury and report not only to the Municipal Manager but also to the Audit Committee and the MEC for Local Government. [Interjections.]

Working with communities

Mr Speaker, local government will only work if it partners with communities. I believe it is very important for municipalities to be constantly speaking and listening to people, but many municipalities do not have a plan about what to communicate or to whom or when or how. My department helped five municipalities to improve their communication strategies in the past year...[Interjections.] It seems to me that the hon McKenzie also needs a communications course.[Laughter.] Mr Speaker, my department helped five municipalities to improve their communication strategies in the past year, and we will provide intensive support to six more in the coming year.

However, I also want to challenge communities: Make a difference in your neighbourhood and work with municipalities. Don’t only ask what a municipality can do for you; tell us what you can contribute. We cannot build a better future if we do not build it together.

I really want ward committees to work, and I know they can. This is what it takes to make a ward committee work: It takes committed members who represent their organisations and report back to them, it takes councillors who champion committee issues in councils and portfolio meetings, and it takes municipal officials who follow up on the issues raised in ward committee meetings.

My department has refined a ward committee model that is already working in some municipalities, and we will roll it out after the elections during our training of councillors and ward committee members.
Communities can also play a much bigger role in the Integrated Development Planning. Very few people attend Integrated Development Programmes (IDP) meetings because the discussion is broad and people are not given the chance to identify projects that can change their neighbourhoods.

We will change this through championing neighbourhood development plans in some of the poorest areas. Communities will identify short-term, implementable projects that will be taken forward by dedicated municipal officials.

Access to services and opportunities

Mr Speaker, service delivery is central to government’s mandate. However, if you are poor and live far away from government offices, you cannot get access to government services. You cannot apply for an ID or learn how to start your own business, and the door of opportunity is then closed to you.

This is why we have the Thusong Programme: It brings the most important government services together in one place, and in some cases it brings those services right to people’s doorsteps.

In the Western Cape we have permanent Thusong Centres in 18 local municipalities and in the City of Cape Town. I want to have one in each of our 24 local municipalities, and we will reach this goal by 2014. We just opened a centre in Murraysburg and are opening two more in Bitterfontein and Ceres in the next month. Next year, we will help to build two more centres. We are also training 23 Thusong managers, and this will help them to provide people with a better service.

We also have Thusong Mobiles. These mobiles bring government services to where people live in the rural areas. The community development workers (CDWs) are a key part of the mobiles because they inform people about the dates and venues of mobiles and also identify the services that are needed by residents in a particular area. Next year, we will hold 24 mobiles and reach over 100000 people, which is double the number reached in the past year.

Mr Speaker, our community development workers also play an important part in the Thusong Extension Programme. They travel between small towns and Thusong Centres and take application forms and information back and forth. My department is already in the process of expanding this service.

Community development workers facilitate access to opportunities in other ways. For example, Piet and Christine Erasmus found out about starting a chicken farm from a community development worker. With his help, they took courses, applied for funding from the Department of Agriculture and started their own business. They now run a successful farm that produces 300 chickens per month and 120 eggs per day, and they have recently employed two people. This happened because of Piet’s and Christine’s determination, and it happened because a community development worker saw an opportunity and enabled Piet and Christine to take advantage of it.

Municipal Support
Mr Speaker, local government needs support if we want it to work. My approach to municipal support is to ask municipalities what they need to be effective, and my department will then aim to meet that need.

We have just established a pool of expertise, which is a list of over 100 service providers that can support municipalities with specific tasks. Our current projects are the review of policies and by-laws, re-engineering of internal structures and processes, and improving performance management systems.

Mr Speaker, in addition, we have established a Municipal Professionals Programme with our donor partner GIZ. This programme has 23 professionals who have worked in municipalities for over 10 years, and a few are already in the process of being deployed to municipalities that have requested them.

One programme that I am very excited about is the Local Government Professionalisation Programme. This programme will enable municipal executives to register as professionals through the Recognition of Prior Learning and to follow a structured mentorship programme. Graduates will have a qualification that is accredited and recognised throughout the country, and over time it will improve the standard, professionalism and status of municipal managers throughout South Africa. We are working in close partnership with universities, Salga, the national Department of Cooperative Governance, and Municipal Managers on this programme, and we aim to have the first intake of students in 2012.

Our support extends to Integrated Development Programmes. In addition to providing training to municipalities in Neighbourhood Development Planning, we will provide active support to municipalities in implementing Third-Generation IDPs for the next five-year term. The Third-Generation IDP will be an integrated development programme that reflects the needs identified by communities through Neighbourhood Development Planning and also reflects the budgets and priorities of all three spheres of government. We have promoted this through the Integrated Development Programme Indaba, which is a space where national and provincial departments sit in one room with municipalities and plan together. We will expand the Integrated Development Programme Indaba in the coming year.

Disaster Management

Mr Speaker, we know that municipalities cannot work if they are not well prepared for disasters. Disasters can crush municipalities or crush communities, as we have seen in Japan.

This could have happened in the Eden District and Beaufort West Municipality, which were recently gripped by the most severe drought in over 100 years. It was easy to lose hope as dam levels dropped to 14,5% in Mossel Bay, 17% in George and 0% in Beaufort West.

Under the leadership of the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, all three spheres of government worked together to agree on water restrictions, infrastructure projects and funding models. Our key partner has been the Regional Department of Water Affairs, and I would like to thank Mr Rashid Khan and his department for their support and partnership.
I am happy that the drought has now broken in Eden and Beaufort West, but I am even happier that all of those municipalities are now ready for future droughts. They have found new supplies of water, whether through water recycling or desalination.

Mr Speaker, what the drought has confirmed is that planning for disasters is the key to preventing them. For the FIFA World Cup we assisted all municipalities in the province to identify their key risks and to draft contingency plans. When the World Cup arrived, we were ready.

We also trained all the municipalities in the Western Cape to identify and address the disaster risks in their Integrated Development Programmes, and we assisted the City and all five districts to draft their IDP chapters. My department will help another six municipalities write their IDP chapters next year.

Together with the fire officers in the province, we developed a fire preparedness plan to ensure that we respond quickly to the first signs of a fire. In partnership with Working on Fire, we brought four fixed-wing aircrafts from Gauteng that can “bomb” an area with water just as a fire is beginning.

In the coming year, we will be the first province to gazette regulations for fire-fighting norms and standards. This will create uniform standards that will raise the professionalism and standard of fire-fighting services in the province.

Mr Speaker, fire-fighting is a dangerous business. During the fire that is still burning in the RooiEls - Kleinmond area, one fire-fighter has died and four Working on Fire contractors were admitted to hospital with burns. I would like to express my deep-felt condolences to the family and loved ones of the fire-fighter who died, and wish the injured contractors a speedy recovery. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I honour and thank all of the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us.

Municipal Infrastructure

Mr Speaker, the most important job of a municipality is to provide basic services, and for this we need bulk infrastructure. There are municipalities in the Western Cape that cannot build more houses because they do not have adequate water and sanitation infrastructure. The human and economic potential in these areas is locked up as a result.

Many bulk infrastructure projects have already been implemented. A total of 221 Municipal Infrastructure Grant projects worth R312 million were completed in the past year. In addition, we obtained an additional R373 million in drought funds over the past two years. Water recycling plants were built in George and Beaufort West and desalination plants in Knysna and Bitou. The largest desalination plant in South Africa will be completed in Mossel Bay at the end of this month.

However, we still have a huge backlog, and we can only address it if we do thorough long-term planning. We have supported every district in the province to develop a bulk water and sanitation master plan.
These are 15-year investment plans that say how much infrastructure is needed today and in the next 15 years, and they identify priority projects.

In the next 12 months we will assist municipalities to move into the project preparation phase. This includes development of business plans, feasibility assessments and concept plans. An amount of R345 million has already been secured through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant of the Department of Water Affairs, and R1,3 billion in Municipal Infrastructure Grant funds over the next three years.

However, there is no point to building infrastructure if we do not maintain it. Some municipalities have water losses of up to 30%. How can such a municipality request funding to increase its water supply capacity?

To address these basic issues, my department is assisting municipalities to collect income from non-revenue water. In two municipalities, we found many water meters not reflecting the true usage. For example, in two municipalities, many water meters showed a reading of 0. This meant that the budgeted income for water in the two municipalities was not being billed and/or collected.

We are now assisting those municipalities to develop and implement plans to replace or fix the water meters and collect the revenue owing to them, and we are currently extending this support to four other municipalities.

Of course, local government will not work if we do not have competent people in place. Mr Speaker, my department entered into partnership with the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) to conduct electrical artisan training, and 186 potential electrical artisans have been trained. Of these, 105 will undertake the National Trade Test and once they pass it, they can be appointed as fully-fledged artisans in municipalities. We are also partnering with the DBSA, the University of Stellenbosch and the Water Institute of South Africa to train water process controllers, who are vital to the efficient maintenance of our water supply and wastewater treatment works.

Mr Speaker, I haven’t mentioned many of the other things my department has done in the last year to make local government work. Here are some of them:

- We achieved 100% expenditure with the Municipal Infrastructure Grant – the only province to do so;
- we developed and are implementing a Municipal Support Plan for every district and local municipality;
- we provided intensive support to municipalities experiencing governance or administrative problems, including Breede Valley, Kannaland, Prince Albert, George, and Swellendam;
- we helped 11 municipalities develop anti-corruption strategies and implementation plans;
- we completed a survey of electrical master planning in all local municipalities;
we developed a performance management system for ward committees and linked this to the payment of out-of-pocket expenses to ward committee members;

we rolled out training on community-based planning to 350 ward committee members, councillors, officials and community members;

we passed the Western Cape Local Government Laws Rationalisation Act, which eliminated many old laws that are no longer relevant;

we facilitated agreements with ABSA, Capitec, Standard Bank and Nedbank to provide banking services in Thusong Centres;

we ran a five-day training course for 29 provincial and municipal officials on IDP skills in November, and a further 18 officials in March;

we supported 644 food gardens and facilitated 42 sessions on Child Maintenance through our CDW Programme;

we launched a Municipal Bursary Scheme and enrolled four students in the pilot phase;

we played a critical role in peacefully closing the De Doorns safety camp, where Zimbabweans fled after the violence in November 2009; and

we reached over 5000 adults and 10000 schoolchildren with our Fire and Flood Awareness Campaign.

I have already talked about our ambitious plans for the coming year, but we will do much more, Mr Speaker:

- We will provide training on fraud prevention to new councillors and municipal officials in all municipalities;
- we will assist municipalities to establish ward committees and train ward committee members on their roles and responsibilities;
- we will support 20 municipal officials through the second IDP learnership, which will be completed in April 2012;
- we will assess the property rates policies in 10 municipalities;
- we will place at least 10 more students on the Municipal Bursary Scheme;
- we will develop a compliance model so that we can objectively assess governance and legal compliance in municipalities;
- we will assist municipalities to develop and rationalise their by-laws;
- we will create a provincial database of municipal information;
we will help 15 municipalities to develop disaster management contingency plans;

we will refer more than 21000 people to government services and programmes through our CDW Programme.

Mr Speaker, my valued partners in making local government work are the members of the Standing Committee on Governance and the Opposition members. They represent the people of the Western Cape and have the job of holding us accountable for what we say and do. Thank you for asking questions and providing suggestions. This is democracy in action, and the same must happen in municipalities.

Mr Speaker, allow me also to thank my team: Firstly, the Head of Ministry, Mr Marius du Randt, and the Ministry team for their support and for keeping me on the straight and narrow. Thank you also to Dr Hildegarde Fast, Head of the Department, and the whole team for tackling each challenge with enthusiasm and for serving the people of the Western Cape.

Mr Speaker, it is up to all of us to make local government work. It is up to our councillors to provide accountable and effective local government. It is up to officials to implement the strategies and plans of their councils. It is up to communities to hold their councillors to account and contribute to development. It is up to my department to assist everyone to make this happen.[Applause.]

*Mr J J VISSER: Mr Speaker, local government is the centre of service delivery and it is inconceivable to think of there being no municipalities to deliver these services. Municipalities represent the government at grass-roots level and are there for members of the public to receive their services and so that their problems with regard to service delivery can be adequately addressed.

The further the head is removed from the feet, the harder it is to control and stay in touch with the feet. The ANC’s idea of centralising services is a recipe for disaster. This affects the service provider’s status; they become faceless and nameless, a process where you are passed from one entity to the other like a rugby ball without the problem being addressed.

There is always equilibrium with everything, a point at which things should be in balance. Too much or too big is just as much out of balance as too little or too small. Just as municipalities that are too large struggle to effectively deliver services, municipalities that are too small struggle to provide a proper service. At the moment, the authorities are trying to overcome this problem with sub-councils for metropolises and district councils to compensate for the municipalities that are too small.

The system of district councils is duplicating, expensive and clumsy. The solution does not lie in duplication, because it only creates an opportunity for the ANC to deploy more of its cadre, for them to become or remain in control. Rather, it lies in effectiveness. Effectiveness is obtained through the so-called “mean and lean” principle. Staff and council members must be “fit for purpose” and realise their responsibility in order to be considered “mean” in a disciplined way.
Good budgets that are managed honestly and utilised only for the purpose of service delivery – which is in any case the primary directive handed down by the Constitution – and where there is no extra fat built in to feed corrupt officials for longer, can be regarded as “lean”.

To assist municipalities, the following can be addressed – and the Minister has already talked about it: legislation; restructuring; effective management; training; the so-called “fit for purpose” principle; and support.

In my opinion, there are three laws that need to be adjusted to ensure more effective local governments. The MFMA should be adjusted to such an extent that it is compulsory that MPACs can be created at and for each municipality in order to create transparency through a mandatory review system. The Minister has referred to this. If necessary, the Constitution should also be adjusted accordingly.

The Structures Bill and the Systems Bill should be integrated into one Bill in order to eliminate overlapping and confusion regarding the responsibilities of mayors and councillors. The LUPO legislation should be put in place as soon as possible, so that the speed with which applications can be processed can be boosted dramatically, in order to stimulate economic growth and thus create more revenue for municipalities, and also to stimulate job creation.

Restructuring can be done by getting rid of district municipalities and integrating the municipalities that are too small with larger municipalities or with each other, in order to create sufficient capacity for efficient and effective service delivery. The answer does not lie in centralisation but rather in decentralisation, and that is why hon Minister Bredell’s idea of giving ward committees more responsibility and empowering them is an excellent idea. This idea will make service delivery more needs-based and to the point, giving it a real face – someone to speak to directly.

Effective management begins with appointing “personnel who are suitable for the position”, avoiding the deployment of cadres and employing just the right number of people required to get the job done. Effective management is furthermore about having councillors in place who are able to take logically considered decisions and are willing to take responsibility for such decisions. Discipline and control is crucial for effective management; it is the responsibility of political parties to exercise control over their representatives in these councils and repudiate or relieve them when the municipalities are managed like circuses.

Training councillors and officials is crucial in order to groom and empower people so that they can do their work without hesitation and fear – and thereby provide the right product to make people’s lives comfortable. No-one should ever stop learning. There is an adage that says when you stop learning, you will never know more than you did then. It’s good to hear about the Minister’s plan to afford public servants professional status again. The old town clerk associations were such a system and it worked excellently.

What does the term “fit for purpose” mean? This means that in the South African context, people should have the knowledge – expertise – to fulfil the purpose for which they are appointed and the skill to use it. This does not mean that affirmative action should not be considered, but it does not mean that only affirmative action should be considered either, as the ANC is doing. People require specific knowledge and skills to be part of a municipal management team – which includes, but is not limited to, economic expertise and the associated numeracy.
Administrative expertise with organisational skills; so-called “soft skills”, such as leadership qualities; communication skills; conflict management skills; the ability to assess a message effectively and work ethic and self-discipline is essential. Here I could also add concepts such as honesty, pride in one’s work and an empathetic feeling towards the customers who require a service.

The question to ask now is this: where does the provincial Department of Local Government fit into this whole picture? The provincial departments cannot interfere at the level of municipal government, because government levels are independent of each other. The Department of Local Government can, however, play a supporting role and, as the Minister has spelled out, the department is already doing so and they are planning to continue doing so and further expand this service. It will also constitute a large part of the budget.

The Minister says that he will train councillors and officials in co-operation with Salga and universities, and that this has been budgeted for – what a great idea. He said they will look at the functioning of ward committees and will be more supportive in this regard in order to get people closer to grass-roots level involved in service delivery. Another excellent idea. The Minister and his department are already assisting municipalities with establishing the IDPs so that municipalities can budget more purposefully and deliver their services where the need exists. The Minister and his department are already assisting municipalities with establishing disaster management plans and updating and maintenance of these plans, and the budget makes adequate provision for this too.

The Minister is also attempting to have his department help other departments deliver their services through a one-stop centre, the so-called “Thusong Centres”, which should make services easier and more accessible for the people at grass-roots level who need them. The process to establish such a service centre in each municipal area, and in some areas even more than one, is underway and there is sufficient allocation in the budget to implement the plan for this year.

The hon Minister and his team are innovative, hardworking, loyal and, I would almost say, genius in their vision and approach to their task. The Minister is working together with the standing committee excellently to achieve all the goals. We did not have an agreement for him to say this about the standing committee and me to say this about the Minister, Mr Speaker. It is a coincidence that we all feel this way.

If one considers that most municipalities in the Western Cape are under ANC-led councils, with a pyramid stacked with cadres that have been worked in and who serve the gods of the ANC, then that which the hon Minister and his team have accomplished and are still accomplishing is all the more remarkable. They are indeed actively working to transform the face of local government into a model that works and delivers dividends.

Many municipalities fail because of the absence of all these things mentioned above, especially the input of a good minister and a good team of officials who know where they are going and what they are expected to do in order to get there.

However, everything is not just moonlight and roses – there will always be those who are contrary, who are obstinate and don’t want to follow the laws, rules and regulations.
The Minister must needs be use his position and status to effect rectifications. It is just a pity that former Ministers who have previously held this office are not showing the necessary insight and understanding that what the Minister is doing is necessary and right. Interventions are there to bring about rectifications and to restore order, not to cause damage.

Every political party is supposed to monitor its members and do self-corrections so that it would not be necessary for a Minister to do so. The DA does so outright and does not hesitate to hold accountable those who are guilty of disorder. Why can the ANC not also do so? Why protect people who are incompetent, corrupt and – quite simply – criminals? Does the ANC not understand that people see this and are repelled by it? We will most probably see this here in the election.

With the local government elections around the corner and the prospect that the DA will control almost all the municipal councils in the Western Cape afterwards, I foresee, Mr Speaker, that the hon Minister will have a much more sophisticated environment in which to work and more convenient access to municipalities, and that the current closed cadre stacks will be more open and accessible.

I wish the hon Minister and his team all the best for the year and hope that the good relationship between him, his team and the standing committee will continue. I gladly support this budget and recommend that the House supports it too.

Nksz T N BEVU: Somlomo, siyavuyisana no Mphathiswa ngohlahlo lwabiwomali lwakhe. [Ms T N BEVU: Speaker, we congratulate the Minister on his budget.]

†Mr Speaker, close to two years ago, the MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, hon Bredell, introduced us to Gerry the Giraffe – you would remember that – in his budget speech. He seems to be wondering what has happened to Gerry or if he has been effective in spotting disasters in our province from far away.

Our experience in the poor areas point otherwise. As it is, 63% of shared fires come from illegal paraffin stoves, for example the notorious Panda Wick Paraffin Stove that has flooded our markets from China. Proclamation of Government Gazette 2007 outlawed this kind of stoves because they do not meet safety standards. Yet, they are still sold from township spaza shops and back of the bakkies in Khayelitsha and Philippi East for R100 to R120. They also have a high emission of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. They leak when they fall over due to weak structural design.

Close to two years ago, the MEC told us that the Fire and Flood Awareness, whose chief promoters and campaigners was Gerry the Giraffe, and the Lucky Charm campaign had reached 13 schools and 3876 learners over one month, and that it was expanding fast. What happened to that expansion?

Perhaps, together with the developed Lucky Charm, Gerry the Giraffe and the Minister, hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Community Safety, can find a way of enforcing our laws, so that the Government is not always just reactive when it comes to disaster management. The MEC also said: “If we want to build a solid foundation for our children, then we need to build strong, accountable municipalities. We have a lot of work to do if we want to achieve this”.

Issues of local government are becoming serious since we are on a local government election year. We see the department’s budget has also considered the issue by tilting the scales more towards service delivery. Our only concern is that the municipalities that have shown poor administration and disregard for taxpayers’ moneys have still not been made to account effectively.

According to the AG’s report of last year, these municipalities, though showing slight improvements, have still not yet taken their responsibilities serious enough, and you find that others are worse. We know it is difficult to monitor and evaluate all municipalities, and even when the Minister thinks he is doing the right thing he sometimes finds himself in the soup, as can be seen in the recent critics by an MP in the Council of Provinces, Freddie Adams, who accused MEC Bredell during the Human Rights Day debate held on 18 March 2011 of unsuccessfully challenging someone “who allowed 500 homeless people to take shelter on his land in Philippi” in the High Court.

Xa ndithetha ke ngolu hlobo sifuna ukuba ke simbone uMphathiswa esenza imisebenzi yakhe ngokukuko, ngoba kaloku kuyingxaki into yokubangaba bazakuthi bakhuphe abantu behleli kwimihlababa bangafutshane ndowo. Kusuke ke nje abantu basuswe, kuhanjwe kuyiwe ezinkundleni zamatyala besilwa nabantu. Thina ke singulombutho siyamcela uMphathiswa into yokubangaba ayiqwalasele lemba ingakumbi leyoomasipala, ingakumbi kuba kaloku oomasipala ngabona rhulumente bakufutshane ebantwini kwaye umsebenzi uqhubeka kakhulu nakakhulu phaya kubo.

Ndizakuthi ke ndiphele apho ngoku uMphathiswa makaqhube sibone into yokubangaba kwenzeka ntoni na ngaba masipala baya betshona ngikutshona, ngoba nathi kweli phondo sinabo oomasipala apho kutyiwa iimali. Sicela ke into yokuba masobone ukuba ngaba kwenzeka ntoni na.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.]

[When I speak like this I mean that we want to see the Minister doing his job effectively, because it is going to be a problem when people are evicted from the land and not given alternatives. People are just evicted from the land, going to court is the order of the day whereby those evicting them are fighting them. We as this party are appealing to the Minister to consider the issues of municipalities, especially that the municipalities are the nearest spheres of government to the people and most of the job is done by them.

I would like to end by saying that the Minister should continue so that we can see what will happen to those municipalities who are going bankrupt day by day, because in this province we have municipalities where the embezzlement of funds is the order of the day. We would like to see what is really going to happen to them.]

†Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, I thank the Minister for his speech. In the standing committee, we discussed it in detail, as he mentioned it today, from Budget Statement 2 and also the APP. I thank the staff who’s present here for their commitment. At one stage we couldn’t finish their quarterly report, but they were available to come back again and address the issues. I thank Dr Faas and his staff. Some of the staff has been coming for many years.
I had the privilege of working with most of them and they’re still there, and they deliver outstanding service to our communities.

I also noticed Mr Dave Daniels here. I must mention him, because he was the previous HOD. I wonder what he’s thinking today in terms of whether we are moving forward or not. I must rather ask him what’s happening in Stellenbosch and about the challenges that they face there. All the Mayors and Municipal Managers play a very important role and it’s good to see them and to know that they’re also present here today.

Mr Speaker, with an increase of 20.32% up to R135.74 million, I am sure the MEC and the department must be very confident that they can and will delivery 100% on their mandate and strategic objectives. To strengthen relationships between local government and communities must be a very high priority to your department, and it is also reflected in your APP. Here the ward committee, the CDWs and the Thusong Centres must play an important role. Without fully functional ward committees, there will be a big major gap in proper service delivery.

Your target for the coming year is just 15 municipalities, hon MEC, with fully functional ward committees out of a possible 30 municipalities in our province. We must all agree that this is not good enough. Your target needs to be changed to 30 out of 30 municipalities, but again, knowing the challenge that you are not getting the full cooperation from the City of Cape Town, this might not be achievable.

The guideline for the payment of out-of-pocket expenses for ward committees, I believe, is unaffordable to a substantial number of municipalities, and a serious rethink in this regard is necessary. The CDWs, which I believe can and do play an important role, are struggling too much to get off the ground in the City of Cape Town. This programme is now running for years in other municipalities, but in Cape Town there is still not even a Memorandum of Understanding signed.

Thusong Centres can play an important role in linking government departments up with the community, but the way you are implementing it is just leading to another — and we must be very careful — unfunded mandate for municipalities. A mutually agreed funding model — and that is between the municipalities and yourself — that is based on a sustainable capital, maintenance and operational plan is urgently needed. The Department of Local Government also has a constitutional obligation to support and build the capacity of municipalities and at the same time monitor their performance.

Mr Speaker, the MEC referred to DBSA and the important role that they play, and I think we need to strengthen the ties between DBSA. I was quite concerned about the near breakdown in relationship and funding coming from that side, as stated in his report to the standing committee.

The reality is that the Department of Local Government is not consistent in the 30 municipalities in their execution of this objective. The City of Cape Town is doing its own thing and in many cases dictates to the province what it will and will not do. Hon MEC, you can’t be an MEC for 29 municipalities and leave the City of Cape Town alone and not do anything. I know your colleagues make it very difficult for you to do that. Over the past two years, we saw the City approving R2 billion in deviations — not using the correct tender procedures, and that is very serious.
Not a word was heard from you as MEC or your department. We see never ending flooding of pink letters and legal action from the City.

The Metro Police Training College, as we all know, is in shambles. Mayco Member for Safety and Security, JP Smith, did not want to send more members of the Metro Police to strife-torn areas of Khayelitsha, because people there do not pay rates. Clearly, this is the delivery of inferior services to poor people in townships. Not a word came from the MEC or from the department.

Mr Speaker, more than half a million people in Cape Town do not have proper access to basic sanitation. This I not reported in any of the City’s official reports. The City reported sanitation backlogs of 47650 households, which only refers to households without any form of sanitation. The 85500 that reportedly have some form of sanitation is not considered a basic form of sanitation. This is very important to the department and to you, MEC. Data available is not being properly interrogated. It leads to misreporting.

*Residents of Makhaza were arrested and shot at when they demanded basic services from the DA-led Government. The City’s own report on the Makhaza scandal confirmed the findings of the South African Human Rights Commission. The City’s own forensic report found that the city had violated the Water Services Act with the provision of the controversial open toilets in Makhaza. According to this Act, a toilet must be safe, easy to keep clean, private and protected from the weather. No evidence of a resolution or any minutes of meetings with the community could be provided.

The Premier launched several attacks on the Commission and the Public Protector. You cannot justify and defend this – it is indefensible. The MEC is not saying anything with regard to Makhaza. Maybe it is not an important community to support, monitor or regulate. The entire scandal indicates a lack of leadership and governance, as well as a dereliction of duty towards the communities involved. It is interesting to note that in the interviews with Mayor Plato and Pascoe, they were inter alia reprimanded about this. We are, of course, aware of the consequences for them.

†Mr Speaker, let me get to the Overberg. On 18 March 2011, just a couple of days ago, the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein dismissed the appeal by the Western Cape Premier and Provincial Cabinet against a judgment of unconstitutionality of the Cape High Court in favour of the Overberg District Municipality. Judge of Appeal Brand said that the Premier, MEC Bredell and the Cabinet failed to exercise the discretion bestowed upon it. He went further to say that the decision of the Cabinet offended the principles of legality because it directly resulted from the Cabinet misconstruing its powers. The court said that the council was both willing and able to approve the required budget timeously, but it was prevented from doing so by factors beyond its control. In these circumstances it seems not only inappropriate but downright absurd not to allow the council to approve the budget.

The Court said that the effect of the mistake was, of course, that Cabinet had failed to exercise the discretion bestowed upon it properly, if at all. That is a very serious accusation.
The Court further said that the Cabinet offended the provisions of section 41 of the Constitution, which requires all spheres of government to respect the constitutional status, powers and functions of government in other spheres. The judgment is an indictment against the DA’s preaching of constitutionality.

I want to briefly refer to Swellendam. That process started long ago, even before MEC Bredell and the issues at hand. It is very surprising to note that the DA again nominated those councillors involved in the processes of mismanaging the municipalities.

*Mr Speaker, we need to say something about Bitou because the hon Minister Winde had much to say about it yesterday. With regards to the Bitou Municipality, we have time and again – and you know it yourself, Mr Speaker – heard MEC Winde talk about it at every opportunity he got. When he speaks, you don’t get the impression that it is an MEC for Finance speaking, and moreover a senior MEC in the Cabinet – as if he were someone who had no powers, capacities and functions to perform. Surely, if something were wrong, the DA Cabinet would have acted a long time ago.

Let me just remind the House that in the municipal elections of 2006, the ANC received seven councillors, the DA three councillors and the ID one councillor, and that the results reflected very poorly on MEC Winde. There have already since 2006 regularly been allegations and attempts in the House to discredit the ANC in Bitou.[Interjections.] We have to say, whether it was regarding the councillors ...[Interjections.] Yes, we know what it was about.[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order!

Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, may I ...[Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Uys, please proceed.

*Mr P UYS: We know what was reported on We have to say, whether it was regarding he councillors being accused, the Mayor’s car – we know it was discussed here – or the standard one, and that’s the most important one that is always mentioned, the spreading of rumours about corruption – nothing came of anything.

With regards to Bitou, the fact is that they received an unqualified audit report – and perhaps with the department’s support – but they received an unqualified audit report. They are one of those ward committees. An IDP is in line with national and provincial planning, and more than minimum basic services that are available went to the municipality. They won the award for the best performing municipality in housing supply and the prestigious award for Blue Druggel status, and they are the third best municipality in South Africa for garbage collection.

All this while a certain Brummer as a DA councillor has a clear history of disruption in the council. Brummer was inter alia found guilty of breaching the code of conduct for councillors, amongst other things for insulting a member of the SAPD and attempting an unauthorised arrest. After a year, a decision from the council regarding Brummer was still with MEC Bredell and he decided not to comply with the council’s recommendations.
We can only say “try again”, but Bitou is ANC and will continue to be ANC. [Interjections.] The community won’t be misled or deceived that easily.

†Mr Speaker, there is clearly still much more that needs to be done by this department, and we will support them in that. Unemployment and income inequality remains far too high in our province. Communities need to be deracialised and apartheid era spatial development must be overcome so that all residents can feel comfortable together and equally enjoy the benefits of developments in their city, town, province or country. The MEC, the department and municipalities must be guided by the new growth path and working with communities and they will need to place job creation and sustainable livelihoods at the centre of their local economic plan. This is something I’ve missed and did not hear. In doing so, municipalities will need to ensure that there is equal access to employment and skills development for women and youth.

It must be seen to that funded vacant posts in the Department of Local Government are filled as the vacancy rate is at this time 17.5%. Please don’t go about this as the Overstrand Municipality, where they just went ahead and appointed Section 57 officials.

Mr Speaker, the speed of provision must be geared up for water infrastructure, sanitation and electricity, and I agree one hundred per cent with infrastructure improvement. However, I also believe that the MIG funding that’s being managed by the department must be allocated to the Department of Human Settlements to have a proper integration between what we need to put down on the ground for the communities and what they must perform. There was mention of 100% delivery on MIG, and that has been going on for many years now. I think it’s good and again I want to say thank you to the officials. What was not mentioned, however, is that the City of Cape Town can’t perform in terms of their MIG and they can’t reach 100% spending in that regard.

Mr Speaker, free basic services must be expanded. Presently, it covers water and electricity, but must include refuse removal to all poor households. New housing developments must be closer to work and opportunities. I was very upset yesterday, while listening to hon Minister Carlisle, when he referred to all of these sites, but in none of them that he referred to did he really mention anything about housing that will be built on those sites. Those are sites of this Provincial Government.

There is a great need for more active community participation and empowerment. Without eroding the powers of local government, the province must seek to strengthen municipalities, especially those with limited resources, and own revenue streams must be assisted. Here I welcome what was said by the hon Visser, who correctly referred to district municipalities and local municipalities. Thank you, hon Visser, for reading the ANC document in this regard. We’re well ahead on looking at cutting out that duplication, and you are aware of that. [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, I wish to address a serious matter, and I will conclude with this. The ANC has noted the tragic house fire in Macassar this morning and commiserate with all on the tragic loss of lives. We also welcome the visit by the MEC for Social Development to the bereaved and her undertaking that the funeral expenses will be taken care of.
The ANC wants MEC De Lille, in conjunction with her colleagues like MEC Bredell, to put in place a mechanism in order for this assistance to be made available to all citizens in this province struck by such tragedies.

*Mr H P GEYER: Mr Speaker, it is a privilege to participate in the debate on Budget Vote 14 – Local Government.

Mr Speaker, service delivery is the backbone of any good local government. If a local government cannot provide services to the residents in accordance with constitutional guidelines, it is the responsibility of the Provincial Government and the National Government to investigate and rectify it. In South Africa, service delivery is often lacking at local government level due to various reasons. The majority of causes of poor service delivery can be found in local government, in other words, the municipalities themselves, due to the inability of councillors and officials to make the right decisions.

Service on a municipal level is also hindered by corruption. Corrupt officials, nepotism and cadre deployment is unfortunately paralysing the vast majority of municipalities in South Africa. Provinces such as the North West and the Eastern Cape are totally dysfunctional and some have been partially or entirely placed under administration. The North West suffers from the most violent protests due to a lack of service delivery. The entire Eastern Cape Department of Education is under administration due to extreme mismanagement.

†Mr Speaker, despite the declaration of President Zuma that his administration has adopted a zero-tolerance policy on corruption, he has taken no substantive action to fight corruption, especially at local government level. Cadre deployment and nepotism at municipal level has compromised service delivery to the extreme. Due to this practice, corruption with tenders and services has crippled several municipalities. However, no attempt has been made by national Government to prevent fraud and corruption by municipal officials.

At national level, a proposed blacklist for corrupt municipal officials was recently announced. The proposal for this blacklist suggests that any municipal official accused and found guilty of corruption would be blacklisted and banned from any municipal service for 10 years. This is a very half-hearted sentiment by the ANC to try to appear proactive on the matter of municipal corruption. If the ANC was really serious about addressing this, they would have ensured that problems at local government level of officials who have been found guilty of corruption would have been banned from serving for life. The ANC is well known for its cadre deployment meaning that if an official is found guilty and dismissed for corruption, the ANC simply redeploys him or her somewhere else. The entire country is rife with examples of the ANC employing and redeploying municipal officials who have been found guilty of corruption.

In this very province, the ANC have reappointed a municipal manager in Oudtshoorn who was found guilty of utilising municipal funds for private use. These persons must also be prevented from serving in any other government position and not just municipal positions.[Interjections.]

The hon Uys referred to Stellenbosch. The only problem we have in Stellenbosch is the corruption cased against ANC ex-councillors. I believe the same ANC councillor is on the ANC’s list for the 2011 election.
I’m underlining exactly what I’ve said now. [Interjections.] It shows you what I know, .. [Interjections.] ... but you don’t know a lot. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr H P GEYER: Mr Speaker, the ANC will also have to address the fact that many municipal officials vacate their positions when they are charged with corruption to avoid dismissal. [Interjections.] Investigations are often not pursued because the official resigns and the guilty person goes on to serve in other municipalities. [Interjections.]

Hon member Uys had a lot of praise for Bitou, but the Bitou Municipality in this province is an excellent example of this. If the ANC wants to prove that they are serious about fighting corruption in local government, they will have to ensure that legal proceedings are instigated even if an official vacates his post before charges can be laid. [Interjections.] Official records also need to be kept of these transgressors. [Interjections.]

*Mr Speaker, a shortage of skills within municipalities makes delivering services very difficult. In January 2010, 33 municipalities in South Africa did not have a single qualified engineer in their employ. Across the country, the number of civil engineers has decreased to fewer than 3 engineers per 100,000 employees. A shortage of skilled personnel leads to serious problems at grass-roots level. The shortage of engineers in municipalities leads to the collapse of municipal water supply and sewerage. Added to that, many municipalities do not even have a chief financial officer.

Cadre deployment has resulted in officials not possessing the skills or the qualifications required, as in the case of the caretaker at the cemetery in a rural municipality not far from here. He was promoted to Chief Financial Officer. [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, in the 2007-08 report of the Municipal Demarcation Board, it is pointed out that local governments fulfil less than 50% of their functions and services, and still the ANC sits back and ignores the problem. All they do is make interjections. The Western Cape, however, is standing out as a beacon of hope in the whole of South Africa. [Interjections.] This is what the ANC is also afraid of, and that the rest of South Africa will realise it.

In the Western Cape, 88% of the provincial population have access to basic services and 83% of the provincial population have universally advanced services. The Western Cape is well above the national average and nearly 10% ahead of Gauteng with the delivery of basic services. The Western Cape trumps the rest of South Africa with the delivery of free basic services. The Western Cape extends way beyond the national average and provides free water to about 82% of households in the Western Cape; 69% of all households receive free sanitation and 52% benefit from garbage collection.

†Mr Speaker, not only is the Western Cape doing very well as a whole, but municipalities within the Western Cape are doing very well. The Overstrand Municipality won the award for the cleanest municipality in the Western Cape.
The Theewaterskloof Municipality won the Top Service Delivery Local Authority in South Africa Award at the African Access National Business Award ceremony in May 2010.[Interjections.]The City of Cape Town was rated the best municipality in South Africa for its access to information policies and practices for the second time in a row, as well as in 2010.

It is worthy to note that these are all DA-run municipalities within the Western Cape. The truly amazing success that the DA has had in local government is no fluke. Good governance and best practice, along with the fit for purpose approach, has led to the turnaround for the province and many municipalities across the country. The DA has shown in the Western Cape that you do not need a five-year strategy to stop wasteful spending. In 2010, the Western Cape received a clean audit for the financial year.

All departments received clean and unqualified audits and the national Government admitted that the Western Province was the best governed province in South Africa.

Mr Speaker, with a budget of R135,9 million for 2011, we appear to get value for our money in comparison with the state departments at national level, where a R500 million lease for a new police headquarters, a R98 million VIP guest-house and a R92 million renovation of a presidential dwelling are viewed with equanimity. [Interjections.]

*Not only has the DA accomplished great success in the Western Cape but we have also improved service delivery outside the borders of the province. Midvaal Municipality is the only DA run municipality in Gauteng. In 2010 the municipality received its eighth consecutive unqualified audit. A study done by the Gauteng Planning Commission found that the Midvaal Municipality is the best municipality in which to live, with the best quality of life in Gauteng. The study also found that it is the municipality in Gauteng with which residents are most satisfied. The Baviaans Municipality in the Eastern Cape has also received two awards from the National Government that name the municipality as the best in the Eastern Cape with regard to service delivery.

†Mr Speaker, where the DA governs, we govern well. We have turned around the Western Cape, and we will turn around South Africa.[Interjections.]The extreme infighting within the ANC on every level, especially on local and provincial level, is hampering service delivery and preventing good governance. Instead of addressing the real problems of skill shortages and corruption, infighting remains the order of the day.[Interjections.]Just read today’s newspaper and you'll know what I’m talking about.[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr H P GEYER: Budgets for service delivery are being corrupted and money wasted on empty tenders. We, as government, have an obligation to look past politics and deliver services to the people of this province. Delivering services improves lives, well-being and helps to fight poverty. Let us stand together and do what is expected of us by the people who have given us this responsibility. Let us deliver good and clean government.

Mr Speaker, I support this vote.
The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Mr Speaker, allow me to thank the hon Visser and Geyer for their input.

†To the hon Bevu, the Gerry the Giraffe campaign is ongoing, and I mentioned in my Budget Speech that we’ve reached 5000 adults and 10000 children last year. You can see the increase from 3000 to 15000. We’ve partnered also with the Paraffin Association of South Africa. It’s precisely to address your problem within informal settlements, but also other areas. More or less 47000 children were poisoned by paraffin last year and we need to address that. Paraffin South Africa is now one of our partners within this whole Gerry Giraffe campaign. It’s an educational programme campaign. We’re very proud to have them as a partner.

I’m also working very hard to get Eskom on our side to also partner with us. As paraffin is a danger, electricity is also very dangerous. We therefore need to get all the departments to work with us and not run their separate programmes. Let’s join forces, because by doing that we will reach more people and we will, at the end of the day, have more success.

We also need to sit down with my colleagues in Education, because what is very important is that we can’t take children out of the classrooms. We must do this during break or after school and therefore we need to partner also with Education.

You made a couple of good suggestions, and after the adjournment of the House, any time you are available, we can sit down and work through this. Obviously there must be a solid foundation. We agree with you on that.

With regard to the court case, you’ve got the information wrong. We never acted to evict people there. It’s the owner who tried to play dirty politics with us. He just let people squat on his land without providing them with any services. It was actually our effort. We tried to get services to the people on private land. No, the judge said it was wrong trying to force the owner, but you must read the whole judgment. I can promise you, hon Bevu, that I will not be deterred from trying to bring back discipline within councils. We will keep on and we will bring back discipline within councils.

†The SPEAKER: No running commentary please, hon McKenzie.

*The MINISTER: Even the circus has its pride, yes.

Mr Speaker, two weeks ago, a circus came to the Cape and the hon McKenzie went to them to apply for a job. The circus is also looking for people with talent, but in the end he could not make the grade. Yes. Even clowns have their pride.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr P C McKENZIE: Inaudible.

*The MINISTER: Even the circus has its pride, yes.
I cannot remember that he ever made an effort during his term, because I don’t think he knew the concept.[Interjections.] It is good that we take 15. We don’t run out, like the national government, with an eNatis programme that we dump on a country and then the bottom of the entire system falls out. We tackle it systematically, and we will succeed.[Interjections.]

We move to the court case, hon McKenzie. If you listen, you could learn something.[Interjections.] We will show you of a waste of money. If you …

Mr P C MCKENZIE:[Inaudible.]

*The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon McKenzie!

*The MINISTER: If you listen, you will also learn something today. I know it is very difficult, but do try.[Interjections.] It is better to learn there than never to learn at all.[Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, if we look at the CDW campaign, it is a pity that the hon Uys always gets the facts wrong or distorts them. He is becoming quite professional at it.[Interjections.] The Unicity did sign the agreement, hon Uys. I don’t know where you get your facts from. Perhaps you should go and search again.

The Thusong Centres’ unfunded mandate is a very interesting statement by the hon Uys. Perhaps we should start asking that an unfunded mandate really is for municipalities. It is an independent sphere of government, and I think everything that happens within the municipality is part of their function. We can also use that argument. Don’t use that argument and try to play to the audience, because it won’t work. We have to manage the Thusong Centre programme in collaboration with municipalities. A lot of energy and power should still go into it, because we have to succeed. We have to succeed in taking the government to the people. As a department we will do everything in our power to succeed.

I now get to the Metropolitan Police. Mr Speaker, it is easy to destroy somebody with the 5% or 10% they are doing wrong. What about if they had not been there? We know that the hon Uys would dearly like to get rid of them. I wonder what he would put in their place. It is easy to point out problems … [Interjections.] … but it is very difficult to come up with solutions. I heard nothing about solutions in his speech.[Interjections.]

It has been said that people do not have basic services in Cape Town. If the hon speaker would just go and read the documents of his own national Minister who had conducted the investigation – it had not been conducted by us – which emphasise that the Western Cape’s basic services are number one in the country, and that with regard to free basic services we are also number one in the country. He should perhaps start looking at how we compare under current … [Interjections.] Maybe you should also listen. I kept quiet when you were talking.[Interjections.] Mr Speaker, if they want to compare us under current conditions, then the hon Uys must do so.[Interjections.] No.[Interjections.] We’ll see. Hon McKenzie, I might perhaps also have tried to protect my partner, but just keep quiet now, then you will also learn something.[Interjections.] Our relationship … [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!
The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, our relationship with the DBSA is a very solid and good relationship, and once again the national Minister came – unilaterally, without consultation, as it is stated in the Constitution, with public participation, which the ANC always throws at us – and pulled the rug from under this whole programme. We are working to save the programme so that we won't lose 13 engineers and financial experts and the like in the Western Cape.

Mr Speaker, it’s very interesting that the hon Uys knows what happened in interviews with the Mayor of Cape Town, Dan Plato and Pascoe, because I was present during the interviews. I did not see him there.[Interjections.]Maybe he should start doing his job and stop lending his ears.

Mr Speaker, I now come to Swellendam. It is very interesting. It has happened in the House many times. Our department has a system that we follow and when the system works for the ANC, they never talk about it. They never speak about the fact that we conducted an independent investigation in the Witzenberg Municipality and that we evaluated them and that we told the councillors they were making a mess of things, and thereby saved the municipal manager.

We did the same in the Breede Valley, where I told the DA councillors: “Step aside. You are busy making a mess of things. We’ll fix it.” I am busy … [Interjections.] Just listen. If you would just listen, I’ll answer you. [Interjections.] The hon Prince must first pay her cell phone bill in Oudtshoorn, then she can talk. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Hon Prins and hon McKenzie, you are not allowed to give running commentary. [Interjections.] You are not allowed to talk continuously. You may make an interjection but not talk continuously. [Interjections.] Order! The hon Minister, please take a seat. Is it on a point of order, hon McKenzie, that you want to address the Chair?

Mr P C MCKENZIE: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Yes. Can I just take care of that little matter, please? Hon Minister, the hon McKenzie is asking if he can put a question to you. Are you prepared to take a question?

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, he is looking for attention – no. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: It is not granted. Thank you very much. The hon Chief Whip wants to address the Chair. [Interjections.] Order, members!

*Ms A ROSSOUW: Mr Speaker, member Prins addressed the Minister as “stupid”.

*Mr P C MCKENZIE: But he is stupid.

An HON MEMBER: That’s even worse! [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! We don’t want to reduce any debate to that level. Let’s listen to the merits of the case, and let our interjections have bearing on that matter. [Interjections.] No, let’s not go there. We’ll stay away from that. It is not part of a discussion. These interjections should also not infringe upon the dignity of the House. Let us also respect one another.
I think it’s important. We can differ in all regards, but we still have to maintain respect for each other. [Interjections.] I just want to confer with the Table quickly. [Interjections.]

Order! I would urge members to refrain from using any language that is in any way offensive to any members in the House, although we are very specific about the words that are considered unparliamentarily in the House. We are very specific about the words that have been listed and regarded as unparliamentarily. The Table also just confirmed that they did not actually hear that particular word, but the Chief Whip has said that she heard it. I’m therefore putting the question to the hon member Prins: Did you actually use that word in the House, to the Minister?

Ms E PRINS: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: She did use the word. That is then confirmed. Can I just then ask the hon member to withdraw that please?

Ms E PRINS: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.[Interjections.]

*Ms A ROSSOUW: Mr Speaker, withdrawing is not sufficient. I want her to apologise to the member.

†The SPEAKER: Order! The general rule is that if it is a very serious matter, then I would ask for a withdrawal and an apology, but otherwise I will just ask for the withdrawal and that would be accepted in the spirit of the House. At the moment I deem it not that serious, but I would urge members to restrain themselves and not to use such language. I don’t think anybody would want to use such language to refer to themselves.

Members, please restrain yourselves. I would also ask people to restrain themselves from running commentary, and I ask the Whips to exercise some control over the members, otherwise I will have to rule this as a last warning if people persist with running commentary.

Then I’ll have to ask certain members to leave the House.

Members, please let us respect those Rules of the House, so that we have some orderly conduct and we can complete the business of the day. Hon Wiley would like to address the Chair.

†Mr MGE WILEY: Mr Speaker, during this time of deliberation you were addressing the House, and there was running commentary from member McKenzie while you were doing it. In my opinion, it is against all parliamentary conventions. When the Speaker gets interrupted, in any respect, it is in contempt of the House, and I’m asking that you rule on the matter. It was heard by everybody and every time you said something he tried to corroborate it with his own argument. That is in contempt of the House to interrupt the Speaker, and I’d like you to rule on that please.

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Wiley. I have considered that. I have given a final warning to the members concerning running commentary.
I think, in all fairness, let us consider this then as a final warning to the members that we do not have running commentary. Anybody who continues with that we will ask to leave the House. Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, regarding the MIG funds, the hon Uys is right. We have spent 100%. I am very proud of it. It is the only province that managed to do so. The Unicity spent 96%, which is excellent for a Metro to achieve.

I’ll now move on to the free basic services. Of course we want to give everybody free basic services, but we must also recognise that there is no such thing as free. Somebody has to pay. It is a subsidised service, and we’ll just have to get the systems in place.

Mr Speaker, since we are rolling in the mud, why not just keep rolling in the mud and return to the Overberg Municipality. This is a topic for which a debate has already been requested and it is a topic that cannot stay out of the hon Uys’s life. I just want to show this to the House. This is my file on all the complaints about the Overberg.[Interjections.] This is the other district municipalities – the West Coast District Municipality, the Cape Winelands District Municipality and so on.[Interjections.] If the hon Uys does not think that there are problems, he is badly mistaken.[Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, the hon Uys plays the emotional card and says, “Shame, we are wasting taxpayers’ money,” and it carries on along that line. Let us look at the facts: I respect the court judgment, let me say as much, but that does not necessarily mean that I agree with it. Did the hon Uys look the 57 women who had laid complaints of sexual harassment in the eyes?[Interjections.] Did the hon Uys address the aspect of the land that had allegedly been sold for next to nothing – the heritage of our children that will be sold there?[Interjections.] I thought running comments are prohibited. Can I finish speaking?[Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Hon McKenzie and hon Ozinsky, I did ask for there to be no running commentary. I’ve given a final warning. Heckling has specific rules to it as well. Continuous comment is considered. If that is heckling, then we have to be very clear about it. I did say that if anybody’s going to overstep that, I’m going to ask the person to leave the House.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Speaker, could I ask the hon MEC a question about SCOPA?

*The MINISTER: No, Mr Speaker.

†Mr M OZINSKY: What are you scared of?

*The MINISTER: I am not afraid of anything. You can request a debate about it.

†The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please continue.

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the fact that the former ANC mayor resigned, as well as the former Speaker, showed that the council was in chaos.
Besides the budget which was not approved, their service delivery and budget implementation plan, integrated plan, transportation plan and supply chain department were not in place, but none of these points bother the hon Uys.

Now the cost of the lawsuit supposedly bothers the hon Uys terribly today. The cost to date is about R450 000, and it will increase.[Interjections.]The hon Uys knows that we are a young democracy and that much will still be tested in court to get clarity on case law and the interpretation of certain issues, and that we will pay a price for it then. I am not ashamed to say it. We will now probably plan to look at section 44 of the LUPO legislation for the court to give me a declaratory order for it, which will also cost money, but it’s about our being able to plan better and manage better in the end.

Mr Speaker, the hon Uys now speaks of a waste of taxpayers’ money, but let’s see what he has left me with. What will the 64 court cases in the Department of Environmental Affairs which he left me with, cost me? I suppose that won’t cost money, Mr Speaker.[Interjections.]

About two months ago, the hon Uys attended a council meeting where a huge development was discussed. I cannot remember that he ever attended a council meeting when he was the MEC for Local Government.[Interjections.]Hon Uys, you know very well. You sat there watching the cadres carry out their task. What I find more upsetting is that hon Uys never referred back to this House. He never came to talk to me as the Minister responsible for Planning and came and informed me that that council had taken two minutes to make that decision. It suited him, because they agreed with his political assignment he had given. That way our heritage can be sold and access to the sea can be given exclusively to rich people. That would suit him, Mr Speaker. We just all have to get on the same page.

Mr Speaker, let us look at what happened when I took over the Department of Development .I know it was not the hon Uys at that time, but it was one of his cadres with whom he had previously stood. In the 2006-07 budget year they spend R874 000 on overseas trips. In the 2007-08 financial year she spends R1,216 million on overseas trips. In the 2008-09 financial year she spends R453 000 on overseas trips. If they want to tell me it’s about training, then I challenge the hon. Uys to come and show me whether one of those officials is still working in my department today.

What does the hon Uys do when he takes over, Mr Speaker? I took over the department from him. Do you know what I found there?A budget for R850 000 for overseas travel. What did the hon. Uys do about it? Nothing. I’ll tell you …[Interjections.]I am not saying you went overseas, but perhaps you had planned to, because you had hoped to be in again.

Let me tell you what I did with that money, Mr Speaker. I made it part of the Solar Hot Water Project, so that we could give hot water to poor people, people who have never had hot water in their home.[Interjections.]Actions speak much louder than the cheap politics the hon. Uys wants to practice.[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!
The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, in 2010 the Department of Environment ...[Interjections.]In 2010 we spent zero on overseas trips and in 2011 we sent two officials overseas at a cost of R66 000.I want to make that clear. It is not that I am against overseas travel, but when you are using taxpayers’ money, you go with an objective, you come back, you report whether you have achieved your objective and you share your information so that it can teach us more. You don’t go on a paid holiday at the taxpayers’ expense.[Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, what does the hon Uys say about the Oudtshoorn Municipality, which is now under ANC control, and which now wants to fill 81 posts that will cost taxpayers R10million?[Interjections.]It does not bother him, because he sees that it is his cadres who are behaving wrongly and as long as they are the ones behaving wrongly, everything is all right, but don’t let someone else dare do something wrong.

Mr Speaker, I can carry on like this for a long time. We can roll in the mud the whole day. Perhaps I should rather conclude. Maybe we should go back to the time of Minister Malatsi and ask him who sat next to him when he approved all his developments.[Interjections.]It might stir up a hornet's nest.[Applause.]

Debate concluded.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 13 – Cultural Affairs and Sport)

†The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Mr Speaker, I acknowledge the Premier, Cabinet colleagues, Leader of the Opposition, Members of the Provincial Parliament, the drivers of growth – our workforce, entrepreneurs and business leaders – members of the media, special guests, the Paralympic Athletic Champions who will join us shortly, and citizens of the Western Cape.

Introduction

Mr Speaker, intrigued by the opportunity to learn about dance for the first time, 14-year-old Renshea Wilscott, whose mother is the only breadwinner in their home, began attending dance classes at the MOD Centre in Hout Bay in September 2010. She not only discovered that dancing is fun, but also that she had a talent for dance. She has the ability to master the dance steps very quickly and the discipline that dance demands began to nurture and develop a new level of confidence within her, which has also impacted on her academic performance. Renshea has the potential to develop into a very talented dancer and cannot wait to participate at the SHARP centre level.

Astrolita Plaatjies, a young girl from Ravensmead, could not play an instrument and she could not read music a year ago. Given the opportunity to learn, Astrolita took part in one of the department’s Arts and Culture Programmes, and recently gave her first solo performance. The All Saints Christmas Band, of which she is now a member, won the union competition held on 30 January 2011. She is described as an inspiration to the youth of Ravensmead.
Mr Speaker, for Renshea Wilscott and Astrolita Plaatjies, just two of the thousands of learners in the Western Cape taking part in our MOD Centres, the work of the department is felt at a most personal level. These opportunities contribute to what the Premier refers to as “The Western Cape of our Dreams”. The MOD Centres open opportunities to building a career in sport, or the arts, and without them, many of young learners would not realise their potential. This is what the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is all about. It is about fulfilling this dream through culture and sport.

Mr Speaker, this Budget will be allocated as follows:

- R122,9 million for libraries and archives services
- R79,7 million for Sport and Recreation
- R70,8 million for Cultural Affairs
- R39,5 million for Administration

An amount of R95,6 million of the total budget is for conditional grant funding for the provision of library services, mass participation in the fields of sport and recreation and participation in the Expanded Public Works Programme.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, during the State of the Province Address our Premier, Helen Zille, highlighted that part of her administration’s agenda is to focus on the downstream causes of the burden of disease, which includes lifestyle diseases as a result of smoking and substance abuse, a lack of exercise and poor eating habits, as well as the issue of social dysfunction. The Premier’s message was further supported by Minister Winde in his Budget Address when reference was made to the pivotal role that this department can play in providing interventions that proactively deal with the occurrence of violence and anti-social behaviour.

Mr Speaker, 15-year-old Regard Sedras, a rugby player at the Western Cape Sport School, came to the school through the MOD Sport Centre in Moorreesburg. As a learner at the Laurie Hugo Primary School he attended the MOD Centre every afternoon. Sports officials explained that qualifying talented athletes would be offered the opportunity to enrol at the Sport School.

Regard, through the talent identification process, was identified as a youngster with immense potential. Since Regard’s arrival at the Western Cape Sport School, he has excelled not only in rugby, but also in athletics. He was selected to represent the school in high jump, as well as the 100 metres and 200 metres sprint events at the Northern Zone Athletics in Bellville, on 25 February 2011.

Mr Speaker, Regard Sedras, Renshea Wilscott and Astrolita Plaatjies represent thousands of young people from across our province. We need to create an environment in which our youth can not only dream, but where dreams become reality.

Mr Speaker, this Budget has allocated R79,7 million towards Sport and Recreation.

During the 2010-11 financial year, 98 primary school-based MODSport Programmes were established. Each of these MOD Centres is staffed by one sports coach and one sports coordinator.
Last week I opened the first sport MOD Centre of the year in Mitchells Plain, at Cornflower Primary, Highlands Primary, Wavecrest Primary and Mitchell Heights Primary schools, together with hon Minister Donald Grant as well as the chairperson of the standing committee, the hon member Mark Wiley. These four schools will now have fully functioning sports programmes after school, and the learners will have the same opportunity as those who have progressed into clubs or federations. We have also recently opened MOD Centres at Reygersdal Primary and Saxonsea Primary in Atlantis. Over the next few weeks I will be opening another MOD Centre in Atlantis which will put our total at around 110 MOD Sports Development Centres in the Western Cape.

Mr Speaker, last year, we opened MOD Centres at Gugulethu Sport Stadium, Bloekombos, Tafelsig, Nyanga Stadium and Uitsig Primary School.

In addition to this, we initiated a sport, health, advancement through sport, research and policy development (SHARP) Sport Programme in each of the eight Western Cape Education Department-based districts. These SHARP Centres are staffed by one centre coordinator and approximately 10 code coaches.

Through our MOD and SHARP Centres we create access and opportunity to after-school sport and recreation facilities for all school-going learners. We develop the skills and capacity of potential athletes at a very young age, provide a platform for talent identification and give school-going children access to and opportunity for higher levels of participation in sport. We expose learners to life skills and leadership programmes aimed at equipping them to deal with some of the social evils they face in their communities.

Mr Speaker, I am thankful to hon Minister Albert Fritz for also doing similar work recently on a Saturday at the Chrysalis Academy, creating opportunities for the youth to be involved in sport, because we believe that a child in sport is a child out of court.

*During the 2011-12 financial year we will be establishing another 50 Mass Participation and Opportunity Development centres. These will build upon the after-school activities that are currently operated so efficiently, such as those at Hout Bay High School and Sentinel Primary School in Hout Bay, the Hillwood Primary School, Lavendar Hill High School and Fairmount High School in Grassy Park.

An amount of R11 062 million has been allocated to the above.

Mr Speaker, I also personally met with a number of sporting heroes, including Chester Williams, Elana Meyer and our boxing champion, Mr Fana, to seek opportunities to build partnerships with them. Our local sports heroes should be role models for our youth and create further interest in our MOD centres. I also intend for these role models to assist us in our training programmes across the Western Cape.

Mr Speaker, while we strengthened the financial and administrative capacity of the Western Cape Sports School, with Kuils River as its base, there are always a number of sports achievements that keep exceeding our expectations.
Learners are not only continuing to excel on the playing field, as is evidenced by the Western Cape Sports School’s boys and girls volleyball teams’ trip to China, where they won the Volleyball Fairplay award, but as part of our career-based sports programme we also placed and sponsored 12 of the Western Cape Sports School matriculates with the Northlink FET college, so that each of them can continue their sporting career.

†Annually, we honour our Sports Legends at the Western Cape Sports Legends Awards ceremony. This year, in honour of the great work done by Prof Tim Noakes from the Sports Science Institute, I will be presenting a Tim Noakes Award in a new special category to one of our sportsmen or sportswomen. I want to thank Prof Noakes for agreeing to my request in this regard.

Sport Infrastructure and Partnerships

A key challenge within the area of infrastructure has to date been the lack of a credible database of sport facilities within the Western Cape. This has now been addressed through a partnership between this department, the Department of the Premier and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). We are now the only province that has a reliable, credible database of existing school and community facilities. The next phase of the project will be aimed at empowering the municipalities with a tool to plan and develop, from a researched base, a facility-provisioning plan to be encapsulated in their IDP and Spatial Development Frameworks.

Mr Speaker, R1,85 million is allocated to the establishment of two rural sports academies. This partnership between the SANDF, local authorities and the Sport Federations will result in the establishment of academies in Oudtshoorn and Saldanha.

Furthermore, a mobile media centre will be established at the Gene Louw Sports Field in Moorreesburg and will broaden the participation rate of at least five sport codes and provide the platform for various forms of cultural activities.

Mr Speaker, greater emphasis will be placed during the next financial year on establishing and leveraging partnerships that will enhance the quality, depth and breadth of our work in the sport sector. The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is therefore in the process of forming a mutually beneficial partnership with the four universities in the Western Cape. The purpose of the exercise is to form synergies between their programmes and ours, and in so doing, to deliver an optimal service to the citizens of the Western Cape. I am proud to announce that I have already personally engaged the Vice Rector: Community Interaction and Personnel of the Stellenbosch University, Prof Julian Smith, who is also the Chairperson of the Consortium of Higher Education Committee (CHEC), to find out how we can tap into the research resources of these four universities in the Western Cape.

We will, however, for this financial year be allocating a total of R2,2 million to provincial and sport and recreation federations, and to regional sport councils. A further R260 000 will be aimed at addressing the specific needs of women and girls in sport, disability sport, development programmes in rural areas and the Riaan Loots Campaign, which incorporates the Sport for Peace Programme.
In addition, R300 000 will be made available to assist athletes, coaches or technical officials who have been awarded Protea Colours with some of their individual costs associated with their participation.

Mr Speaker, in addition, we will be hosting a Sport Summit with non-governmental organisations during May 2011 with the purpose of not only identifying who is doing what, but also the skills that could assist us in effectively promoting mass participation in sport. We believe that the process will assist us in cutting down on the duplication of programmes, projects and facilities and that a solid partnership between the department and the NGO community will lead to greater efficiencies and a more streamlined service to the citizens of the Western Cape.

Sports Clubs

The Annual Township Rugby Tournament, which takes place at the Khayelitsha Rugby Stadium, is sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, and the Western Province Rugby Union has played a major role in the development of township rugby. Participants from the local Sunday League can display their enthusiasm and passion for rugby in this fiercely contested local tournament. To date, these teams have climbed the ladder and three of the teams are doing very well in the WP League.

Mr Speaker, we will also be focusing on the creation of community clubs. This, in effect, means that where there are no clubs, we will draw together a community’s people and assist them in establishing a club. In this club the focus will not only be on sport skills, but also on life skills, appreciation for the family and its involvement with the club, a values-based system of operation and various other socially cohesive initiatives. Once this type of ethos has taken root in the club, the club development component of our department will assist with further development.

Mr Speaker, the basic structure in sport is the club. Well-run clubs not only provide a farmore effective service to their clients but are also ideally positioned to become centres for talent development. During the 2011-12 financial year, the department will be assisting 300 clubs in the rural and urban areas and 30 clubs on farms.

Mr Speaker, the hon Minister of Agriculture, Mr Van Rensburg, and hon member Prins will be very happy to see that in this Budget we also make extensive provision for sports facilities and sports development in rural areas.

With a total budget of R20,8million the club development programme will finance the following aspects of club development:

- Sport-specific Administration Training and Finance and Governance Training
- Generic and Specific Coaching Courses
- Basic and Advanced Technical Officials Training as well as Staff Training

Mr Speaker, furthermore, no sport can function without basic equipment. Identified clubs will therefore be provided with equipment for football, netball, rugby, cricket, athletics and aquatics. Clubs, especially farm clubs, will also receive transport assistance.
A society cannot be complete with sport as its only form of stimulus or creative outlet. It is for that reason that my department is also responsible for cultural affairs and its affiliated programmes. Libraries, Museums, Archives, Heritage, Arts, Music – these are all equally important to society and allow for stories of history to be told, captured and preserved. The cultural component of this department receives the largest portion of the annual budget.

Thanks to the assistance of members of the Cabinet and my colleague, the Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Alan Winde, the department now receives the budget allocation for the festive season cultural events in the main budget allocation and not in the Adjustments Estimates voted for in November or December each year. This will enable the department to finalise the allocation of funding at an earlier stage and provide for predictability.

During the year ahead, 50 artists and 50 cultural administrators will receive training to ensure that the organisations are capacitated in terms of both administrative know-how and expertise across the different genres so as to build a measure of sustainability. Three learnership programmes will also be introduced during the year and an arts and culture programme at the two RDP Arts and Culture Centres in the province – one in Plettenberg Bay and the other one in Langa in Cape Town.

Mr Speaker, after talking to hon Ministers Winde and Carlisle about the possibility of a cultural village being developed between the Artscape Theatre and the Cape Town International Convention Centre, two landmarks in the City of Cape Town. Although this is still in its conceptual phase, an interdepartmental committee is looking at the practical and financial challenges. I sincerely hope that it would eventually come to fruition in order to create a Covent Garden type of connection for Cape Town. This will allow my department to support the precinct with cultural festivities of an African flavour and provide opportunities for aspiring artists and cultural groupings to entertain crowds and tourists while celebrating their uniquely African heritage and culture. Thanks to the colleagues of Artscape for this wonderful project.

*We value our relationship with the ATKV – the Afrikaans Language and Culture Association – highly, Mr Speaker, and our great source of pride in the Western Cape is the National Reel Dance Festival. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Dr Danny Titus of the ATKV in this regard.

†The Annual Arts, Culture, Museums, Heritage, Language, Library and Archives Awards ceremony will again strive to acknowledge the measure of excellence which has been achieved by individuals and groups within the broader Cultural Affairs sphere. One of the winners this year was the Khayelitsha Museum, a small museum in the heart of the community run by a few passionate people. We value the role played by our national partners, Iziko Museums, the local role players and all those involved in promoting our history and cultural landscape.

The welcome additional Expanded Public Works Programme funding for arts and culture infrastructure of R4 million will provide alternative activities to youth at risk and the unemployed. Through this, the department will provide job opportunities and training in new skills, and expose and showcase the potential of the arts, culture and heritage beyond the recreational value.
Once again, learners from schools all over the province will participate in the Annual Schools Arts Festival, showcasing their talents on the Artscape stages. There is also a Women’s Festival which will be celebrating the work of women in the arts in a week-long festival, and the theme will be based on challenges that women face every day. This year Artscape is in partnership with the Cancer Association and productions will be based on this theme.

The effect of the economic downturn over the past couple of years and lower interest rates were felt particularly within the arts and culture world, when donations and funding from private sector and individual donors decreased substantially. During the 2011-12 financial year, an allocation of R4.5 million earmarked for a number of professional arts and culture organisations in the Western Cape will enable the department and these organisations to ensure a more sustainable environment for them to operate in over the medium term. This allocation will also provide a basis for long-term planning of artistic programmes and for partnerships to be developed and forged between various funders.

Through four of the major events that take place in the Western Cape – the Cape Argus Cycle Tour, the KKNK, the International Jazz Festival and the Suidooster fees – this department promotes development opportunities for our youth and communities.

Mr Speaker, by systematically increasing participation in sport and recreation and in arts and culture, and ensuring greater access to our MOD Centres and sporting activities, libraries, museums, language and heritage services, we will contribute to building the “Western Cape of our Dreams.” These opportunities contribute towards producing healthy people, towards alleviating poverty and they open doors to employment.

*Mr Speaker, in his on-going endeavour to promote the heritage landscape in the Western Cape, the department drafted a document entitled “Discussion Document: Approaching a New Western Cape Museum Policy”. This is consistent with the constitutional mandate of the Provincial Government in the sense that it places the exclusive provincial legislative mandate of “museums other than national museums” under the microscope. As the members of the standing committee will recall, the findings and recommendations contained in this document have already been presented to them. A series of stakeholder consultations are under way, including meetings with each of the management structures of the museums currently affiliated. The public has until 30 June 2011 to make formal submissions in this regard. Once comments have been received and considered, a museum policy will be drafted – as a White Paper – after a round of consultations. Once the Cabinet approves it, this policy document will provide the foundation to draft the new provincial museum Bill that will replace the obsolete museum ordinances in the Code.

In the course of the coming financial year, the Museum Service will launch a number of projects aimed at transforming affiliated museums. Provision has been made for this in the Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF).

Mr Speaker, a number of milestones for the Museum Service during the year will also include the following:
• As the leading department with regard to the implementation of Provincial Objective 8: Increase of Social Cohesion, the Museum Service is going to design a digital guide in three languages that will be entered on the Internet under the entry in English: “Sites of Struggle and Freedom in the Western Cape” as part of the programme for the promotion of cultural tourism.

• A similar guide and publication regarding places to commemorate the slaves in the Western Cape was completed several years ago.

• Two new permanent exhibitions on aspects related to local history will be installed in the Beaufort West Museum and the Bartolomeu Dias Museum in Mossel Bay.

• A travelling exhibition summarising the long history associated with traditional cuisine in the Cape and its evolution will be launched.

HERITAGE

†One of the key achievements in the 2010-11 financial year was the appointment of a new Council for Heritage Western Cape (HWC), the provincial heritage resources authority, in August 2010. The 14-member Council has a three-year term and is mandated to oversee heritage resource management in the province. Adv Robinson is the new Chairperson of the Council and also serves as the provincial representative on the Council of the South African Heritage Resources Agency, better known as SAHRA. A number of committees were also appointed by the Council.

I have taken cognisance of the important work being done in the field of aligning heritage applications with environmental conservation management.

The Western Cape Provincial Geographical Names Committee, which was also reappointed during the current financial year, has, like the Council of Heritage Western Cape, the benefit of some of the most knowledgeable persons in the respective fields. The most pressing task of the Committee is to review the existing 11 000 geographical names in the Western Cape to ensure that they conform to international good practice. A massive task indeed!

In July 2011, the department, in cooperation with Heritage Western Cape, will be hosting a Provincial Heritage Summit. The purpose of the summit is to bring together key role-players in heritage resource management to debate and formulate guidelines for the conservation and management of heritage resources in the province.

An allocation of R1,3 million is made available in this new financial year. An amount of R3 million has been earmarked for subsidies and grants-in-aid to affiliated museums in the 2011-12 financial year.

Mr Speaker, the appointment of the new Director Heritage, Andrew Hall, in January 2011, will enhance the capacity and knowledge in the management of heritage resources, museums and geographical names.
LIBRARIES

The important role which libraries continue to play in the communities of the Western Cape is invaluable. A literate community and a community that reads contribute towards creating equal opportunities. In this regard, the Provincial Library Service will continue to supply library material to 334 library centres throughout the province.

Library material is not restricted to books only, we also subscribe to approximately 7,005 periodical and newspaper titles on behalf of libraries. An amount of R23.7 million has been set aside for procurement of library material.

Many of our rural communities do not have easy access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In order to bridge this unfortunate digital divide, we started with a project to implement ICT at rural public libraries. The Rural Library Connectivity Project will be rolled out to a further 21 rural communities.

At the end of this financial year, 81 communities in total will have free access to the Internet.

The new library and information operating system that has been implemented at the Provincial Library Service, the City of Cape Town as well as Stellenbosch public libraries, will be rolled out to 72 libraries in 14 municipalities of the Western Cape during this year.

We will continue to extend library services to rural communities that do not currently have access to public libraries. We do this through placing mobile book trolleys, also known as Wheelie Wagons, in these communities. Members of the House will appreciate that seven communities will this year benefit from this project. These communities are: Versfeld in the Berg River Municipality; Greysmead in the Theewaterskloof Municipality; Laaste Drif in the Witzenberg Municipality; Rooirivier in the Eden District Municipality; Farleigh in the Knysna Municipality; and Klipfontein and Brakfontein in the Hessequa Municipality.

The conditional grant continues to play an important role in the enhancement of public libraries throughout the Western Cape. An amount of R48.69 million has been allocated to the Western Cape for the new financial year. Of this, R41.1 million will be transferred to municipalities. These funds are mainly used by municipalities for the remuneration of 322 public library staff and also to provide for smaller maintenance and upgrading projects. Of special note this year is that we will transfer R4 million of the conditional grant funds to the Drakenstein Municipality to assist them to upgrade the Paarl Public Library. We will also transfer an additional R1 million to Saldanha Bay to finalise the Louwville/Vredenburg Library project.

The Library Service places a high premium on the promotion of public libraries and reading. To this effect, the library services will continue to publish the Cape Librarian magazine which now, at age 54, is the oldest and one of only two public library magazines in South Africa.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr Speaker, following the recommendations made by a Colloquium on Language Policy held in February 2010, the department embarked on a renewed awareness campaign to monitor the implementation of the Provincial Language Policy during the past year. The Provincial Government departments were engaged to emphasise the importance of implementing the Language Policy.
This engagement resulted in these provincial departments committing themselves to the implementation of the Language Policy.

The Western Cape Language Committee, in cooperation with the department, will continue to oversee and report on its important legislative mandate to oversee the implementation of the Western Cape Provincial Language Policy. This will ensure that the three official languages have equal status.

It is on this note, Mr Speaker, that I am deeply disappointed about this Legislature not setting the proper example in recognising the three official languages in the translation facilities in the House.

The department will continue raising awareness regarding multilingualism and the development of the previously marginalised indigenous languages such as Nama and the South Africa Sign Language, and I will partner with organisations and stakeholders in these fields. We will also continue with the promotion of multilingualism through various English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa awareness projects aimed at ensuring the equal status of the three official languages.

Cultural and Sport Tourism

Mr Speaker, during the Premier’s State of the Province Address, Ms Helen Zille indicated that we have made a clear choice to put economic and employment growth at the front and centre of our agenda for the Western Cape.

We firmly believe that Cultural and Sport Tourism can play a significant role to support job creation in the province. We need to therefore continue to position the Western Cape as a preferred Sport and Culture destination. For the 2011-12 financial year we therefore plan to assist 25 federations to host major national and international events in our province. These events include World Boxing, Bodybuilding, World Weight-lifting, African Junior Table Tennis and World Ice Hockey. An amount of R1million is allocated to these.

South African Games

Mr Speaker, the 5th edition of the South African Games will be held in Polokwane, Limpopo, from 2 to 7 October 2011. The Western Cape has a proud history of participation and achieved third place at the last competition. We are, however, determined to do better. Our partnership with three regional universities and the Western Cape Sport Academy certainly bolsters our preparations. We are therefore confident that we will do well at this event.

Conclusion

Mr Speaker, before I conclude I would like to thank the Premier and my Cabinet colleagues for their support. I would also like to thank the Head of Department, Mr Brent Walters; the Chief Director for Cultural Affairs, Mrs Hannetjie du Preez; and the Chief Director for Sport, Adv Linden Bouwers, for their collective leadership and I thank the CFO and officials for their commitment and passion.

I also need to thank my wife and my kids, because the work of a Minister often requires you to be away from home. I thank my father who looks after them most of the time.
Our critical partners are the thousands of volunteers who drive sport and cultural activities through their clubs, federations, cultural forums, community organisations and other bodies.

I would like to thank the Head of the Ministry, Adv Pretorius; the MLO, Mr Gregory Wagner; the spokesperson, Mr Daniel Johnson, who has done an outstanding job; and all the other staff members and the communication unit in this department.

I also thank all the sportsmen and sportswomen for promoting the Western Cape through their excellence in sport. I want to thank especially the Paralympic Athletics of the Western Cape for their excellence in the recent World Paralympic Championships in New Zealand.

*Mr Speaker, Japie Malan is in the House today. Japie Malan is 92 years old, and he took part in the Argus and Pick ‘n Pay Cycle Tour. Where is Oom Japie?[Interjections.] Oom Japie, thank you very much.[Applause.] Oom Japie, I can assure you that nobody in this House is 92 years old. Thank you very much for the example you set us.

Lastly I would like to thank all the members of the standing committee. I thank the chairperson, Mark Wiley, for his guidance and hon members Anroux Marais, Jenny Hartnick and Stali for their contribution in the standing committee with regard to this Budget.

Mr Speaker, it is also a great privilege for me to have the last Administrator of the Western Cape, Mr Kobus Meiring, here in the House today.[Applause.]

†Mr M G E WILEY: Mr Speaker, it is a great honour to follow after Minister Meyer. You will agree that he brings not only academic clout and insight into his portfolio but he also brings an enormous amount of enthusiasm. As a former senior official of the department, he is a contradiction to the public perception of grey-hair officialdom. He is an enormously enthusiastic person and one can see he has really applied sound project management principles to his department.

In many respects, the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree. I am very pleased – and he has already mentioned it – to see his father and former Cabinet colleague, Piet Meyer, who became the Ambassador to Taiwan after he left the House.

More particularly, I would like to also welcome and bring tribute to the former Administrator of the Western Cape and also a Cabinet colleague of ours, Kobus Meiring. I would like to, if I may, with his permission, relate a story that he told us, because it is very opportune in this debate about cultural heritage and history. As the Administrator, he was asked on the night of Mr Mandela’s release to host Mr Mandela at Leeuwenhof. The next day he was going to address the crowds on the steps of the City Hall. He tells the story of what a dignified person he was in this very sedate and tranquil surroundings and what a pleasant time he and his family had in the presence of such a historical legend. He said that it left a deep impression on him and his family. They had a very quiet time in the morning, of prayer and preparation for this momentous occasion in our history.

Mr Meiring was also with me when we negotiated with the Table Mountain National Park. He was then the Minister for Environmental Affairs and I was the chairperson of the standing committee.
We negotiated with the National Park with regard to the debate about whether they should create the Table Mountain National Park as opposed to being a provincial entity or remain as it was, fragmented amongst all these different departments, including the City.

I don’t know whether you will agree with me, but I know that I am terribly disappointed by what I see happening in our city at the moment with the decimation of our recreational forest, which is not just a recreational forest, but these forests also have a deep cultural and historical significance. If you look at any tourism brochures you will see that the Tokai Forest as a recreational area is well-marked as such. It will not be that in the future, because it will be such a small thing.

I think that former Minister Meiring might join me in saying that it is probably one of the most ill-advised and insensitive decisions taken by the National Parks to strip the forest in the manner in which they have done, in denying people the opportunity to, in their thousands, make use of those forests.

I would like to also mention that we believe that in this province we have the richest history in both heritage and culture, while at the same time we’re a sports mad population that has in the past, and continues to do so, generated some of the sports heroes of this country. A couple of them who are active at the moment, as we well know, is Jacques Kallis. He’s probably the world’s greatest cricketer. Certainly statistically he’s the world’s greatest cricketer. He’s trying to help us win the World Cup in India and Pakistan at the moment. Ryan Sandes, as you know, is the king of all marathon running as far as extreme desert running is concerned and Dawid Mocke is the World Surf Ski Champion, both of whom I have mentioned in the House before.

The Cobras thrashed the other teams in the Super 20, and Ajax is at the top of the log at the moment. I could mention many others, but the fact of the matter is that we do excel in this province and we have an enormously long and proud history that we can add to – something that is still visible and for us to look after.

As far as heritage is concerned – and I’m going to speak more in generalities – the department’s mission is to develop pride and respect for our heritage, but we do need to have a greater understanding. Currently, there is a debate going on with regard to the Lutheran Church, and it is a debate that we have to have. The Lutheran Church precinct on an old granary site next door is now subject to a development proposal. One of our leading architects, Gawie Fagan, is the architect of the proposed redevelopment of this site. I’m not going to pronounce one way or the other, but the fact of the matter is that for places like the Lutheran Church and the granary site, old historical sites, to survive – can they do so simply on the handouts of the public or *ex gratia* payments from donors, or do they have to develop in some way in order to generate the funds in order to sustain themselves?

For what it’s worth, the Lutheran Church – and I have been down there twice now – has not received a cent from government for its upkeep. Over the years, they have managed to generate hundreds, if not millions, of rand through donations and their own fundraising efforts in order to maintain that facility. I would urge members of the House to go down to the Lutheran Church and have a look at that facility. It really is something that goes into ... [Interjections.] Unfortunately, Mr Speaker, once again, the ANC has got the thing from the wrong end.
I don’t want to use the crude terminology that would really describe what I feel on this matter, but if he had bothered to go down there, as I’ve invited him to do, he would understand exactly what I’m talking about. When Mfeketo was the mayor of Cape Town, they did more destruction of historical and heritage of this city than any other class of people prior to that. [Interjections.]

That’s why most of you sitting down the front here ... [Interjections.] All we have is historical façades and the rest of it is demolished behind. There is nothing of the old city left because of the ANC rule of the City.

Mr M OZINSKY: [Inaudible.]

Mr M G E WILEY: No, you’re not. That’s the whole issue. It’s a proposal and a debate that has to be ongoing. If the hon member would just listen to what I have said, it’s a debate that we need to have. If we are going to preserve our history and our culture, we need to determine methodologies in order that they don’t become a drag on the State.

Let’s look at what the Department of Public Works has done to Robben Island, for instance, and is doing to the Castle, for instance. [Interjections.] If you go to the Castle you will see what Public Works has done with regard to aid neglect of the Castle after the old apartheid regime has spent tens of millions of rands to fix it up. Gawie Fagan and his wife were architects there. They spent an eternity to turn it into an absolute gem. As direct neglect of the ANC Government now, that place is a danger in many of the upper offices. I would urge these members to, rather than talk nonsense, go and see the facts for themselves.

The fact of the matter is that Robben Island is an international disgrace story. It is a world heritage site.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: Is it parliamentary for the hon member to say that I’m talking nonsense? [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! That is not a point of order. Please continue, hon Wiley.

†Mr M G E WILEY: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is Robben Island, is seriously under threat of losing this status because of the neglect that the ANC has thrown at it. [Interjections.] The reason why they’ve had to refurbish those 9,2 inch cannons was because the ANC ... [Interjections.] Ask the ANC ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M G E WILEY: Once again, the ANC thinks that everything in this country revolves around them and the history that they have created for themselves. They’ve taken the 400-year-old history of Robben Island and they’ve condensed it into the 40 years of ANC incarceration period as being the only history that exists, which of course is not right. [Interjections.] Then the UN gave us the UNESCO World Heritage Site status as far as Robben Island is concerned. They did it on condition that the whole history and heritage of Robben Island was brought to the fore, which of course the ANC didn’t do. They spent hundreds of millions of rand glorifying just a small political historical aspect of that island and ignored the rest of the history.
Under threat of being de-established as a heritage site, they went and spent some R10 million to R12 million on refurbishing something just as important, and that was some of the military heritage of that site. Now we have something that is unique in the world. We have a 9.2 inch cannon battery, which is the only working coastal battery of its kind in the world. It’s now a major asset and will become a major tourist attraction. [Interjections.]

Unfortunately, these sorts of things escaped them. The ANC is so concentrated on its own self-image. Even the PAC freedom fighter, Robert Sobukwe’s house, which is there on Robben Island, is totally neglected. They will stick their own freedom fighters in the back. They are so desperate in how they go about things. [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, I’d just like to touch on one or two other things, if I may. [Interjections.]

The department’s budget is too small, with all due respect, Mr Speaker. They could always do with a hell of a lot more, especially with regard to sport, but as far as the archives are concerned, the archives in the Western Cape are acknowledged to be the oldest in the country, going back to 1651, and therefore they are a national treasure. It is a matter of some concern that the national department’s aspect of it is not as well-preserved as it should be, and we need to invest more time and money as far as the preservation of the artefacts in those national archives are concerned.

I’ve already touched on the matter of the political aspects of museums. We have a rich political history in this country, not just over this period from the 1960s until now, as the ANC would like us to believe. [Interjections.] I would urge that the schools actively pursue visits to museums. I’m pleased that we’ve had discussions with the Minister of Education on this matter, because it says in the Annual Performance Plan that the department is concerned about the ban of school visits to museums. The Minister says this is not the case, as long as they follow standard protocols and procedures, where scholars need to be properly supervised. It is not just a laissez-faire type of affair but must have a specific task in mind, and it must deliver outcomes at the end of a visit. The problem is that many of these schools then close down to send kids to a museum and they aren’t properly supervised and there is absolutely no outcome at the end of the visit.

The language matter has already been touched on by the Minister. I also want to apologise for the fact that at the time of the presentation of the budget up in the Auditorium there was no translation. I’m sure, Mr Speaker, that you would like me to apologise on behalf of Parliament. It was an embarrassing moment.

Sport, as we know, breeds household names and national heroes. The power to influence society is limitless. Let us look at the rather notorious case of Tiger Woods. When he fell off the scene after his indiscretions, the sales of things like Rolex watches and various other endorsement products like Nike fell off by 40% as a direct result of his negative influence. The converse obviously works, and that if you’re a positive role model, you will help sell goods because people associate their sports heroes with excellence.

I want to touch for a few minutes on school sport, if I may, Mr Speaker. I attended one of the MOD launches, as the Minister indicated. I’m absolutely delighted that it has taken place.
As it rolls out, there’s going to be much greater emphasis on the search for assistants in these MOD Centres. It was really encouraging to see how well those children did, the discipline that came about out of the activities and the sense of responsibility they had with regard to their equipment. It was lovely to see, but it’s going to have to roll out faster. We need to get more of them off the streets. We need to have more kids that are preoccupied, as far as their recreation and sport is concerned, between two and six o’clock in the afternoons.

As far as the assistants are concerned, just one word of caution, I do believe that the Minister is going to have to ensure that the assistants are properly vetted. Unfortunately, school sport has in the past attracted undesirable elements.

As far as the agencies that are running school sport are concerned, I’m a bit concerned about this. It came out in our budget meeting that we need to discuss whether this was value for money. After interrogation, the person representing that particular agency indicated that they bus the whole school to athletics meetings, which is absolutely absurd if there are only 10 athletes taking part. He says that for the school that is a great day out. Well, that is not good for education. We need to look at that. I told him in no uncertain terms that Parliament would not support that sort of activity, and that the department is going to have to look at how they vet these agencies that take school sport and not to give an excuse for teachers to close down the schools and depart simply because there is an Athletics Day taking place.

On Saturday, I attended the Sport Academy school in Kuils River, where the Sharp Centre was in operation for one of the sectors. I must admit, I was delighted to see the quality of the equipment that has been used in the Sharp Centres and the dedication of the coaches. Everything seemed to be well laid out. I had a couple of questions which I raised with the Minister in the appropriate fashion, and I do believe that we can get value for money. I would like to see a little less emphasis on getting in coaches from outside and more of those developing coaches ourselves.

The sports tourism aspect, Mr Speaker, has already been touched on and I won’t go into that any further, but I would like to thank both the Minister and more especially his department for the welcome that I and the committee have received. I have only just taken over this post, and I would like to thank them very much for the welcome that I’ve received to date.

†Ms T N BEVU: Mr Speaker, we welcome the Budget Speech of the hon Minister Meyer. We must say that our major concern with this department is with the limited manner by which it promotes our heritage.

It seems to be still stuck in the past way of looking at things, forgetting that the major areas of development and heritage that are still ... [Inaudible.] ... are the previously disadvantaged areas. The department does not seem to have an eye and ear to utilise this well. We guess the bulk of this failure rests with the department’s programme management service. The department’s shortcomings seem to point to lack of proper research, monitoring and evaluation. Even though the department has instigated a service, most people don’t get to hear about it, which mostly leads to many failures.
We still await a much more strategic and sustainable way of utilising on profits of the Cape Town Stadium. That took a huge chunk of the department's budget during the 2008-09 financial year.

We completely agree with the department in terms of the splitting of museum and heritage services. They seem to be quite different things to us, but we think its budget allocation is too low, which is why we were surprised to see no changes made to it.

Why, for instance, would it be so difficult for non profit organisations, like Qhamisa Publishers, to get resources and sponsors when they want things like Gugulethu Book Festival? Yet, we know sponsors queue for things like the Cape Town Book Fair or the coming Jazz Festival. Such things should fall under the scope of the Provincial Heritage Service. These are sounds of something still fundamental to our state of affairs.

We also believe that that decrease of 1,9% in conditional grants for library services means that the library facilities are adequate in most places in our province, although we believe that that is not the case. We also welcome the R31,7 million that is available, as the Minister said, for libraries in most vulnerable municipalities. We hope that all the areas, especially in this province, will be able to at least have a library.

We are concerned that we never really see any serious consequences when our public entities misuse or abuse the funding they receive from the province.

Ndingagqibela ke ngokuthi siyavuya xa sisiva ohloniphekeileyo uMphathiswa xa esithi isebe lakhe liza kuququzelela indibano yemibutho engeiyiyo ekarhulumente ukuba kubekho indlela ebheka phambili yokwenza wonke umntu abe yinxenye yezemidlalo. Sithemba ukuba neyasekuhlaleni ke imbutho ayiyi kuthi ishiywe ngasemva kuba kaloku abantu bethu ekuhlaleni bayithanda kakhulu imidlalo koko ingxaki yeyokuba abanazo izinto zokudlala benzengazo neendawo zokudlalela. Kungoko kubalulekile ukuba xa kukho le ndibano be yinxenye nabo bathabathe inxaxheba ukuze nabo neliwazi kwinto eza kuthi iqhayiwe. Ngapha koko singatsho sithi siyayixhasa intetho yohlahlo lwabiwo-mali yohloniphekileyo uMphathiswa.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[In conclusion, I would like to say that we are happy when we hear the hon Minister saying that his department is going to organise meetings with non-governmental organisations in order to ensure that everybody is part of sports. We hope that even community organisations will not be left behind because our people in the communities like sports very much, but they do not have sport facilities. It is important that during these meetings our people participate fully so that they become part of the decisions taken there. All in all we can say that we support the budget speech of the Minister.]

*Ms A J DU TOIT MARAIS: Mr Speaker, in terms of funding, this department has been forced to do with the short end of the stick all these years. In real terms, the department always received a marginal increase in their budget. The only difference is that there is, however, light at the end of the tunnel.*
Mr Speaker, culture shapes thinking, imagination and behaviour. Culture provides us with a powerful symbol of who we are. Cultural speaks of and from the nation in one voice that is diverse, adaptable and fully engaged with the wider world. The diversity of culture and heritage in the Western Cape is an irreplaceable source of spiritual and intellectual wealth.

In Minister Meyer’s Budget Speech it is clear that social cohesion, creativity and active participation of the citizens of the Western Cape will be promoted and maintained. The initiatives will and can protect and promote the cultural and heritage diversity in that it is actively marketed as an essential part of human development. Examples of this are clearly highlighted by hon Minister Meyer in his budget debate. The department further supports, amongst others, 119 institutions and organisations, 87 arts and cultural organisations and 28 museums.

Mr Speaker, libraries are not a luxury but a vital need. Libraries are a source of information and ideas and create an imaginative world for children as well as adults into which they can escape. The extended library service in the form of Wheelie Wagons reaches the farthest corners of the Western Cape Province. It gives everyone the opportunity to grow in thought and knowledge. Skills are promoted through stimulating activities, media and recreational programmes, which is the alternative to violence and crime. A recent visit to the Leeu-Gamka Library has once again brought it to our attention that such a facility meets the needs of the very community who may not necessarily be able to afford newspapers, magazines or books.

Mr Speaker, it is essential to invest in our language. The initiative by the Department to teach sign language to families with deaf children and parents is welcomed and supported. We thank the interpreting service provided here today for our deaf viewers who are following the proceedings on television.

I would like to mention the following. Gore Vidal, an American, said:

Today’s public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can’t read them either.

[Laughter.] Is this not true of we who are present here, but may it not be said of our future leaders?

Mr Speaker, the filling of key positions, namely Office Director: Museums and Heritage, Resource Management Services, the Chief Director: Sport and the Office of the Director: Sport Participation is welcomed. It has been proven that systematic and regular practice of sport makes an important contribution to health, education, gender equality, poverty relief, prevention of HIV/AIDS (and other diseases) and environmental sustainability, and that it serves as a technique both for peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

Mr Speaker, practicing sport is not a substitute for social insufficiency, but contributes towards academic performance for less violence and crime and towards community safety. We would like to request that the agreement between the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport and the Western Cape Education Department regarding school sports signed on 12 May 2007 be revised.
I conclude with the words of Nelson Mandela: “Sport can reach out to people in a way which politicians cannot.”

Mnu Z CSTALI: Somlomo, ndiza kuzama ukuqala apho bendiyeke khona kulanto yokuba ke ayipheli into ndiyithetha. [MrZ CSTALI: Speaker, I will try to start from where I left off.]

†Towards the end of last year, in my speech during the Adjustments Appropriation debate, I concentrated much on how this department is spending its budget, and I highlighted the fact that the department is operating more like a funding agent. In one of the debates I also challenged the absence of an ad hoc funding policy in the department.

Sometime last year, just after the Fifa Soccer World Cup, I was critical when I raised the behaviour and the manner in which one of the officials in the department recklessly ran its sub function, and his mismanagement of funds of the department.

Mr Speaker, I mention all of the above, because that is exactly going to be the content of my speech today. When funds are allocated to a department it is meant to benefit the people, especially those who are in need. It is not to be used for friends or relatives, or even girlfriends, as is happening in this department under the nose of the MEC, by the corrupt officials. However, what do you expect in the absence of a proper funding policy from a department whose main function is to donate funds to the public?

Mr Speaker, some of the issues that I’m going to raise here today are issues that have been brought to the attention of the Premier of this province by a group of frustrated civil servants, who have the plight of the province at their heart. Unfortunately, they were let down by the most senior person whom the trusted so much. All she knows is to portray herself as the innocent and know-all who runs a clean government. Her administration is rotten and full of corruption, and more is still to be revealed. Just watch this space.

A group of concerned employees and citizens of this province came from this department and took their own time to talk to her about issues happening in this department, especially about this official who happens to be the best friend of the Head of Department. She did nothing about the concerns, instead she got rid of the former MEC, Sakkie Jenner, because once you start challenging the Head of Department in this field, you must know that as the Minister or MEC it’s your way out if the Head of Department happens to be friends with the Premier. The official, whose name was provided to the department, is still in the department. Funny enough, some senior officials, who were closer to the ANC and who were thought to possibly leak information, were redeployed without proper procedures – only hiding behind the so-called modernisation.

After I raised issues last year, people like Dr Mkosana was victimised and she has been moved to the Premier’s Office. To do what? They don’t really care, as long as she’s not there to see what is happening.

The Minister came to the standing committee and made empty promises on issues he knows very well that he cannot keep. He was bold in saying: “I have decided not to give anymore money to the City of Cape Town because they have more than R750 000.” [Laughter] It is as if he controls the budget of that department.
He knew that that promise cannot be kept. He’s not running the department, but this official does. In fact, the same official gave about R930 000 to a district in the South. Why? After the Minister has made that promise that the rest of the money is going to be given to the rural areas, no more money will be given to the City of Cape Town. Under his nose, R930 000 was given to this district in the City of Cape Town, and only hundreds were given to other districts outside of Cape Town. Was that his promise? No. Did he keep it? No.

I am told that the Department of Finance was also challenging this decision, even the account, because the school sports happen to have three bank accounts. As to why, only they know. Let me tell you how this money was used in case you are not aware.

Part of the money was given to a company called Rent to Kill, and I don’t know what Rent to Kill has got to do with sport. [Interjections.] I can go on and on because I have documents here, but for the sake of time let me move on.

In the same department you will find that they are even able to buy clubs from Vodacom, and they even buy shares in those clubs. As to whether that is development or mismanagement of funds, only God knows.

People are just appointed and sent overseas by the same officials who are not even working for the department, without consulting the relevant structures. Those codes are now up in arms and unnecessary commotion has been created. The question as to where this person is reporting to, no one is there to answer.

An amount of R45 000 is paid on a monthly basis to a company called Eject Marketing, and this, I believe, is for music and dancing for the following schools: Fairmont High School in Grassy Park, Hillwood High School in Lavender Hill and the Sentinel School. The question is why these schools are getting this money. Let’s argue and say that this is for a good cause. However, were the criteria to precisely choose these three schools followed, and what was that criteria? Those are the questions that have been asked outside there by the public. [Interjections.] Each and every-one has someone who wants to be trained in dancing. What is the road that is being followed here? I said earlier on that there is no procedure. The ad hoc policy is not in place. Today we’re told that that money is being given to federations and when you go outside there you hear something else.

The Western Cape Sports School is used as a hiding spot for sporting equipment by this department, whilst many schools are begging for sports equipment. Lucky are those who are friends with this official. I am also aware that the move is somewhat muddled, as the Minister has just said here. Money is being moved there and already R155 000 has been put aside for Northlink. The reason behind that is that the principal of the School Sport is not playing the game any more. In fact, it’s a new principal and they are trying to get him out because he’s not playing the game. He’s questioning each and everything that is happening at the school, and the relationship is no better at all. I just want to share the information with you in case you are not aware. Even the Central Hockey Club was founded by this official. A lot of money has been given to this hockey club.

You have just spoken about the MOD centres. A number of complaints have been raised about these MOD centres, that they are not operational. In fact, in some areas they are a disaster, where you will find less than 10 kids participating there.
Of course, numbers will be given to you with no proper results on the ground and then those will be told that there was a successful event.

Let’s not talk much about sport now. We also have culture in this department. In culture I especially want to single out one item, and that is museums. There seems to be no framework as to how to govern national museums in the province, and with that framework not in place it creates havoc in these national museums in the province. I would also like to know whether there are any programmes that the province has to work with national museums.

The second point, Mr Speaker, is the criteria used by this department to identify museums to be funded or given a subsidy.

I am aware of what happened in 1993 just before the ANC Government took over the government of the country. In anticipation of what might happen when the new government comes into place, a group of few whites decided to form a trust and transferred all the assets to that trust, including buildings of the state, which were illegally transferred. Those museums have no financial constraints, but the department is still funding them.

You have museums like Lwandle which has a very good history of the migration of labour into this province, which this department does not want to recognise. The Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum made an application to the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport for affiliation as a province-aided museum. The department initiated a process of declaring the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum as a province-aided museum. Negotiations regarding the formal decision of the City of Cape Town to make the buildings available for museum use were concluded. A Cabinet memorandum for a decision in principle to declare the Lwandle Migrant Labour Museum a province-aided museum was approved in April 2009. Guess who was in power at that time? The ANC Government. The process was moving very smoothly when the ANC was in power in this province. The department has supported the museum with ad hoc grants or donations, but you can see when you follow the trail that assistance will only happen when they notice that there is going to be savings, because it was always done towards the end of the financial term, which is in February.

In 2003, they received only R15 000. That was under the DA. In 2004, the ANC was in power and the money was raised to R90 000. In 2006, the money was R220 000. In 2007, it was R200 000. In 2008, it was R220 000. In 2009, it was nothing. The day the DA took over they received nothing, except for donor funding from the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund and the National Heritage Council.

The province is saying that they are still busy with the museum legislation, but that legislation was in process for the past 10 years. We’ve never used that as an excuse. We have started giving money to them, and now you are making that as an excuse. I am not sure whether we are saying people must close business when we are busy with legislation. Subsidies are given to other museums although they are able to support themselves.

The SPEAKER: Order!
Mr Z C STALI: This museum is one of the top in the country and it is operating in the townships with such a very good history. It was rated the best museum in the Western Cape in 2010. The museum can no longer function without the financial assistance from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, as its donor funding is drying out and at the verge of closing.

You really don’t know what the criteria are because I hear the Minister is talking about another museum in Khayelitsha. I’m sure that that is just to beautify his speech, because no money is going to be allocated to that museum. There are no clear criteria or guide as to which one to promote. Even in terms of the exhibitions, only they know the kind of criteria being used.

The other issue that I want to talk about is what the Minister has touched on – the issue of language. I don’t know for how long in the House we must howl about this language. I know that there is a language policy in this province and all departments have committed themselves to support the language policy. However, up to now, you don’t see that support. Up to now, you don’t really see the promotion of the three official languages of this province.

It is even worse when it comes to the House. We are not encouraged to speak our own language, because you know that the translation is very bad. I will not be doing justice to some of you who do not really understand my own language if I continue to speak that. I am therefore forced to speak a language which is not my choice or which is not my home language. Only if there is commitment from all the departments and from that department that is spearheading this policy will it benefit all of us in relation to the language.

Ingxaki ke yinto yokokuba kumnandi ukuthetha, kunzima ukwenza ngoba ke ndiyayiva into yokuba uyancoma ukuba umsebenzi mhle ube ungabonakali. Ndiquékile nangoku uzakuva ukuteketa njengokuba efaka lonto nje, kungabikhonto ibhetele oyivayo. [The problem is that it is nice talking here, but it is difficult to do something because I can hear that he praises although we cannot see what is being done. I am sure that he is going to try and convince us that something is being done, although nothing is tangible.]

†Ms JL HARTNICK: Mr Speaker, somebody once said, and I quote:

There are three ways in which one can escape harsh poverty: By excelling in sport, by being an excellent musician or to study.

It is then up to the government of the Western Cape to ensure that there are enough opportunities for our young people to discover and develop their skills in order to be the best they can be in the pursuit for excellence.

It is the vision of the DA in the Western Cape to harnessing the power of sport which is the most effective weapon against the total onslaught on our vulnerable youth. Renewed interest and mass participation in sport will keep the province’s children off the street, out of the clutches of drug dealers and away from gang-related activities and give the youth once more something to live for and dream about, because the roots of true achievement lie in the will to become the best that you can become.
In 2010, the Western Province Education Department established 98 Mass Participation and Opportunity Development Centres, or MOD Centres, where the youth will have access to sporting facilities and skills development programmes under the guidance of qualified coaches. As the Minister said, 50 more such centres are due for completion this year.

Children who demonstrate exceptional talent at the MOD Centres will be given the opportunity to attend our SHARP Centres where they will receive advanced training in their sporting code. They will become the role models that others aspire to be.

A good role model, particularly a functional father figure, is often the difference between success and failure in a child’s life. At the MOD Centres we would like to provide all the children and young people of this province the opportunity to be able to realise their potential and turn their back on possible distraction on the path to being the best they can in the pursuit for excellence.

The DA also understands the potential role sport has to play, in more practical terms, as an opportunity to enrich and fulfil one’s day-to-day life, to uplift and empower and, in the case of those with the ability and talent to achieve success at the highest level, as a diverse profession with the potential to open up a myriad different possibilities.

The Western Cape is working towards the ability to identify and recruit young sportsmen and sportswomen who would revolve around a series of recruitment programmes and incentives, and the ability of a core staff of scouts tasked with roaming the province, liaising with schools and sporting institutions to identify new talent in order to establish a new generation of excellent athletes. The potential is all around us. Here I would like to mention Sasha Lee Amsterdam, who will probably represent the Western Cape in England.

Given the scale of the social challenges we face in the Western Cape, I would like to thank the department for investing in our youth. Drug and alcohol misuse should be detected as soon as possible and appropriately addressed in order to prevent tragic consequences for everyone concerned.

Building an opportunity society involves everyone. It takes time to establish this culture and for its various components to begin working in harmony with one another. However, when this happens, we will reach a tipping point—the point at which there is sufficient momentum for significant and sustained social change. It is the DA’s goal to reach that point within a generation.

Social cohesion is measured by the extent to which people live together harmoniously, feel a sense of belonging, and participate in the civic and social life of their communities. It is an integral component of the opportunity society we are building. When individuals feel empowered, families are functional and communities are connected, there is less crime, substance abuse, child abuse, unemployment and, ultimately, less poverty.

The DA in the Western Cape realises the importance of its function to collect, manage and preserve records that form part of our archival heritage through the Western Cape Archives and Records Services. These records are preserved for use by the government and people of South Africa for research matters.
Through culture we need to seek to identify, protect and conserve the rich and diverse heritage resources of all the people of the Western Cape. It is our aim to promote respect for the cultural diversity in our communities and build an appreciation of our shared and natural heritage. We therefore welcome the R127 million additional for libraries in most vulnerable municipalities, especially in our rural areas.

I would also like to thank the Minister and his department for providing computers to the abovementioned libraries.

The Western Cape Government has identified 12 provincial strategic objectives to give effect to government’s development goals. Through the creation of enhanced sport and culture awareness, opportunities for growth and jobs are created.

The off spin from the Cape Argus Cycle Tour brought a massive R500 million into the Western Cape. The same can be said of the Jazz Festival. The tourism industry has strong links to the creative and cultural sectors.

Developing a healthy body houses a healthy mind, and enhanced sport activities should improve education outcomes. Increased wellness awareness will alleviate the heavy burden of the health sector. A massive sports drive will also leave its positive marks on increased safety in our province.

†The SPEAKER: Order! Will the hon member please complete the sentence.

†Ms JL HARTNICK: The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport aims to increase social cohesion through spending on sport, arts and culture and the archives.

†The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Mr Speaker, firstly to hon member Mark Wiley, the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Cultural Affairs and Sport, thank you for these kind comments.

*Mr Speaker, this government is very worried about the provincial and national heritage sites. Robben Island is an internationally declared heritage site but it is managed extremely poorly. Hon Minister Alan Winde and I had to make a decision as to whether we were going to fight or cooperate. We decided, in the national and international interest, that we would rather be pragmatic.

Hon Minister Alan Winde and yourself both had a management discussion with the new Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mkhize, at Robben Island. Friday, in two days, I am meeting the national Minister and I will take up this conversation with him again.

Thank you, hon Wiley, for your personal support of the MOD centres. I also want to extend a challenge to members of the House, especially to hon member Stali. I take note of the recommendations of the hon member Wiley in terms of school sport. I thank the hon member Wiley. We will consider his recommendations later.

†The hon member Bevu referred to heritage. I agree with you that we need to strengthen our research capacity. I am not going to comment on the stadium which is managed by another sphere of government, and since I respect the independent sphere of government of the City of Cape Town as a different sphere of government, that matter can be raised in the legislative authority of that sphere of government. Hon member Bevu, I am inviting you to discuss some of the issues that you raised with me in terms of funding. I happily invite you for a cup of rooibos
tea in my office. We can discuss those matters there, but I do share your vision that we must have a library in every area. We will improve the governance in our communities and many of these institutions that we referred to.

Hon member Bevu, we will have a sports summit later this year to create a platform to discuss many of the issues that were raised here today in the House. Thank you, hon member Bevu, for supporting this Vote.

*Hon member Anroux Marais, thank you for your comments on the Budget. Thank you for your support of libraries.

Thank you for visiting a library in Leeu-Gamkawith me and hon members Rossouw, Labuschagne and Visser. I also want to thank all the library staff throughout the Western Cape and in the department, because these are people who provide a wonderful service in the Western Cape and in South Africa. You are the pride of the province indeed.

†The hon member Stali referred to some of these issues during the standing committee, both last year and this year. He raised the issue of the absence of the funding policy. I am happy now to report in the House that we have now developed a consolidated funding policy. The department has appointed an outside service provider to develop a comprehensive funding policy, and this policy will also be tabled at the next standing committee meeting and the hon member Stali can make an input in this particular process.

However, hon member Stali, this government stands for clean, open and transparent government. Hon member Stali, if there is any corruption in this department, I call on you right now to leave the House, go straight to the police, the Auditor-General, the Public Protector – it is in Wale Street, right here in front of us – the Scorpions, which you have closed down, and the standing committee. I call on hon member Stali to immediately report this and all these allegations supported with facts to the police, and I would be happy to accompany you to the police station this afternoon.[Interjections.]

I confirm that my budget will find its way, hon member Stali, to deep rural areas. I reconfirm my commitment to the rural areas of the Western Cape. As I often said in the House, the Western Cape is 129 000 km² in size, with 5.2 million citizens. This government is not only a government of Cape Town, it is a government for the people of the Western Cape, and therefore the budget of this department will find its way in the northern parts of Matzikama to the southern parts of Agulhas and the western part of Maritzburg. It’s a pity, hon Stali, that I cannot also use the money of this province in the hometown of my father in the Northern Cape.

I confirm that we will continue to support the rural development strategy of this government. I have been convinced by hon Minister Van Rensburg and the hon member Ellen Prins about the important role rural development must play in the Western Cape.

Hon member Stali, I am aware of the problems at the Western Cape Sports School and I was fully briefed by the accounting officer, Mr Brian Walters, of the problems at the Western Cape Sports School. I also had a discussion on this particular matter with hon Minister Donald Grant about the challenges at the Sports School. We have put processes in place, a forensic investigation is
currently underway and Minister Grant and I have given instructions to the two respective accounting officers to subject the school to an internal review.

Hon member Stali, I am, like you, eager to see that more money is being allocated for sport infrastructure in this province. I am deeply disappointed that SASCOC and the Lotto have not been able to sort out its administrative problems, because that is where the money is. An amount of R5.6 billion is lying in the Lotto unused due to administrative challenges they are facing.[Interjections.]

Hon member Stali, this DA Government received a mandate to govern. We are determined to govern well. We have received an electorate and constitutional mandate, but we will never govern in arrogance. Therefore I will always listen to you. At times in the standing committee meeting I find you very reasonable, and I am happy to engage with you in terms of executing our electoral and constitutional mandate.

*Mr Speaker, thank you for the hon Jenny Hartnick’s contribution. She understands the values and the bigger picture of MOD centres because of her first-hand experience in education. Hon Hartnick is correct that the department wants to change a larger context. We want to continue with this through means of social cohesion and family values.

Mr Speaker, I conclude. I would also like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Professor Tim Noakes in the gallery for his enormous contribution, positive energy and South African patriotism he radiates daily in his interaction with people. I also want to thank the chairpersons and members of the Western Cape Cultural Commission, the Western Cape Heritage Committee and the Western Cape Language Committee for the great contribution they make in the various fields.

I would also like to thank the co-ordinator of the Woordfees, present in the House today, for her great contribution. It was a great success in Stellenbosch. Thank you, Professor Dorothea van Zyl. I also want to thank the President of the Western Province Rugby Union, Mr Tobie Titus. Thank you, Mr Titus, for what you do for our Western Cape Province. I just want to extend my thanks and appreciation to Dr Danny Titus for his great contribution in the cultural landscape of the Western Cape.

Mr Speaker, I also want to thank Hilton Langenhoven, a World Champion Paralympic athlete. He is present here today, and he represents, together with his colleagues, his trainers and his managers, the Paralympians of the Western Cape. Thank you for demonstrating that we in the Western Cape can also perform on the international platform.[Applause.]

Debate concluded.

†The SPEAKER: Order! That concludes the debate on this Vote. I would like to also extend, on behalf of Minister Meyer, a cordial invitation to join the Minister for a light supper at the Tafelberg on the seventh floor. All invited guests are requested to proceed after the sitting now to Tafelberg on the seventh floor. That concludes the business for day. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:34.
The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREMIER IN
STATE OF PROVINCE ADDRESS

(Notice of motion)

†Mr PM JACOBS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the Premier’s announcement in her State of the Province Address that this Government will formalise backyard shacks.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]

Mr P M JACOBS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the announcement of the Premier of the Western Cape in her State of the Province Address that the government of the Western Cape is planning to formalise backyard shacks.

[Notice of motion as printed on Order Paper.]

IMPACT OF GREENFIELDS ON
HOUSING DEMAND DATABASE

(Notice of motion)

†Mr PM JACOBS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the Greenfields which was developed for human settlements in the 2010-11 financial year, and the impact it has on the housing demand database.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]

Mr P M JACOBS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House conduct a debate on Greenfields, which was developed for human settlements in the current financial year 2010/11, and the impact it has on the housing demand database.

[Notice of motion as printed on Order Paper.]
COUNCILLOR MATTHEYS KOCH’S FAILURE TO DECLARE HIS INTERESTS

(Notice of motion)

†Ms E PRINS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the fact that—

(1) Councillor Mattheys Koch of the Swellendam Municipality did not declare his interests; and

(2) Minister Anton Bredell did not act on that.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]

Ms E PRINS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the fact that—

(1) Councillor Mattheys Koch of the Swellendam Municipality did not declare his interests as required of a member of a municipality; and

(2) the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Anton Bredell, has not acted on the failure of the said councillor to declare his interests.

[Notice of motion as printed on Order Paper.]

HUGE SHORTAGE OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL REHABILITATION CENTRES IN WESTERN CAPE

(Notice of motion)

†Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the fact that there is a huge shortage of drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres in the Western Cape Province.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]

Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the fact that there is huge shortage of drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres in the Western Cape.

[Notice of motion as printed on Order Paper.]

REPORT ON INVESTIGATION INTO CONVERSION OF TOYOTA QUANTUM PANEL VANS INTO TAXIS TO BE REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEES

(Motion)
†Mr MGE WILEY: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the report of the Working Committee of the Standing Committee on Community Safety and the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Development and 2010 World Cup on the investigation into the conversion of Toyota Quantum panel vans into taxis, dated 3 December 2010, be referred back to the said committees for further consideration.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr M G E WILEY: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the report of the Working Committee of the Standing Committee on Community Safety and the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Development and 2010 World Cup on the investigation into the conversion of Toyota Quantum panel vans into taxis, dated 3 December 2010, be referred back to the said committees for further consideration.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

LATE DAVE PICK

(Motion of condolence)

†Ms V HANI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) extends its condolences to the family of Dave Pick, who passed away untimely yesterday, 23 March 2011, on his way to Atlantis;

(2) notes that Dave was the Western Cape Provincial Deputy Chairperson of the Veterans’ League; and

(3) recognises that he was one of the greatest heroes in our struggle and one of the dedicated cadres who worked hard to fight apartheid for the betterment of everybody in this province.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Ms V HANI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) extends its condolences to the family of Dave Pick, who passed away yesterday, 23 March 2011, on his way to Atlantis;

(2) notes that, at the time of his untimely death, Dave was the Western Cape Provincial Deputy Chairperson of the Veterans’ League; and
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(3) recognises that he was one of the greatest heroes in our struggle for freedom and one of the dedicated cadres who worked very hard to fight apartheid for the betterment of the life of every person in the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]
Agreed to.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 11 – Agriculture)

*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr Speaker, colleagues and friends of agriculture, the government of the Western Province has a vision of an open opportunity society for all. This government wants to give people an opportunity to free themselves from the chains of poverty.

We want our citizens to have big dreams for their future and also for the future of their children. We want people to once again believe in the idea that hard work and commitment will be rewarded with a better quality of life. This government of the Western Cape believes that economic growth provides the foundation on which to build the dreams of individuals. Economic growth results in the realisation of dreams.

†Mr Speaker, to achieve this open society where individual dreams and aspirations become reality is a daunting challenge and, without clear goals, will be impossible to attain. I want to remind you that this Government has set itself 12 strategic objectives which, if collectively achieved, will reflect a truly open opportunity society for all in the Western Cape. This will set a scene from where citizens can take control of their own destinies.

Mr Speaker, Strategic Objective No 1 states that economic growth is the foundation from where we will alleviate poverty and unemployment. We will create an environment for business to flourish, turning red tape into a red carpet. Investors are already seeing the Western Cape to be a well-managed province, where taxpayers’ money can be accounted for.

With Premier Helen Zille leading from the front, we are raising the bar of what citizens can expect from their government, local and provincial.

*Mr Speaker, the contribution of agriculture to the South African economy is 2,9%. The contribution of agriculture to the economy of the Western Cape is more prominent and stands at 4,2% of our provincial GDP. The agricultural sector of the Western Cape is also prominent on a national level and represents 21,9% of the agricultural sector in South Africa. It is also a fact that 45% of all South African agricultural exports are from our province. Agriculture is an important job provider, and recent statistics has shown that this sector creates 122 000 job opportunities, which support more than 610 000 of the 1,7 million people living outside the Cape Metropolis.

Mr Speaker, the government of the Western Cape acknowledges the role of agriculture in our province to such an extent that we started last year with the annual Cabinet-meets-Agriculture meeting.
A wide variety of issues, for example predators, roads, the conditions at farm schools, to medical services in rural areas were named by role players as important problems. As far as this is within the power of the provincial government's mandate, all these problems are currently attended to.

†Mr Speaker, Western Cape farmers are faced with several challenges as we look at the year ahead. Natural disasters have been frequent, with droughts often ending in floods. Currently all meat exports from South Africa is banned due to a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in KwaZulu-Natal. Estimated losses for the Western Cape in this regard currently stands at R44 million, but the damage done to our reputation is much more, as this outbreak could have been prevented.

There are cases of Rift Valley fever in the Karoo, and a recent outbreak of African Horse sickness put a halt to all horse exports from Kenilworth. The horse industry is losing R10 million a month on average due to the horse export ban currently in place.

*Mr Speaker, extensive producers of livestock are fighting predators that cause great damage. In some cases losses of up to 30% were reported. As government we are in conversation with all role players, and although there are several challenges we’ll have to face, we are not shying away from the issue. We’ll keep on working till we find a solution.

Mr Speaker, it has to be possible for a farmer to farm with small stock on an extensive basis in the Karoo. They don’t have an alternative. We should never forget that these farmers are the indispensable anchors of all the small towns in the Karoo and when they suffer, everyone in the town suffers.

†Mr Speaker, our precious water resources are increasingly coming under threat. Agriculture is a major consumer of fresh water, and in order to provide safe and healthy food, as well as maintain export opportunities, a source of clean water is vital. The Department of Agriculture is therefore a major role player in Strategic Objective No 7, which focuses on our natural resources and the optimal use thereof.

*Recent comments by Minister Nkwinti regarding land reform and empowerment create new possibilities in this context. He lifted the moratorium on shareholding schemes and indicated that the time has come to reconsider the concept of a 30% transfer of land by 2014. He now proposes that we rather focus on being 100% successful with all projects that are taken on. I want to thank him for the trust he puts in all who argued for shareholding schemes. The Western Cape Government was very much in favour of the lifting of the moratorium, and I want to tell Minister Nkwinti: we are ready to lead the way and do what we have to with regards to this issue.

The Budget

†Mr Speaker, this brings me to the budget being tabled today. This year sees an agricultural budget of R501 million, up 17% from last year, and I want to thank my colleague here next to me. It will be allocated as follows:

Sustainable Resource Management Sustainable Resource Management receives R39,6 million. We will continue our focus on optimal resource usage and adaptation to climate change.
This is also the directorate responsible for distributing disaster relief, and at the beginning of the year we received R50 million to alleviate the impact of the Eden drought. My thanks go to Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson.

The department is aware of the increasing importance of water usage in our province. Water is a scarce and precious resource and should be treated as such. Thirty Land Care projects to the value of R3.5 million will continue to clear alien invasive vegetation.

The department will also continue with its ground-breaking work, using satellite technology for optimal irrigation and water usage management.

Supporting and developing farmers

*Mr Speaker, supporting and developing farmers is our department’s largest programme and receives R186 million. This is 23% more than the previous year and reflects the national government’s prioritising of the establishment and support of new farmers. Our focus remains on the rendering of services that will boost farmers’ chances on sustainability. In this I totally support what Minister Nkwinti is striving for, to make all projects 100% successful, because successful projects lead to economic growth. It creates a network of new opportunities for the entire community. This year we are going to support 4 200 producers with advice.

†Mr Speaker, the Western Cape has adopted a commodity-focused approach towards new farmer support and development. This approach allows us to tap into the expertise that exists within the commodity organisations in order to best assist new entrants into agriculture.

Allow me to thank Casidra, our implementation agency, in this regard. Casidra implemented projects to the value of R32 million in 2007. This escalated to R127 million in 2010.

*Mr Speaker, I am excited about farmers like Dirk van Papendorp. Dirk farms near Swellendam and helps Dirk Willems, a new farmer from Suurbraak, to get started. Willems’ successful coriander harvest in 2010 led to a joint venture between the Suurbraak community — and some of them are present here today — and the private sector which includes the agricultural co-operative in the town, the Department of Agriculture and commercial farmers. A co-operative will be established in Suurbraak where new farmers will join together their leasehold land which will allow them to start producing on a commercial scale.

Mr Speaker, agricultural empowerment can be tackled using any of several models. Each project is unique, and we should not limit our options when we look at new projects. When all the role players’ motives are not 100% clear, no model will be a success.

Therefore I want to ask: Private sector, do you really want to help from the heart, or do you want to enrich yourself at the expense of beneficiaries? I want to ask: new farmer, do you really want to be a farmer? Are you prepared to work in the sun and start with an old tractor? Are you prepared to accept that when you are working with nature, things do not always go according to plan?
Then I ask, government official – and here I include myself – are you busy playing a game of numbers where hectares have to be transferred and pursued at all costs, or are you busy creating a quality opportunity for someone?

Mr Speaker, only when all the role players who are involved have clear and honest motives, only then can transformation in agriculture be a success. That is why I am so proud of the Western Cape officials, farmers and farmworkers who are at present showing the rest of South Africa how to transform and to empower.

Mr Speaker, examples of empowerment are abundant. Christo Somers – he is sitting over there on the left – the 2010 Farmworker of the Year, is someone who grabbed all the opportunities that came his way and today he is working as a laboratory technician. Christo already received his BSc degree. He is our Farmworker of the Year. Part of his prize is an overseas tour. Another part was a course at the Stellenbosch University, and Christo now enrolled for a course in Wine and Tourism at the Stellenbosch University. Christo, good luck with that. [Applause.]

Rita Andreas, a previous winner of the farmworker competition, started her career as a general farmworker. Rita is sitting over there on the far right. Today she is the personnel manager at a company with more than 300 employees. She is part of a very successful agricultural empowerment initiative that since its beginning has expanded with two more farms.

Mr Speaker, these are only two individuals who grabbed opportunities, but their example, and the rest of the Prestige Farmworkers’ Forum, daily inspire thousands of other workers in our province. People who grab opportunities also create new opportunities for others. At the next meeting I would like to tell you more about the other people sitting over there.

Veterinary Services

†Veterinary Services receives R50 million. Mr Speaker, the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in KwaZulu-Natal, Rift Valley fever and African Horse sickness in our province all have one thing in common. Each of these diseases can cripple our livestock and animal product export enterprises. The world trading environment is very competitive and forever evolving. Sanitary and phytosanitary requirements make it challenging to enter or maintain export markets. These requirements are often used as non-tariff barriers. It is the responsibility of government to provide our trading partners with guarantees and ensure that these requirements are met. Our vets are playing a crucial role in this regard.

Mr Speaker, this is a good example of where the State has to create an environment for the private sector to flourish and to create employment.

Due to the department’s scarce skills development strategy, we were able to appoint four new vets this year. National government is currently in a process of handing more regulatory responsibilities to us, especially regarding export control. Our vets and the services they provide are going to become even more crucial in the near future.

Technological Research and Development Services
*Mr Speaker, research in our field is of the utmost importance. Without that it will be impossible to be a competitor in the world markets. Without that it would also be impossible to adapt to changing climate patterns.

When compiling a budget one should identify priorities and make certain difficult decisions. I'm not afraid to defend a 10% increase for this program. This year research will get R78 million, and this amount will grow in the near future to R90 million in 2012 and to R96 million in the 2013-14 financial year.

Mr Speaker, The Western Cape Department of Agriculture is the only department in the country where the research budget is actually significantly on the increase and not decreasing.

†Mr Speaker, the Department of Agriculture was nominated as the best provincial research department in the country. This accolade comes from the independent International Food Policy Research Institute. According to this institute, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture dominates in South Africa regarding research capacity as well as research output.

*We are 28 scientists, three are extraordinary professors, and we work hard to keep this status, but we are going to work just as hard to see to it that the research that is done is applicable and of value to our producers.

The Western Cape department is working on ostrich insemination which is a first in the world. The artificial insemination of ostriches has the potential of fundamentally changing this industry. Instead of having breeding pairs with an equal amount of male and female birds, the ostrich farm of the future might have only one or two top male ostriches to sustain a commercial flock. This will lead to increased productivity while production costs are decreased.

In the next three years, with the approved increase of the research budget to about R100 million at the end of the 2014-15 financial year, expertise in the fields of game research, climate change, alternative crops and cost saving input practices will be extended. The sustainability of experimental farms will also be looked at and “green” practices will be implemented to also serve as a model for our farmers.

†Mr Speaker, consumers are becoming ever concerned about the carbon footprint of the products they buy. South African electricity is predominantly generated with coal technology. As we are competing with some countries using hydroelectricity generation, our producers are at a disadvantage right from the start. This is one of the reasons why we support the generation of clean on-farm electricity.

*Mr Speaker, I'm pleased to announce that in this financial year R2.5 million was appropriated to set up a biogas plant on the Outeniqua Experimental Farm. We will try to convert the waste from the dairy stock into energy to use in the dairy, while the end product of this process will be used as fertilizer for the pastures.

Agricultural Economics

†Minister Pravin Gordhan refers to the fact that South Africa’s joining of the BRICS group of nations will open new opportunities for South Africa. The Western Cape is an agricultural exporter, and such shifts in the global policy affect us directly. Our
Agricultural Economics section, receiving R13.5 million from this budget, provides the industry with absolutely essential information regarding domestic and world trends that impact directly on their business planning.

We are of the opinion that many opportunities exist in niche products, unique in the Western Cape. Rooibos and honeybush tea are but two examples where they are actively researching and developing opportunities for our producers.

Mr Speaker, we are also driving a market access programme, where we assist producers to manage and develop new markets and export opportunities – locally, nationally and internationally. This programme is very successful, with five export deals being sealed during the past year for new farmers to export their tea, wine and grapes.

*Mr Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the government of the Western Province was the motive behind South Africa’s participation at this year’s International Chelsea Flower Show. And what’s more, this year we are going to buy the flowers to be used at the display from a black empowerment farmer, here in the Western Cape.

Mr Speaker, Endora Seduka brought me an example of the flowers that will be displayed at Chelsea this year. She is one of the black empowerment farmers, but more of these farmers told me they are willing to allow us to use their flowers at Chelsea.

Mr Speaker, I want to predict that this year we are going to win a gold medal at the largest international flower show in the world, and we are going to win this with flowers grown by our new farmers. [Applause.] I can tell them, “Sugar bush I love you so”. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

Structured Agricultural Training

†Mr Speaker, an open opportunity society is built on the talents and skills of individuals. It is therefore understandable that education, Strategic Objective No 2, plays such a prominent role in our vision for the province.

The Department of Agriculture also has a critical role to play in this regard. Our Structure Agricultural Training programme receives R48 million from this budget. We are training and developing the farmers of tomorrow.

Mr Speaker, 137 first-year students registered for tertiary education programmes in January 2011. We accepted 94 students for the 2011 learnership programme at the various FET centres. At least 1 500 farm aids, land reform beneficiaries and other agricultural workers received short courses during 2010, and these offerings are in place for 2011 as well.

*Mr Speaker, the past year a lot of effort was put into improving the college and to put the content of the courses in line with the expectations of our clients. We received an additional R3.6 million which will be used to upgrade and maintain the infrastructure.

We appointed a college council to support management and to give direction regarding strategic planning and the positioning of the college. The council will see
to issues like the name of the college, and if it is advisable to provide a degree course instead of focusing on the traditional diploma course. I want our training college to be the crown jewel in South African agricultural training.

Rural development

Mr Speaker, I already mentioned that the Western Cape is much more than just Cape Town. We have an obligation to also transform our rural areas into an open opportunity society. Young people in small towns also have dreams, and we want those dreams to become reality too.

However, Mr Speaker, it is shocking to know that up to 70% of people in small towns like Dysselsdorp and some areas in Eden are jobless. In certain rural communities unemployment is robbing the youth of all hope of a future. Our budget of R16 million for this year may not sound like much, but do keep the following in mind.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture is currently doing pioneering work regarding rural development. Never before in the history of our democracy did one programme succeed in effectively making three levels of government work together as well as this.

Mr Speaker, our pilot project in Dysselsdorp will be the model on which all rural development projects in our province in future will be based, and I believe in the rest of South Africa too. The Western Province is leading the rest of the country in identifying development nodes and creating structures to make further development possible.

Mr Speaker, a basic question concerning rural development which is always asked, is: which circumstances attract investments? The answer is actually so simple that one could easily miss it. The same answer that is true for Switzerland, the investment choice of many of the world’s super rich, is also true for our rural parts: money is invested where a society is disciplined and have strong and stable structures. Money goes where there is peace and where the society works together and doesn’t fight among themselves. Each rural development project is coordinated by a committee which represents all three levels of government. Each community is represented by a council of interest groups. This council cuts across all borders and only focuses on the interests of the community.

Mr Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone at my department, especially the head of the department, Joyene Isaacs. To everyone at the Ministry and everyone at Casidra, thank you for your commitment and hard work. You are the best, and the results are clear to see.

†Mr Speaker, I conclude. Twenty years from now, our children will say about 2011: I wish I were there when it happened. We are changing the face of agriculture in 2011.

*At the moment new farmers and commercial farmers are extending a hand toward each other and creating exciting new opportunities. If people want to see job creation, they must look at agriculture. If people want to know how to do it successfully, they must come and look at agriculture in the Western Cape.
Today I give you a booklet on our success stories. When we do the right thing, success will follow. Then we stand a chance to have an abundant harvest. Then food security is in place, and the citizens of our country can enjoy the privilege of affordable and wholesome food. [Applause.]

†Mr MC WALTERS: Mr Speaker, I wish to thank Minister Van Rensburg for his exposition on the principles related to DA policy which underlie the programme of the department and the deployment of the department’s budget.

To place the intentions and the achievements of the department within a broader national context I must illustrate the significance of this department and Elsenburg to South Africa. The Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape has been a leader of agricultural development in South Africa since 1898, when the Elsenburg College of Agriculture was established. A partnership between research and private initiative led to a dynamic fruit export industry, an expanding wine industry and the efficient production of staple foods and animal products.

Not only did the Elsenburg model lead to the emulation thereof in other provinces, but because of the rapid expansion of its research components, it also led to the creation of independent research institutes for fruit and fruit technology and for viticulture and oenology. Its teaching commitment also led to the establishment of the faculty of Agriculture at the University of Stellenbosch. These institutes now form part of the Agricultural Research Council in the Western Cape, with a national mandate to promote these sectors of agriculture while the faculty is a major player in tertiary education and research.

It is ironic, however, that since 1994 the expansion of agricultural research and training over the length and breadth of South Africa that followed on the creation of Elsenburg 113 years ago has now contracted. Agricultural colleges in other provinces such as Transagric in Potchefstroom, Glen in the Free State, Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal, Nelspruit in Mpumalanga and Fort Cox in the Eastern Cape seem to be terminal as a result of mismanagement and a lack of maintenance.

It is only at Elsenburg and in the Department of Agriculture in the Western Cape that South Africa retains an effective government organisation capable of addressing the diverse needs of this strategic sector. In Elsenburg, South Africa retains a template which can be reproduced in other provinces when more effective and fit for purpose approaches are deployed in agriculture at national and provincial level elsewhere.

The fact that 30% of South Africa’s highest potential soil lies undeveloped in other provinces is damning – a total of 1.5 million hectares. This clearly illustrates the value of a government such as the DA with a clear mission to promote economic development and eliminate rural poverty.

Minister Joemat-Pettersson recently informed the national Parliament that 2 million ha of arable land exists in the Eastern Cape, of which only 40 000 ha is ploughed. Surely this is another proof of the ANC’s failure to address the developmental needs of some of the most poverty stricken rural areas of South Africa. The fact that the impoverished of the Eastern Cape vote with their feet by coming to the Western Cape underscores this failure.
Agriculture has played a major role in economic development in the past. Although its percentage contribution to national GDP, which is 2.9%, and provincial GDP, which is 4.2%, is now low in comparison with other sectors, it still plays a major role in the rural economy of the Western Cape as generator of income, a major job creation vehicle, a provider of housing and related services to workers, an earner of foreign exchange with a 45% in agricultural exports from South Africa and a guarantor of food security in the Western Cape.

In his speech the Minister referred to the 122 000 jobs and 610 000 dependents who are dependent on the on-farm activities within agriculture. The off-farm activities, upstream and downstream, expand this influence immensely.

The importance of an effective Department of Agriculture becomes even more relevant when one considers the land reform initiatives which require skilled support in order to ensure success. That the share equity land reform scheme deployed by this province has now been recognised at national level might foreshow its wider application elsewhere.

Problems within the responsible national Department of Rural Development and Land Reform also impact on this province, especially with regard to failure to resolve restitution and reform claims such as that at Ebenaezer on the West Coast. In such cases the Western Cape department is geared to provide those training and extension services which can ensure successful transition to a new and better dispensation.

The Minister also referred to the losses suffered by sheep farmers as a result of jackal predation, and those extremely high losses impacted on the economics of rural towns in such extensive farming areas. The finding of solutions will demand solution-focused collaboration between the department and Cape Nature.

Mr Speaker, the Minister has stated that research is of cardinal importance to agriculture in the Western Cape. Indeed it is research that underpins the vibrant agricultural sector we see in the Western Cape today. The Minister cannot be faulted on the 10% increase in the allocation to technology research and development, especially as the standing committee has expressed its concern in the past at what it considered to be an inadequate level of funding.

Indeed, investment in agricultural research is ideally expected to be 3% of agricultural GDP at national level. With an agricultural GDP of R59,5 billion it does not nearly approach this level. In the Western Cape it is difficult to compute as there are ARC entities and the faculties involved, but with the provincial agricultural GDP of R13 billion per annum, a R390 million investment in research would be required.

The R85 million encompassing the budget of ARC-Nietvoorbiij plus the R78 million of the department amount to R163 million which, even with the addition of an estimate of R20 million for research in other entities, does not come close to the research investment required. Research is the driving force behind innovation and expansion of prosperity for all, and the job creation which we so sorely need.

The standing committee will follow progress with the establishment of a Western Cape Agricultural Research Forum with great interest.
It is gratifying to see that this concept which had its origins in earlier department/committee discourse is now mentioned in many areas of the budget presentation.

By close cooperation between research entities, sharing of services, sharing of research facilities, creation of multi-institutional and multidisciplinary research teams and the promotion of innovation debates, the department can increase the efficiency with which the limited funds and the talent available in the research community are utilised.

The fact that while research, addressing improvement of technology and production levels of existing commodities are absolutely essential, it has been a long time since new major options such as canola have been introduced into Western Cape agriculture.

To stimulate a greater contribution by research to agriculture’s contribution to Western Cape GDP, serious consideration will have to be given to recruitment of funding elsewhere or reallocating of staff and resources to research.

Mr Speaker, the budget further reflects the department’s commitment to promoting land reform in the province and the promotion of more effective production through training at all levels, from tertiary to diploma level, and targeted skills training. The former is reflected in the allocation of R186,457 million to farmer support and development. Of this amount, R82,346 million is a conditional grant from CASP and a R48 million grant for Ilima/Letsema projects.

The role of Elsenburg in the education and training of agriculturalists has been significantly expanded in recent years, as also its collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch, which is the degree granting entity for the tertiary offering.

The wide range from diploma training to the skilling of farm workers and so on reaches a large number of players and is essential to progress in the efficiency of production. An aspect that the standing committee has remarked upon and which was also prevalent in submissions by other departments was the concentration on outputs, in other words, what is to be done while not measuring the true outcomes of programmes and projects. This is not emphasised. We were told that the measurement of outcomes is a specialised field and very expensive. This must however be a sine qua non for the measurement of the progress we desire and a true measure of success. The Minister should ensure that key outcomes are achieved. Not all are measurable if we are to achieve what is desired.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker and Minister, Elsenburg and the department, in the words of a former chief director of the national Department of Agriculture, remain “n Stadop ‘n Berg”, a trendsetter for the rest of our country. I support this budget and the programmes therein.

†Ms E PRINS: Mr Speaker, after all is said and done, this MEC may flood us with word salad and fancy DA dreams, but the truth is he and his department fail horribly when it comes to promoting the province as an agricultural future to the youth.

Handing out games and toys does not amount to having more potential farmers swelling the ranks of people who get involved in this critical industry.
[Interjections.] I am convinced that farming is not a tradition or a hobby.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms E PRINS: Mr Speaker, it is hard work and a business enterprise. I want to acknowledge the MEC’s attitude in the House on Tuesday when I asked him a principle question on assistance to farmers in trouble and he raved on about big farmers being able to look after themselves. That was the essence of his argument.

A big farmer with large unmovable or on foot assets can sell off a portion to carry his own losses and see himself through. I cannot agree more. Therefore, the MEC agree with me and the ANC when we say that government – and this includes the DA-led Provincial Government – should be biased towards small, upcoming, marginal, developing and young farmers. This department is, by design, leaning towards empowering farm labourers to become so skilled and qualified that they could become farmers themselves.

Mr Speaker, this is however not put into practice in what this department has set out as its priorities. We will hear spin and more excuses. I am certain that we will get many explanations but very little substance.

When you look at the budget, the department’s annual performance plan and the many utterances by the MEC, you will see the main focus is on the bigger environment and the large role players. After all, he is an honorary president of the trade union of so-called commercial farmers, and what do those farmers stand to gain to have him in such a highly regarded position if it was not going to profit them in their pockets or bank accounts? [Interjections.] Thus, he is first and foremost a farmer leader for the farmers – the big farmers, the privileged farmers, those who can look out for themselves and those who can recover on their own and are not in need of government assistance.

That is perhaps also the reason why those farmers are so critical about government and so prescriptive of what they want. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order!

†Ms E PRINS: Mr Speaker, it was so quiet. [Interjections.] They think they own more than just their farms, and everybody else owes them even more.

I must immediately say that there are a number of very progressive farmers in our province who actually runaway from right-wing aligned structures and who are trendsetters. They share and lead by example. [Interjections.] They have compassion. They do the right things. They are not the kind who long for the days gone or follow in the footsteps of the crowd behind certain trade unions who exist only to protect the haves and the interests of the big farmers who are so strong and powerful that they can live without government. [Interjections.]

If you want to see anything about small farmers, you need a microscope or a telescope to get them in the documents I referred to. [Laughter.] It is almost as if one is searching for a needle in a haystack. [Interjections.] Is this by chance or plotted to be like that?
I am very worried that our children are not interested in taking up the challenges and profits offered in farming. They are not interested in the industry because they cannot see a future for themselves as farmers. Why are they negative about a future in this industry? It is because farming is seen as a place for two kinds of people. Firstly, there are the privileged – those who can raise loans, inherited accrued wealth and own land. [Interjections.] They stay in the big houses. Then there are the labourers. They are generally poor, not well looked after, without much prospects of escaping the poverty trap and who stay in the small houses you see on the farms. These small houses are mostly situated on the other side of the big houses – behind the stables, the pens, the places where animals are kept and some bushes. This is what our farms look like.

The prospects for our young people look dreary. What progress can they see for their parents, or are their parents only labourers who will remain farm workers until the end of their days? Are we perpetuating the tradition of slavery and servitude on our farms? Is it just a place where subordinate people serve their masters? Is it the basic problem we have with the class system of the past, where some are deemed superior and others inferior?[Interjections.] What is done to make farming in our provinces more attractive to our youth? Are we growing skills and looking after talent?

At this level, I have to raise the issue of remuneration and the protection of workers’ rights. In a study by the Department of Labour, about a third of farmers does not comply with legislation and trample on their workers’ rights. One of the findings was that some labourers are still not paid minimum wages, some lose money on rainy days and women are paid less. [Interjections.] It smells of cheating. This is probably a sign of the heritage of our slave history.

Mr Speaker, the MEC is responsible for the huge task to improve the future, lives and environment of our farm workers. He has to take care of rural development too. In this vein I have welcomed the huge push by our national government to reactivate the share scheme for farm workers to become part of their destiny and also get some of the fruit of their labour. Previously a moratorium was placed on it to make sure that exploitation does not take place. It has been beefed up and now workers can again look forward to a better dispensation in the business they invest in by sweat and hand labour.

I have to also voice my disappointment with the MEC and department who tell us of a database but cannot tell us precisely how many economical viable units there are in our province. How many farmers do we have, how many workers are there and how many family or other dependents are there who rely on this activity? We need a detailed map of what is going on in the province if we want to direct resources to address the shortcomings.

Mr Speaker, without this vital dashboard as an executive tool, we cannot determine needs and assess progress made. We need agriculture specific information and not vague or unclear figures or clinical statistics. When we talk about developing more farmers and rural development, we are talking food security. It is critical for our future and survival. It is one of the biggest priorities we should have.

The department moots community gardens, but it is not enough as there are large pieces of land that could be used with success in municipalities and other places.
We should seek ways and means to rapidly expand that in order for poor people to work the land and make an honest living. Poverty alleviation is still not high enough a priority as it is the single biggest problem our country faces.

I have raised my concern with the training and certification of farm workers. Since the Kromme Rhee training facility for farm workers was closed down, very little can be produced by workers save for showing attendance certificates for short courses that do not count much in our education qualification.

A lot of money is spent on research and other academic ventures. Perhaps we can get one agricultural university or training unit in the province for less money. We could use that money more effectively here and concentrate our efforts at the level we need expertise.

Mr Speaker, I know the agricultural activity in the Western Cape covers approximately 11.5 million ha. Although it is 12.4% of the total agricultural land in South Africa, the Western Cape produces up to 60% of the country’s agricultural exports, which is valued at more than R7 billion per year. [Interjections.] The Western Cape also contributes approximately 20% towards South Africa’s total agricultural production. Yet, it seems the hon Premier did not place agriculture as a priority on her agenda as she hardly paid any attention to it in her provincial speech.

This against the backdrop that farming debt increased with 16.1%, cash flow of farmers decreased with 13% and the value of exports of agricultural products dropped by 9.8%. These are just some indicators that a lot more attention, assistance and emphasis should be given to the agricultural industry as a whole.

Mr Speaker, I referred earlier to the Farm Equity Share Scheme. We will be assisting with land reform, but that cannot be the only manner to correct land redistribution. Additional methods and options will have to be considered and implemented to enhance the process. [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, Casidra is now facilitating the phasing out of the RED Door projects – replacing staff where possible and distributing assets where needed. How will the functions of RED Door be handled in future and by whom will it be funded? What is the reason for closing the RED Door offices? What are the financial implications? How does it affect the poor people and those who made use of the facilities? [Interjections.] Casidra seems to be disbursing disaster funds on behalf of the province. [Interjections.] Is it true if it seems as if Casidra will be a stakeholder in rural development? Should Casidra not perhaps focus on managing the government farms? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Ms E PRINS: Casidra has a deficit, and according to their reports it seems they want to address the challenges of the deficit via share capital or other rural job creation. This is of major concern.

Is the Departure of Agriculture relying on Casidra too much? Is there a power/management shift from the department to Casidra? Casidra seems to be in a mess, and we still have to get an answer or reason as to why Terrence Fivaz was suspended and managed out of Casidra.
Agriculture is very important to our country and province. It creates jobs, food and revenue. We need to pay attention and ensure we assist and enhance this commodity to our best.

*Mr JJ VISSEr: Mr Speaker, when you have listened to two excellent speeches and you have to listen to such sad tidings, it’s really bad. Maybe one should write one’s own speech and deliver it in a language one has full command over.

*Ms E PRINs: That’s correct.

*Mr J J VISSEr: I would also advise hon Prins to read the book the Minister had just handed out. Then she will know what is happening in agriculture.

Mr Speaker, ...

Mr P C MCKENZIE: [Inaudible.]

Mr J J VISSEr: Come on! You’ll get your chance to deliver your speech. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JJ VISSEr: Mr Speaker, the question is: What will the world do without food, or then nutrition? You can imagine the astronomical suffering humanity would have to endure, not to mention the associated ripple effect it would have on the psychological and sociological aspects of being human.

We take food for granted, we usually have nutritious food to eat and we don’t realise how lucky we really are. Therefore the producers of food should be very important to every government. When I refer to producers of food, I mean those people who grow food on such a scale that, after their families are fed, there is enough left to feed others.

It’s an accomplished fact that economic units have to get bigger all the time to still produce cost-effectively. Should a producer keep on using the same methods, equipment, crops and structures his predecessors did, he will quickly realise he is losing the battle against his competitors. A producer who grows enough food to feed others too, must do it in such a way that it is economically cost-effective and creates profits.

Mega producers have an inherent capacity to develop new practices, get new equipment from abroad, develop new crops and thus keep up with competitors because they can afford it. Those who are not in such a position economically or financially, but still deliver a good service in supplying food, should definitely be assisted in this regard.

This is where State has a role to play and this is very important. The State’s focus, however, should be aimed at this, namely food supplies. The State should see that food is available to the masses. The State’s focus should thus be on securing food for everyone. Nutritious food should be available to everyone, even if they cannot afford to buy it.
Thus, to secure food, the State should as a matter of course seriously invest in research, the training of researchers, initiate research projects, make research facilities available, etc. New cultivars should be developed that will bring a good harvest even under extreme conditions – cultivars that are more resistant to diseases and pests, cultivars that are part of a healthy food chain that people need in order to be healthy.

Mr Speaker, nowadays one seldom hears about agricultural engineering. We do not develop enough new equipment and machinery. We depend in this regard too much on innovations from abroad and therefore we have to import these at great costs. Agricultural techniques and methods are obviously important too, and enough guidance should be available to transfer these techniques and methods to producers.

Agricultural schools and agricultural colleges play an integral part in educating and developing the skills of young farmers. This is where hon Prins misses the point, because the department pays a lot of attention to these things. [Interjections.] At one stage the Department of Education did not want to give recognition to agricultural schools as special schools, just like technical schools, commercial schools, etc. And we can clearly see what that has done to the state of tradesmen and -women in our country.

The environment where a producer has to perform his task has to be acceptable in an ethical way too. No one should appropriate himself the right to enrichment by means of unethical practices that damage nature, workers, the community, other people or the economy. Sure, food security should be an important focus, but it should happen in harmony with these aforementioned entities. When the equilibrium is disturbed, synergism would not exist anymore and any imbalance will lead to anarchy and calamity.

The question now is who in the agricultural sphere must take responsibility for the social welfare of people who live and work in the agricultural sector. I want to draw your attention to the fact that I am referring to the agricultural environment and not the rural environment. I think people, and even the State, sometimes confuse these two concepts.

Rural environment does not equal agricultural environment. Agriculture is where the production processes take place and where food is produced. Rural refers to the areas outside the periphery of cities or big towns, and may even include small towns, but not agriculture.

To answer my own question I want to assume that the farmer himself must take responsibility for the social welfare within the agricultural sector, just like in the case of other sectors, for instance the mining industry.

The line between agriculture and rural has however all but disappeared, therefore the national Department of Agriculture is paying more and more attention to rural welfare instead of agricultural welfare. What worries me even more is that local governments do not take any responsibility regarding the needs of agricultural or rural communities. Places like Murraysburg, Laingsburg, Kannaland and Prins Albert are financed mainly by the taxes paid by farmers while they receive very little or no services at all in return.
The DA will, after the elections on the 18th of May 2011, make it their priority in the municipal councils to add rural areas as a standing committee to the portfolio of committees and will budget properly to render the services these areas need so badly and which the ANC has shamefully neglected.

What is important, however, is that important partnerships should be formed between departments, especially the Department of Agriculture, and local governments to render these services. Local governments and other departments too should take responsibility for rural development and not just the Department of Agriculture. Financial assistance and expertise from these departments should be made available to help in this regard.

Allocation of funds is limited, and the government cannot afford to put his words into action. We need food, now and in future. We need affordable food which poor people can afford too. South Africa is a country with limited arable land and as the population is growing it is only a matter of time before we will have to depend on other countries for our food. The question is then: At what cost? Hon Walters has drawn your attention to the fact that of our most valuable agricultural land is not being used.

We live in a county with very little water. In Africa63% of all fresh water is already in use where the norm is that 60% should be used while 40% is needed to sustain nature. Thus, we are already cutting off nature’s fountain of life slowly but surely. We need an integrated water plan urgently that will make provision for saving water, using water, recycling water, specifically the available masses of seawater and sewerage water, and the management of water quality. Plants, animals and humans consist mainly of water. Water is part of food and amongst other things determines the quality of food and then also the quality of our lives.

Mr Speaker, we need food security as a key requirement, and this is what the Department of Agriculture should focus on. This Ministry and department is an important link in the process and one would want more funds directed to this department so that these requirements could be met.

However, Mr Speaker, while I am pleading that food security must be a key focus area, I have to compare the Western Cape Department of Agriculture with agricultural departments in other provinces. And when I do that I have to say that we are way ahead of the departments of the other provinces. Just look at the agricultural colleges, experimental farms and research units that are going to the dogs while in the Western Province that is not happening. [Interjections.] Hon Prins can take her little car and drive there and take a look. Some of these places do not even exist anymore. [Interjections.]

Veterinary services are very important services that producers and others need, but I’m afraid this once outstanding facility at Onderstepoort is going the same way as the rest of the facilities in this country. Onderstepoort was once the most important centre in Africa where vaccines were prepared and where outstanding veterinarians and researchers were trained who received recognition everywhere in the world. The deterioration of Onderstepporthas a negative effect on the Western Cape too, because with a break out of Rift Valley fever, disease of horses and foot-and-mouth disease it is important that vaccines are immediately available and that enough is available to act immediately and effectively to either prevent the diseases or limit them, or even to wipe it out in some areas.
We have some of the best universities in the world where medical students over the whole spectrum of the medical field are being trained and produced, with the associated facilities. Thus, there is no reason why the department, together with the universities, cannot establish, equip, staff and manage a world-class institution to such an extent that we once again have a centre of excellence to serve Africa. This is what we mean by research, to create amongst others partnerships on this scale. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P C MCKENZIE: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JJ VISSER: You heard what the Minister said about clowns in the circus, didn’t you? Watch out.

I would like to support the budget, even though I feel it is insufficient to keep agriculture as such on the forefront in the Western Cape, to be really innovative with research and to implement and secure food security.

*The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank hon Mike Walters, who is also the chairperson of the standing committee. I am proud, every time I listen to him, and I am privileged to have such an expert as the chairperson of my standing committee.

Ms E PRINS: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER: Ellen, you can learn from him.[Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! The running commentary corner – please, hon members! [Interjections.] No running commentary, please.

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we are very proud of Elsenburg College. I want to tell hon Walters that I think all the other training colleges in the country at the moment are in a sorry state. Here we only have to give our college a little vitamin tablet now and then, then it stays the crown jewel of all agricultural colleges.

The standing committee assisted us in getting more funds, and I want to thank them for that. I agree that our budget for research is not enough. A country that really wants to progress, must spend more money on research, but I want to assure him that with these people we will stay the city on the mountain.

The hon Johan Visser spoke about research and about new cultivars, equipment, new techniques and new methods. My people are working on that, but with more funds available we shall pay more attention to that. I think these are very valuable points.

The partnership between agriculture and local government must surely be extended, and I agree one hundred per cent with you. We should not cocoon ourselves, we must take hands and together we must help people out of this vicious circle of poverty.
Food security must be our key focus, and I hope Onderstepoort will recover quickly. Should Onderstepoort not recover, we’ll have to think about establishing an alternative model here in the Western Cape too.

The hon Ellen Prins... [Interjections.] I’m waiting for you to keep quiet. [Interjections.] Mr Speaker, I’m busy with serious things and I have to count my words. I want hon Ellen Prins to help me build agriculture in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] You must help me to give poor people — people caught up in a circle of poverty — new opportunities. Hon Ellen Prins, when one is in a hole, one must stop digging. You are just going deeper. [Interjections.] We want to give poor people a trampoline to shoot them out of poverty and let them grab at new opportunities. We don’t want to say to them lie on your stomach and keep on digging. This is not what we want for them. [Interjections.] We want to give them a better life. [Interjections.]

I want to tell you that if you know about people who receive less than minimum wage, and people who are committing a crime, please report it to the police, because, Ellen Prins... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: Hon member, if you know about such a crime and you keep quiet, you are an accomplice. [Interjections.] So, please, go and report it. Do it today, and if you want me to come with, I’ll walk you to the police station. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order! Could the House just recompose itself, please. We are not allowed to have a discussion across the floor. You are allowed to heckle but not to have a discussion.

*The MINISTER: You tell me I do not know how many farmers there are in the Western Cape and how many farm workers there are. You should listen and go and read my speech. It was on the first page. I can repeat it if you hadn’t heard well. There are 122,000 workers. These 122,000 workers have 610,000 dependants, and I quote this from my speech. We have 900,844 new and small farmers. We have 6,682 commercial farmers. Do you have the numbers now or are you going to tell me again next year I did not want to give it to you? [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, I want to conclude and thank the standing committee for their work and cooperation. I want to thank my family for their love and support. I want to thank my Heavenly Father for daily strength. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

†The SPEAKER: Order! Before we proceed, could I just interrupt proceedings? I am just reminded also by the Chief Whip of the official Opposition that if there is a change, then members need to enter the gallery to listen to the Minister. Could change happen now before we proceed and request the Minister to do the presentation? Are there more members coming in, hon Minister?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! We have allowed sufficient time for the rest to join us. Can we then proceed? [Interjections.] Order! Can we then proceed?
†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Deputy Speaker, may I address you?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Apparently the guests are on their way in.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it guests who are coming? Are they coming?
[Interjections.] Order, hon members!

*The MINISTER OF HEALTH: What do you have to say?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister Botha is addressing me.

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I ask that we should just allow five minutes for them to come. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought that no one was coming.

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: They were told four o’clock, so they are all on their way in now.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: But we can start if you want to. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will wait another five minutes, Minister. [Interjections.] Order!

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 7 – Social Development)

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I acknowledge my Cabinet colleagues and members of the House, leaders of local government, religious and community leaders, the representatives of higher education institutions, delivery partners, colleagues, friends and citizens of the Western Cape.

INTRODUCTION

Since I took office as MEC for Social Development six months ago, I have focused on continuing the trajectory set by my predecessor, Dr Ivan Meyer. I have made a concerted effort to align the department’s objectives, programmes and activities with the overall goals of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape.

In particular, the department prioritised the need to utilise its resources to contribute to the reduction and alleviation of poverty and to strengthen social cohesion. We did this with the end goal being the achievement, in the words of Premier Helen Zille, of the Western Cape of our dreams.
Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to present the department’s Budget and plans for the 2011-12 financial year under the theme, “Fighting Poverty and Social Disintegration”. In the strategic plan the department submitted last year it stated, and I quote:

The strategic thrust of the Department of Social Development for the next five years will be underpinned by the vision of an open opportunity society where everyone have access to a more diverse range of opportunities.

I agree with Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, when he says that development has to be about the development of people – human development. Sen says that the priority is to ensure that each individual develops the capacities for him or her to live the life they value based on their own choices and their own efforts and that certain support systems are needed for such development to be possible. People need security of livelihoods, a deep and working democracy, economic opportunities and good social services. With these in place, more and more people will develop their capacity to lead the kinds of lives they value.

Development in an open opportunity society therefore rests on the opportunities created by the Provincial Government of the Western Cape and accessed by the people, based on their own priorities. This is the approach we are adopting in dealing with poverty in our province.

THE BUDGET AND THE DEPARTMENT (A SHORT SUMMARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker and members, allow me to first present to you a short summary of the Budget. The department’s budget allocation for the 2011-12 financial year amounts to R1,3 billion, an increase of R98 million on the previous year.

With the allocation of R1,3 billion the department will spend—

– R665 million for transfers to non profit organisations. This is the department’s biggest spending area, of which more than R355 million is allocated towards childcare and protection services.

– R458 million on compensation of employees to fund our establishment of 1 900 personnel and increasing the staff members to 2 253 by the end of March 2012. The majority of these new posts will be for social work professionals.

– R190 million on goods and services, with the main cost drivers being:
  • Outsourced services, R55 million. This includes Horizon and Clanwilliam Secure Care Centres, Kensington and Western Cape rehabilitation centres.
  • Travel and subsistence, R37 million. The majority of funds is in respect of the government transport linked directly to services rendered by social workers;
Property payments, R20,5 million. This includes not only security, cleaning and municipal services, but also the property costs of moving our services closer to our people;

- R6 million to transfer to households for funding of services relating to the escorting and placement of children; and

- R13 million for capital expenses, which will include the procurement of computers and other equipment as part of modernising our infrastructure.

Included in the department’s annual allocation is conditional grant funding of R5 million in respect of the Social Sector EPWP Incentive Grant.

PROGRESS ON DELIVERABLES IN PREVIOUS BUDGET SPEECH

Allow me to give you a short overview of some of the key deliverables from the previous Budget Speech delivered in the House in 2010.

Dealing with poverty, hunger and unemployment

In dealing with poverty, hunger and unemployment as a department—

- We utilised EPWP Social Sector Grants extensively and reached 50% of the initially indicated target, whereby 9 588 work opportunities were created by September 2010. The full target of 14 092 will be reached by 31 March 2011.

- We engaged the services of 367 Community Nutrition and Development Centres, which reached 74 700 beneficiaries with feeding and links to temporary employment opportunities. This is in line with our belief that giving our people opportunities has a more lasting effect than only giving them sustenance.

- We began to drive the Provincial Government’s coordinated approach to poverty alleviation and reduction through partnerships with national, provincial and local government entities. For this purpose a special coordinating unit has been created within our modernised organisational structure.

- And, together with SASSA, the department supported about 3 000 needy families who experience undue hardship with social relief grants. We painstakingly cleaned up the list to ensure that this support reached truly deserving cases. In the case of Khayelitsha, we are particularly thankful for the work done by Vanessa Pienaar and the community workers of the PhilanieNutrition Clinic – Khanyisa Peter, Nozizwe Vena, Sisters Thembeka Mdingi and Nomvuyo Macaba, who provided us with the details of 150 destitute female-headed households. All of them have joined us here today, and I thank them for their assistance.

Contributing to the building of social cohesion

In contributing to the building of social cohesion particular attention was given to the protection of vulnerable children. Efforts in this regard included—
85 000 children have accessed ECD programmes during the past year, including children who could not access formal centres reached through home and community-based programmes. Members will remember the much-publicised accidental deaths of children at ECD centres in Pinelands and Mitchells Plain last year. In response to this, and in line with the Children's Act 38 of 2005, as amended, I launched a major campaign to register all unregistered ECDs in the province. We also plan to address the issue of improving ECD services. Currently, 1 245 facilities are registered, while we have identified 1 638 unregistered facilities. Since the start of the project on 1 February, the department has distributed more than 2 000 registration packages provincially, more than 200 of which have been returned. Around 80 facilities have been registered so far.

Participating in a highly successful provincial maintenance payment campaign during December 2010 to raise awareness about the issue of child maintenance support. Two hundred and ten beneficiaries of unclaimed maintenance were tracked down in Khayelitsha, Athlone, Vredenburg, Worcester and Ceres, amongst others. Of the 77 defaulters visited by the police, 71 were found, 59 of whom were arrested and slept in the police cells.

Emphasis was placed also on strengthening families through equipping them with positive parenting skills – 960 parents were reached. Programmes have been provided to young mothers and the Fatherhood Programme has concentrated on mentoring young fathers within our communities. Three thousand two hundred vulnerable families have received intervention services. We have held six family expos throughout the province to raise awareness of the importance of positive family life.

We responded to the problem of child abandonment and abuse by hosting an Emergency Summit on 8 November 2010. The resolutions from this Summit are currently being implemented.

During the very successful Soccer World Cup, child protection services were provided at all public viewing areas and stadia. In addition to this, we recruited and trained 5 000 volunteers in support of holiday programmes in vulnerable communities, eventually reaching 20 000 children.

Mr Deputy Speaker and members, given the horrendous consequences of substance abuse, priority was also given to this in the previous financial year. The department has implemented the Integrated Provincial Substance Abuse Strategy, whereby affordable treatment opportunities have been expanded in respect of both in-patient and out-patient services. These included, amongst others:

- The opening of the Western Cape Youth Rehabilitation Centre in Eerste River, catering specifically for the needs of the under 18s.
- The opening of the Helderberg Care Centre in September 2010, a joint venture between the Department of Social Development and the City of Cape Town, providing evidence-based out-patient services in the Helderberg area.
- On 26 November we convened a Provincial Substance Abuse Summit, themed “Families Claiming Back their Communities”, which in turn fed into the National Substance Abuse Summit that was held last week.
During the year ahead, the emphasis will be on increasing prevention and early intervention services in respect of substance abuse and introducing accredited training for professionals working in the field. Amongst others, this emphasis has led to the University of Cape Town offering a post-graduate specialisation course in substance abuse. Creating opportunities for young people is central to the focus of this Government.

The department also led the Social Sector EPWP by creating 14 000 work opportunities of 100 days each to young people, women and people living with disabilities. This will increase to 19 397 work opportunities in the current financial year.

An Integrated Provincial Youth Strategy is also in the process of being finalised by the Department of the Premier.

Improving the lives of our senior citizens saw us allocating R4,2 million for general repairs and upgrading of a number of old-age homes in the province. Showing us that they are serious about “active ageing” are nine special guests today from two old-age homes we are targeting. I would like to thank Mss Kellerman, Steenkamp, Kleynscheldt and Smith, as well as the Manager of HuisLuckoff, Mr Nefdt. Welcome also to Mr Mkivaand Mss Mac, Lechett and Cader from the Beaconvalle Frail Care Centre. Thank you for being here.

Clean Governance and Accelerated Service Delivery

As the Department of Social Development we made a commitment to improve our partnership with NPOs and to this end the department has reviewed its funding policies and procedures. I take great pride in announcing that after an extensive participatory policy-developing process, the department completed a new Transfer Funding Policy, which will come into effect on 1 April 2011.

As a department we implemented a new modernised organizational structure from 1 November 2010. We have also increased access to social welfare services by creating a service delivery team and a service point in each municipality in the province. We strengthened a decentralised service delivery support and management core by establishing six regional offices. This new modernised organisational structure will bolster the number of social workers, community development workers and social auxiliary workers by an additional 200 in the coming year. In this regard we have also just welcomed 82 new social workers, who started on 1 February 2011 in service of this province.

KEY PRIORITIES AND PROGRAMMES FOR THE 2011-12 FINANCIAL YEAR

For the coming financial, our decisions have been informed by three priorities, and that is the three departmental strategic objectives; our leading role in the Provincial Strategic Objective No 9 and also our supportive role in Strategic Objectives 8, 2, 4 and 5; renewed emphasis plays on children, substance abuse and poverty alleviation and reduction; as well as the implementation of the modernised service delivery organisational structure.

My vision with this budget is that the department becomes much more attuned to the service delivery needs of our communities, focusing on issues such as efficiency and customer care.
Mr Deputy Speaker, creating a caring and nurturing environment for children and families to thrive in is central to the department’s focus. This forms an important cornerstone for rebuilding the social fabric of our communities. If we don’t have strong families and communities, the ideals of economic growth and prosperity for all will be very hard to achieve. A significant part of this budget is prioritised to achieve this.

Child Care and Protection

For our Child Care and Protection programme we have budgeted R354 million for this financial year. The department will continue to roll out the provisions of the new Children’s Act on an incremental basis, including the provision of supportive developmental programmes and services to families at risk.

As announced by the Premier in her State of the Province Address, there will be a close interface with schools to ensure that social work services are available to all our young people. Residential care facilities to 2 284 children in Child and Youth Care Centres will be strengthened by increasing the funding level. Twenty-four-hour child protection services are available throughout the six regions of operation and a toll-free number is available for easy referral.

As an Early Intervention Programme, Early Childhood Development is one of the most important anchors of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. This new year will see 90 000 children throughout the province having access to ECD programmes. The drive to register all unregistered ECDs will continue into the new financial year, with the existing amnesty for unregistered facilities ending on 31 July 2011. A total budget of R215 million has been earmarked for this programme.

Care and Support to Families

Providing quality care and support services to those families in our communities that face the biggest challenges is crucial in the development of a just and cohesive society. To this end, an amount of R35 million has been prioritized. This will be used to implement and procure services relating to—

- Finalising a new family policy, taking into account the departure from the “traditional” family structure due especially to the impact of HIV/AIDS.

- We also have 1 438 child-headed households in the province. Children and young people in child-headed households are vulnerable as they have to cope without adults on a day-to-day basis and generally have poorer living conditions than other children. Child-headed households are included in services rendered to vulnerable children within the province. Services are rendered by our local offices as well as the 42 funded nonprofit organisations that render services to the child-headed households on our behalf.

- We will also be providing support to young mothers, which is particularly important in view of the high rates of teenage pregnancies and child abandonment in the province.
• Programmes with boys and men, as well as young fathers, to ensure that they are encouraged to be responsible and involved parents.

• Another project will be a concerted effort to reunite those living in shelters or the homeless with their families.

The goal of empowering families to become self-reliant will serve as the central thrust in our efforts to provide care and support to families.

Victim Empowerment Programme

An amount of R7 million has been prioritised under the Victim Empowerment Programme and that will be used to increase the current number of shelters for victims of gender violence from 12 to 14. The department will also work more closely with SAPS at station level to expand our interventions in respect of all victims of trauma. This will include making social workers available at station level, as well as the training of SAPS members and volunteers.

Services to Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

Another R140 million has been budgeted to fund a 126 homes for older persons, while at the same time encouraging “active ageing” with the aim of keeping older persons active within their communities. This includes support to service centres and community clubs and continuing with the very successful Golden Games Programme.

Introducing the Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 will also see the department reregistering all facilities for older persons in the province to ensure that they comply with minimum standards.

Mr Deputy Speaker and members, a further R48 million will be spent on maintaining the services provided by the 33 residential facilities and 43 protective workshops, catering for the needs of persons with disabilities.

The new financial year will also see the exploration of creative community-based solutions and alternatives to institutionalisation, in light of the fast growing demand for residential care. The department itself is committed to the mainstreaming of disability and will include in its new 5-Year Human Resource Strategic Plan, processes to reach a target of 2% or more persons with disabilities within our workforce. I hope that all other provincial departments will make sure that they meet that target of 2%.

Our total budget for persons living with disabilities is R58,7 million, which is mostly for homes for the disabled, protective workshops and funding to service providers.

Social Crime Prevention and Support

Through our Social Crime Prevention and Support our primary focus will be on statutory services as regulated by the new Child Justice Act and the Probation Services Act. The added focus is on providing accredited diversion options to try to keep young people out of the criminal justice system.
So far, this programme has exceeded all expectations and I am happy to announce that we have successfully brought down the number of children awaiting trial in prisons to 25 or fewer on any given day. In addition to youth matters, the department will implement restorative justice programmes and diversion options for adults. This will contribute to keeping first-time offenders out of jail, while at the same time ensuring that an appropriate sanction is applied.

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is one of our key priorities. The fight against substance abuse has seen our department allocating R67 million for this financial year. The focus will be on an integrated approach, working with other departments, both provincially and nationally, local government, the NGO sector and civil society. Here I also want to emphasise the important role of faith-based organisations. There will be an increase in prevention and awareness, early intervention, as well as evidence-based treatment.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Mr Deputy Speaker and hon members, poverty remains the biggest social challenge facing the people of the Western Cape. This is reflected in Cabinet's Strategic Objective No 9: “Poverty Reduction and Alleviation”, which represents an integrated, inter-departmental and inter-sectoral response.

Although a number of departments contribute significantly to the achievement of this strategic objective, as lead department we have ensured that our entire budget – our programmes and deliverables – is geared towards this goal. In addition, specific programmes within the department will be utilised as levers to create sustainable solutions for people to escape the poverty trap.

Sustainable Livelihoods Programmes and Poverty Reductions

In our fight against hunger, 30 000 beneficiaries will be supported with nutritious meals at 367 Community Nutrition and Development Centres, through an allocation of R12 million. This intervention forms part of the Provincial Food Security Strategy with the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Education and the various local government municipalities. The Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs) will play a critical role in lifting vulnerable and poor households out of hunger into real job opportunities, skills development and income generation.

This is what makes the CNDCs different from the former soup kitchens, because they are designed to link the community to a wide range of development initiatives and other economic opportunities. There is no point in feeding someone just so that they can sit around and do nothing for another day. Instead we want to empower people to go out there and access economic opportunities.

Furthermore, a budget of R20 million has been put aside to link food security interventions with real job opportunities, income generation projects as well as other government services, thereby benefitting a further 4 000 beneficiaries. In partnership with SASSA, the department will also continue to support needy families who experience undue hardship, with the short-term social relief grants.
Opportunities for Youth.

The Department of Social Development will also focus on youth development, ensuring that the R1 million available will be spent on growing youth opportunities. The youth programme will target 1 000 youths who will benefit from hard skills training, for instance apprenticeships, and 3 000 from soft skills training, including leadership courses and the like. All these will be attained through youth focal points attached to our regional and local offices.

In this financial year, two of these focal points will be expanded into fully-fledged youth service hubs, delivering integrated and effective services to the youth in the Metro South and on the West Coast. We will seek partners that are willing to create real opportunities for youth to grow their potential in and outside of government.

The conditional grant of R4.7 million will benefit 300 unemployed young people for a period of 11 months, offering them training, skills development and work opportunities, leading to job creation within the sector.

Building the Capacity of Service Partners

Mr Deputy Speaker, we will further support the development of the NPO sector by allocating R1.1 million to capacity-building initiatives, benefitting 50 NPOs with intensive training and mentoring support. We will also ensure that a further 600 NPOs receive capacity-enhancing interventions within the six regions of the department, so that a vibrant NPO sector is developed, which, together with the department, delivers on our social development mandate.

Partnership Development

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have mentioned on so many occasions in this Address the importance of working with strategic partners. For this purpose, we have seized the opportunity provided by the modernisation of the organisational structure to create a specific unit that will identify and maintain strategic partners within the civil society and business worlds that can assist the department in achieving its envisaged outcomes. Honestly, no department can do it alone.

MODERNISATION AND IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

In achieving all these, it is important, Mr Deputy Speaker, that we restate our unwavering commitment to modernisation and utilising the best governance practices and technologies at our disposal.

As we support the provincial vision of becoming the best run regional government in the world, the following key intervention areas will take precedence:

Governance issues and quality of services Consistent with the constitutional mandate of serving the people of the Western Cape in a coherent, transparent, efficient and impartial manner, the Department of Social Development will commission a local university to develop with us a standard operating procedure manual that will be used to standardise the delivery of services to all regions of the department. This will be completed and implemented during the second quarter of the coming financial year.
In so doing, the six regions of the department are currently negotiating with municipalities in order to foster alignment between the Annual Performance Plan of the department and the Integrated Development Plans of the respective municipalities. We really want to move government out of operating in silos and working together. The success of these negotiations will enable the two spheres of government to share resources and deliver services to the people in an integrated manner, with maximum impact. From time to time, through the quarterly convening of regional Integrated Community Outreach Programmes, we commit to test the reach of the services of the Department of Social Development to all the intended beneficiaries in the province. We will allow them to tell us whether they are satisfied with the services that we provide.

Optimising performance management processes

Monitoring and reporting will receive high priority at two levels. Firstly, we will do this through organisation-wide monitoring, ie quarterly reporting and reporting on the quality of performance and project management throughout the department. This will include the use of the Provincial Executive Projects Dashboard for project management at both strategic and operational levels.

Secondly, we will improve the process and tools used to monitor the NGOs contracted to deliver services to the department in order to provide information to the programmes for decision-making, to maximise efficiency and effectiveness, and to minimise business risks. The NGOs must note that it will not be business as usual.

There will be three levels of monitoring: self monitoring, ie NGOs submitting monthly reports to the department; line monitoring, ie ad hoc monitoring by programme and regional officials; and external monitoring conducted by a team from the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit on a risk-based schedule.

Access to services and service professionals

The 22% increase in the Compensation Budget will primarily fund 343 new posts to be filled in this financial year, most of them by social work professionals. We anticipate filling an additional 120 posts in the following financial year.

The number of service delivery points, or local offices, will increase to 24. This exceeds our target of 21 and is indicative of our willingness to bring services closer to the people and communities who need them.

As an example, on the West Coast the department will establish local offices in the Matzikama area, in order to ensure that the services we provide are accessible to the farming community. Similarly, in the Metro East region we have opened a temporary local office at the De Novo Treatment Centre to render services to the farms in the Kraaifontein area. Consistent with this commitment, a local office will be opened in October 2011 in Clanwilliam to expand the reach of the Department of Social Development to the most vulnerable people of this area.

CONCLUSION
Mr Deputy Speaker, Members of the Legislature and people of the Western Cape, it should be clear that this department is living up to its responsibilities of doing all it can in responding to the crisis of poverty and social decay in our province.

As MEC, I have seen firsthand the poverty that so many of our people have to endure on a daily basis. I know that poverty can be debilitating, that it can sap the hope from people and lock them into a spiral of despair. I know that when you are in this situation it is difficult to see an end to your suffering.

As a government with limited resources we will endeavour to break this destructive cycle of poverty and partner with all the people of our province in creating a better life for all our people. We cannot do this alone, however—it is the responsibility of citizens to take up the opportunities that we will continue to provide as a government.

I grew up in a family that did not have many resources and during a time when the government was actively working to deny us any opportunities. I fought in the struggle so that we could have a government that would work with all of our people in realising their dreams, rather than working against them. I am therefore proud to be part of a government that is on a day-to-day basis implementing programmes and interventions that are making a real difference and helping people to once again take control of their lives.

It is now up to you to build on these opportunities that were denied to so many of us in the past. This is our responsibility both to ourselves and to the many forgotten heroes that fought so bravely for a democratic and open society in which we can all enjoy freedom and prosperity. I know that if we all work towards this goal, we can ultimately achieve this kind of society, but for this to happen, all of us must remember that as with freedom, with rights and opportunities come responsibilities.

Before I conclude I would like to convey my gratitude and appreciation, firstly, to my family who have remained steadfast in their support for me. To my Cabinet colleagues, Ministry staff, my Executive and all the department’s employees, service providers and faith-based partners, I thank you for your contribution.

The Department of Social Development humbly recommits itself to the achievement of the Western Cape of our dreams. [Applause.]

*Ms AJ DU TOIT MARAIS: Mr Deputy Speaker, the budget for social development increased from R1,219 billion in the 2010-11 financial year to R1,332 billion in the 2011-12 financial year.

Although we welcome the increase in budgeted spending, the serious need for social cohesion cannot just be limited and/or improved to a monetary amount. When it comes to social development it is the people—social workers, youth workers, workers in the day-care centres and those caring for the aged—who change the lives of individuals and bring changes to communities.

From the hon Minister’s budget it is clear that she really paid attention to the training and appointment specifically of social workers. It’s good to see the department working towards reaching its planned objectives by following a three-pronged approach:
Create an environment where social cohesion is encouraged, repair the social fabric in our communities and by doing that also strengthen the social fabric. The creation of an environment where social cohesion is encouraged is obvious especially in the way the department focuses on childcare and protection services. The building of the social cohesion of tomorrow actually starts with the youth of today.

The fight against illegal day-care centres, together with the amnesty period put in place for registration, would mean that all parents in the province could have peace of mind when they take their child to a day-care centre where the people are skilled and the centre is registered and meets the standards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 90000 children will have access to early child development (ECD) in the 2011-12 financial year. These are our ECD programmes. Furthermore protection services will be rendered to 1500 children where there’s a need to be placed in foster care. Another 2284 children will have access to the funding benefits of the residential care services for children in child and youth centres. Around 400 children will be reunited with their families.

The repair of the social fabric of our communities is directly addressed by the different programmes for substance abuse, abuse and poverty alleviation programmes provided by the department. Currently there are 12 outpatient units in the Western Cape, 4 of these in Mitchells Plain. The Department of Social Development is funding 24 treatment programmes in total, which is a remarkable improvement comparing to the previous financial year where only 6 where funded. Thereby the number of patients who can receive treatment has also increased from 3 700 last year to 4400 this year.

Something the standing committee will be looking forward to this year is the operation of the planned early intervention and treatment of younger people as prevention mechanism.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the successes of the department under the leadership of hon Minister De Lille, to do something about corruption in our own ranks, should be a wake-up call to improve service delivery to the level the people in the Western Cape have a right to.

Furthermore the 16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children showed that through law enforcement, in terms of outstanding maintenance money, we can repair the social fabric in our communities. This is the kind of repair that really changes people’s lives. This is the kind of repair that gives people the opportunity to create a better life for all.

The strengthening of the social fabric in our societies is proved all the time by the department’s everlasting pursuit of new and improved collaboration agreements. The provincial cabinet put to task an integrated, interdepartmental strategic objective to decrease and alleviate poverty. The Department of Social Development is leading the implementation of this very important initiative.

Another example of pioneering work done by this department is the cooperation agreement with the City of Cape Town for the CARES centres – Community Awareness, Rehabilitation and Education Services – in, amongst others, the Helderberg area. These centres focus on crime and drug abuse.
The focus on the strengthening of our social fabric is obvious in the way the department creates jobs in the medium term for young people as assistants for social workers and practitioners in community development. These programmes to alleviate poverty are linked to job creation by the Expanded Public Works Programme.

I just want to mention that the quick action by the Disaster Management Centre during the fire in Macassar, where nine people were burnt to death, has to be mentioned. Both Minister De Lille and Mayor Dan Plato visited the scene and this was much appreciated.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to use this opportunity to thank the department for their commitment, and also Minister De Lille for the political leadership she provides.

This Budget is a reflection of a government that really cares for its people, and is supported.

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Deputy Speaker, in her State of the Province Address, Premier Helen Zille identified poverty as the Western Cape's greatest challenge and also outlined her vision and the need to position the Western Cape as a developmental province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the solution to this challenge is evident in the performance and future plans of the Department of Social Development, which is a step in the right direction. Therefore, the ID would like to congratulate Minister De Lille and her department for making great strides towards conquering the challenge and attaining the objective to better the lives of all poor communities in our province.

The fact that nearly 50% of the department's budget is being allocated to NGOs and NPOs is an indication that the department truly appreciates the role voluntary organisations play and the services they provide to those who need it most. In the current difficult economic climate, I am pleased to see that the R97 million increase in the budget is being targeted to areas such as economic upliftment and training, especially for our youth.

The department's focus in terms of developing more social workers, community development workers and social auxiliary workers is an answer to the long-awaited call for growth of this crucial sector.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know many of us here today are grateful to the department for providing protection and support to children, our elderly and the family unit through its different care centres and programmes throughout the Western Cape.

I salute Minister De Lille and her department for contributing to the empowerment of our people, so that they also may enjoy the fruits of our democracy to better their lives and circumstances.

In conclusion, Mr Deputy Speaker, this Budget is in line with the Western Cape Government's strategic objectives of delivering an open opportunity society for all. The ID supports the Budget.
*Mr EH Eloff: Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to congratulate the department, officials and Minister on what they accomplish.

Many programmes address the needs of the youth, but a crying baby is found in a rubbish bin. What is the problem? What forced the mother to do something like this? Children are the future of tomorrow. We only borrow this country from them. We should leave it in a better condition than when we received it from our parents. The break-up of our families, the decline in moral standards, is this the inheritance we are going to leave behind? What are we going to do about this?

Programmes alone will not help. Each and every one has to change their thinking and spread the message that each person has to take responsibility for his/her actions and life. It’s not about what can be done for you, but what you can do for yourself. This is what counts. Parents must be parents again and take responsibility for their children. When parents do not pay respect to their children, how will these children respect their parents? Because of economic pressure both parents have to work and many are single parents. Children grow up without direction, get into drugs and become part of the world of crime. Programmes to stop this were implemented and we hope these will be successful. But again, programmes alone will not help.

Parents should ask themselves: What will become of my child? Is a child only a means to receive money from the State to supplement one’s income? Children should get an opportunity to realise their full potential and to be successful and to reach the highest heights in their future, but with a disadvantage this becomes impossible.

Because of a shortage of welfare workers this is a big problem. We want to thank the 82 who will enter the service this year. They support families and keep an eye on women and children to support them where necessary. The Wellington Welfare Programme which is deteriorating really fast has to be saved. We ask the Minister to see that this will happen.

As far as welfare workers are concerned, the biggest shortage is in rural areas. In several areas there are no welfare workers at all and this should be rectified. All we hear about is the city, city, city, but the need in rural areas is even bigger.

Some police stations are well equipped with trauma rooms where women and children who were raped can be comforted in their times of need. We thank all the private donors and organisations who equip and decorate these trauma rooms. I want to ask that all police stations set up trauma rooms. [Interjections.] But not in rural areas. Again, it has a big role to play in the areas where they are and they really add something to the lives of those traumatised people.

Most important of all is that crèches are supported by the province. This is the most important programme of all. A crèche can change a scared, dirty and neglected child into a clean child, with a lot of confidence that can fill an opportunity in society. Here we need good training programmes to train the teachers who train these children.

Then I wish the department and the Minister all the best. I support Budget Vote 7.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[Ms N P MAGWAZA: Deputy Speaker, first of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have given me to participate in this debate. Firstly, let me thank the Department of Social Development which constantly dedicates itself in doing work for the poor people. Let me again thank the volunteers who started long ago without being paid even a blue cent but continued to care for our people. Now I would like to speak about what concerns me in English.]

†The problem is that whenever the Premier is thinking of firing an MEC or whatever, she thinks of this department. First there was a doctor in place. That doctor was said to be fit for purpose, but that doctor was chased to another department. [Interjections.] Secondly, after this fit for purpose doctor, they put in place an honourable candidate of the City of Cape Town. Just as the department was getting used to hon member ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Ms N P MAGWAZA: She is about to go out now.[Interjections.] Why are you doing this in this department? [Interjections.] [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms N P MAGWAZA: When you chop and change it, you must ... [Inaudible.] ... you are going to hamper service delivery, because this Minister introduces a way of working with things and then comes a new one, with her own ways of dealing with things.

When dealing with the report, you all have heard that the person who was fit for purpose ... [Inaudible.] ... was a woman for this department. [Interjections.] [Inaudible.]

Coming back to the Budget, I want to say that I am in support of this Budget. I rise in support of this Budget. It really looks at the vulnerable people and it shows that this department cares about them. The problem here is that you have all these glamorous reports that you are given and you wonder whether we are reaching the poorest of the poor or whether we concentrating on the City of Cape Town. I wonder whether it reaches everybody.

Let’s look at the NGOs and the NPOs. We are giving to this NGO and to that NGO. You wonder whether these NGOs that are benefiting, whether it’s not jobs for pals, or whether it is given to the people who are doing the exact work that needs to be done. You wonder whether there’s value for work at the end of the day, because even those NGOs have tricks to ... [Inaudible.]
I heard the Minister talking about monitoring. Monitoring doesn’t only mean that you monitor the papers or the programmes. It means going out there, so that you are with the people on the ground. Recently the Minister went to the areas where there were fires, to show his concern for the people and what the department is going to do for them. These fires do not only occur in informal areas. There have been serious fires in the Western Cape, where you see no one – and I’m not talking about the department, I’m talking about the MEC – talking to the people and telling them what the department is doing and what is going to be done for the people. Let’s not look at this area and that area. Let’s look at all of them as equals. Let us not change things, because you will find that it is this department who cares for all the communities and reaches out to all the communities.

I also want to say that I am worried about the waste of taxpayers’ money. In the House we talked about the dumping of babies. All of a sudden there was a summit on dumping of babies, which excluded some people, and it just ended in that summit. What were the outcomes? Is there any implementation of the resolutions that came from there? We need to be told whether there were resolutions taken and what has happened to them.

In the 16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children, we saw the Premier going around and talking to the people and asking them why there are children in the streets and all of that. I need to know what the resolutions are that came out of the campaign that the Premier mentioned. What has happened is that after some time we went back to do our own work. There are still a lot of children out there in the streets. They are not in school, or in a preschool. I’m asking myself: Is it enough that we are saying we are doing enough work and we are adding 80 social workers? What about the volunteers?

Philani Centre was given the responsibility to deal with the social relief. I’m asking myself once again: Are there not enough volunteers in the department? We’ve got people who are volunteers in that department. We’ve got such a large workforce. Why give special treatment to the Philani Centre when you know that these volunteers are there on a daily basis? Is there no particular agenda as far as that is concerned? If you follow-up, there is a particular agenda.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I’m coming back to the issue of the rehabilitation centres. MEC, let me say this. Of course you are trying, but we need more rehabilitation centres. If you are going to provide the rehabilitation centres far away from the areas where they are needed most, it says to us that we are still far from resolving this scourge.

For instance, I’m talking about what happens right there on my doorstep. I stay in Manenberg. There are a lot of problems with regard to that. I want to say to the parents that it is time to go in there, even ... [Inaudible.] I understand that the out-patients section would also be assisting. We need more help. We need you to escalate that.

We’ve been talking about teenage pregnancies. We are saying that a lot more has to be done. We need to go to the schools and once again introduce the topic of prevention. That is something else that we need to do as this department.
With regard to ECD centres, the MEC said that it was said last year and it's still said now that the ECD centres will be assisted. MEC, I just want to say, once again, that if you don't assist those mothers who have experience ... [Interjections.] Of course, I do understand that we need the young girls who have matric and what have you. Let me tell you that that wealth of experience that we are leaving out is the experience that we need.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to say that I am very impressed with the department for all their hard work. I’m very impressed with the work that they do on a daily basis. Even if they have to deal with modernisation and many other things, they still survive. They still are prepared to go out and do the work of the people. The ANC therefore says to them: Well done.

*Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Mr Deputy Speaker, social development mainly has to do with human development as Minister De Lille rightly said. To have social development running smoothly, effective support systems and networks are necessary. The budget of the Department of Social Development, as held up today by the Minister, is one of the most important systems in helping to accomplish this. It is good to see that the budget of this department was increased after all – thus there is still hope for growth in the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the amount of more than R457 000 made available in the budget to employ staff, with the possibility of further increases in the medium term, is good news, especially as 343 new posts were earmarked for this year. Skilled social workers and assistants are the backbone of this department, because statutory services, especially with regard to families and children are a priority function of this department.

Three new pieces of legislation in this department – two have implications for families and children and one for the elderly – demand, in the first place, that the staff component be extended; secondly, that there should be focused on effective and quality services regarding families and children, and thirdly, that poverty, which is the root of many of these social problems, be addressed.

The department’s family policy that focuses on wide-ranging service delivery to vulnerable families and children in need is welcomed. Support programmes for, for example, child-headed households because of Aids, young mothers because of teenage pregnancies and men and boys in terms of their role as a father are initiatives which are of the utmost importance.

Knowledge and skills form the basis on which every person makes decisions, accepts personal responsibilities and strives towards a life of excellence. When communities have the knowledge and skills to use resources and support systems to empower themselves, only then can we talk about real human development.

That is why it is so important that not only awareness programmes and expo’s are launched, but also real life skills programmes aimed at the prevention of social problems. An example of this is the drug abuse programme which covers a broad spectrum of service delivery, and which was discussed in detail by hon Marais.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the goal of increasing places of safety from 12 to 14 for victims of gender violence is welcomed.
My point of view regarding prevention services implies that in addition to helping victims of violence to deal with the crisis, these centres should also have programmes on how to be emotionally and economically empowered, because that is the only way to guarantee that victims do not stay victims of violence.

The possibility that a social worker will be available at each police station to give trauma counselling is strongly supported, as well as the objective of training SAPS members and volunteers.

The Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDCs) is an initiative that is supported and is one of the projects that proves this government’s zeal in addressing poverty. The establishment of these food centres is the result of cooperation between several departments, for example Social Development, Agriculture and Education, as well as local government that prove service delivery can be improved when we operate outside the silo-connection. The skills development and job opportunities which are created by this project do not only bring a true end to poverty, but serve as a beacon of hope and encouragement in communities to get involved and to make choices.

Mr Deputy Speaker, service delivery to people with disabilities is always important and is one of the essential functions of this department. The Minister’s objective to increase the employment of disabled people with 2% is good news. Skills development and provision of employment are being done in 43 protected workplaces. The necessity of skills development for each disabled person to his/her optimal level is essential, because it adds to their potential independent functioning.

Seen against this background, the role and task of the Department of Social Development is enormous in the process where the responsibility of the Department of Education to provide schools for children with special needs is transferred to the Department of Social Development, and the standing committee will monitor this process closely.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the initiatives and aims to extend and develop the capacity of service delivery partnerships are supported whole-heartedly. This strategy includes amongst others training and mentorship of, for example, nongovernmental organisations –about 500, as mentioned by the Minister –that will guarantee that service delivery partnerships are part of wide-ranging social services and will add to effective service delivery, the involvement of the community and less fragmented services.

I thank Minister De Lille and the department and appreciate the development and speedy implementation of the new policy regarding the transfer of funds to nongovernmental organisations which will form the basis of capital development. The unit for strategic partnerships is strongly supported and should encourage social entrepreneurship.

A further aspect of the utmost importance is the monitoring and evaluation of service delivery of both the department and its service delivery partners or nongovernmental organisations. The standing committee had an in-depth discussion regarding the development and improvement of monitoring and evaluation and supports this project to the advancement of effective service delivery.
Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to be bold and say thank you that the department takes the standing committee’s role as overseer seriously and that visible and positive results will be seen in future.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, the budget of the Minister of Social Development attests to a commitment to alleviate poverty and maintain and encourage human rights, and is supported.

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to thank all the hon members for their support for the Budget. I also want to remind all of us that the R1,33 billion that we are spending on Social Development must be seen in the context of a country in need of many other things. We need money for education, for health and for social development. All of these demands are there and it’s always finding that right balance to make sure that we give where we must give, in terms of priority, but also that we get value for money.

I didn’t stand here today to brag about R1,3 billion but rather to say that I’m going to make sure that every cent of this money is spent properly, that we get value for money for every cent. That’s why we’ve put all the systems in place.

Yes, poverty alleviation and poverty reduction is our priority, but all of us know that we’ve seen in the past 16 years in our new democracy many different plans. We’ve seen the RDP. The RDP was dropped and then GEAR came into place. After GEAR we’ve seen Asgisa. After Asgisa we’ve seen the War on Poverty. After the War on Poverty we’ve now got a new growth development plan. We’ve seen a new industrial policy. We’ve got all of the plans in place.

The sickness with us in South Africa is that we tend to over-analyse and talk about our problems. There is a vacuum between policy development and policy implementation, and what we’re trying to do in this department is to walk the talk and stop talking about plans and plans. It’s a massive challenge for all of us.

With the EPWP funding that we received from national Government we want to assist President Jacob Zuma, because he had said that he wants to create 5 million jobs by 2020. How is he going to create it? Each and every department must make a contribution for him to achieve that target that he set for himself. I put that context there so that people can see that as the Western Cape government we are trying, in a small way, to do our bit in terms of dealing with poverty.

Yes, hon Lentit, regarding the NPOs, the new policy will come into place on 1 April. However, this is very important and something that has never happened before. If we in Social Development are saying to you as the standing committee that we are going to set that actual target, that is what we’re going to deliver. Next year we can come with all the excuses in the book for not having done it, not this year. This year, those same targets and out comes will be put in the performance agreement of every chief director.

There will be no promises to chief directors or directors, which is just automatic in government – people just get bonuses. You will not get your bonus, unless you have achieved the targets that we have set. All the APP targets are now written into the performance agreement of all the chief directors in our department.

*I just want to thank hon Anroux Marais. Yes, we visited the scene of the disaster in Macassar yesterday.
And I just want to inform the members that the media found us there. We often go to the scene of a disaster without taking the media with us. However, yesterday it was a tragedy, where nine people of one family died. When we arrived there the TV cameras and the media were there.

†It doesn’t mean that we don’t care when there are fires in other places. I’ve got an SMS system on my phone. Whether it’s two o’clock or three o’clock in the morning, I receive an SMS, and I know it’s a notification of a fire. Between the Head of Department, Richard Harris and I, we immediately make sure that we activate the action response from the department. Social workers go out there. We activate our service providers, like Red Cross and Mustadafin, to provide food and clothing. All the time we are involved, even though we are not there, but our service providers are there.

*Hon Eloff, I think you said it well when you asked what the role of the parents is. To raise their children correctly. Yes, they have a big role to play. The parents should take responsibility for their children. A child is a child until the age of 18, and unfortunately not all parents take that role seriously. There is a shortage of welfare workers. We appreciate the 82 new welfare workers, but that is not nearly enough.

†The national ratio is one social worker for every 4500 people. We have to change that. In a country with such a lot of socio-economic problems that ratio needs to be changed. However, I’m also happy to announce that we have given people incentives to study in the direction of social development. We have just put out an advertisement for 600 interns. The closing date will be 4 April. We want them to come and work in the department for one year and begin to develop that feel and passion for social work. If they like it, then certainly we will make sure that thereafter we’ll assist them with the necessary scholarship and bursaries. Social workers have been declared a scarce skill in our country and therefore we all have to do a lot more to deal with it.

Hon Eloff also correctly says that most of the social workers are in the Metro. That is true. We’ve made sure that we were biased towards the rural areas. Most of the 82 who have just qualified were deployed to the rural areas.

Hon Magwaza, thank you for your support for the Budget. You are concerned about what is going to happen about my future. By listening to you, you almost accepted that the DA is going to win the local elections and therefore I’m going to become the mayor. [Interjections.] We still have to go and work very hard. We can never take voters for granted and assume that after 18 May I will be the Mayor of Cape Town. We still have to go and work.

About the NPOs, there are a number of NPOs that are inherited in the system. I’ve noticed exactly what you say you’ve noticed. There are NGOs that have been there since ever time immemorial and new NGOs are not coming into the system the way we would like them to. However, they were not appointed during my term or even during the term of Dr Ivan Meyer. They were all appointed by the previous three MECs of the ANC. [Interjections.] There’s no jobs for pals here.

We currently need to make sure that we at least spread the funds of the department. I am signing every transfer payment agreement to any NGO.
Before I sign it I want to know how they recruited the beneficiaries and who the beneficiaries are. I’ve got books in order – a complete assessment. The entry level into the department of all NPOs are now being evaluated and in that way we’ll be able to take up the weak ones and bring in new ones.

Regarding social relief, you asked me why we don’t use volunteers. The system that I inherited in the department was that once a year the department will sit and say: Sassa, here’s R6.5 million for social relief. People don’t need support once a year. The new Chief Director of Service Delivery, Mr Mzwandile Hewu, is going to make sure that all our regional and local offices, on a monthly basis, analyse the people who are in need at that minute and at that point.

Our social workers, the social auxiliary workers and the community development practitioners are there to identify the people and bring them to the office. Once they have been identified, they still need to be assessed to see if they qualify.

I agree with you, hon Magwaza, that we need more rehabilitation centres. We are working on that. We’ve also decided, as a strategy for this financial year, that we can do with treating the existing in-patients and out-patients, but isn’t it better to prevent it? That’s why we’re going to spend more resources on prevention in the next financial year.

You spoke about the ECD centres. I would like to have a proposal from you about how we can use mothers who are at home, looking after their children. We’ve got 90000 children that will go through ECDs this year, but what about the other million or so children out there who don’t have access? Should we then not do what you are saying – let us also train the mothers and assist the mothers to come forward and help us where they don’t get the service of the ECD centres.

*Hon Labuschagne, the family policy is very, very important. HIV/aids is breaking down the structure of the family. When grandma or grandpa died, the son or daughter usually buried them. Today the son and daughter die and grandma and grandpa have to bury them and even have to look after the grandchildren. This is the structure of the family that is different today, and that is why we are going to guarantee that all these facts are taken into account in the family policy.

†Hon Labuschagne also referred to child-headed households. There are many reasons why we’ve got child-headed households. It not just as a result of HIV/Aids. There are people who are dying as a result of diabetes, heart attacks or high blood pressure. We find mothers being removed from the family to go and work as domestics. They sleep there and leave the children alone. We find that some parents just abandon their babies. We sometimes find that the mother and father are working away from home and there’s nobody looking after the kids. We are very happy that we’re going to have a census in October 2011, because I can assure you that we’re going to get more and more child-headed households that we don’t even know about today. Currently, we’ve got 1438, but the census is going to help us to get better information.

Hon Labuschagne also referred to the objective to improve capacity. We are working real hard on that. In the next financial year we are personally, as we said, going to see what is going on there and we’ll not just depend on monitoring and evaluation reports. We have to go out there and go and see for ourselves. That’s why we’ve got monitoring and evaluation teams.
We’ve just sent about 16 of the department’s staff away for training to the University of Stellenbosch, for them to be trained in how to monitor an evaluation of the NPO sector. We’re really going to try our best.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in closing, I want to say thank you so much to all the members. I want to say a special thank you to my Cabinet colleagues, from whom I’ve learned a lot. They’ve assisted me a great deal and groomed me in this portfolio, and there were absolutely no egos involved. When I call hon Ministers Theuns Botha, Anton Bredell or any of them for advice, they have always been there to assist me. Thank you very much, and God bless. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 2 – Provincial Parliament)

†The SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Leader of the official Opposition, hon members, guests and members of the public, ladies and gentlemen, today, of course, I present the Budget Speech pertaining to Parliament.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as we approach the third session of the Fourth Democratic Parliament we need to determine how successful we are with the fulfilment of our constitutional responsibilities. We are the elected representatives of the people of the Western Cape and are duty-bound to ensure a better life for all our people and that we are responsive to their needs. In this regard we must continue to consider laws and strengthen oversight over programmes and policies of the Executive that will improve their lives.

I am well aware that members, committees and the House can only achieve this with effective and appropriate support. The plans and the accompanying budget of the administration seek to provide this support. Our focus for the 2011-12 financial year will be on: (1) relevant procedural and related support to the House and committees; (2) sound administration ensuring organisational efficiency; (3) effective and appropriate corporate support; and (4) meaningful public participation facilitation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in respect of the first focus area I can report that the legislative sector is in the process of developing a public participation strategy and has developed an oversight model. In 2009, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament adopted a public participation model. These documents have been distributed to the members for comment and review. Rules development is a continuous process, and new rules adopted will be published from time to time. I am also pleased that parliamentary programmes are now done for a full year. This will enable the administration to plan and provide the necessary support services. Effective committee support is high on our agenda.

The filling of all the vacancies are on track and training of committee coordinators will continue. Legal and research support will be bolstered with the filling of a legal advisor and a senior researcher post. I also noted members’ concerns pertaining to interpreting and Hansard services and can assure members that strategies are in place to address these concerns.
To ensure quality control, an editor post has been created to oversee the performance of Hansard services as well as the translation services.

On the second focus area I wish to state that our Parliamentary Service and Finance Management Bill is currently on hold, pending a constitutional judgment on the constitutionality of financial management legislation of legislatures. Strong corporate governance will be maintained and enhanced during the coming year. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament will further develop systems of risk management and internal control in line with best practice so that the Western Cape Provincial Parliament is able to comply consistently with legal and financial requirements and demonstrate that resources are managed in an efficient and cost-effective way.

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament internal audit function is currently being performed by the Provincial Administration. This arrangement will continue as this service is rendered on a highly professional and effective manner. A priority for the planning period will be to ensure that security arrangements are appropriate to assess the level of threat and that contingency and business continuity plans are updated and maintained so as to reduce the impact of any disruption caused by security-related incidents. The filling of key vacancies is receiving the necessary attention.

On the third focus area I wish to report that Human Resource Services will focus on training, career development and staff retention. The internship programme will also be expanded. The implementation of the remuneration study will commence in April 2011. This process will include consultation with the recognised trade union. It will also be necessary to take a strategic look at how space is used to ensure good alignment with the delivery of primary objectives.

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament will enter a service level agreement with Public Works in regard to new works and the maintenance of the building. I can report that I had a meeting with the Minister of Transport and Public Works and it was agreed that Public Works will do a presentation to members on the modernisation of the building side.

The development and better coordination of public information, visitor and education services are planned. The upgrade of the website has been planned and budgeted for. The enabling allowances of members will be reviewed to cater for increased costs and inflation. Constituency allowances will be brought on par with that paid by national Parliament.

On the fourth focus area I wish to state that section 118 of the Constitution states that a provincial legislature must facilitate public involvement in the legislature and other processes of the legislature and its committees. As mentioned earlier, a public participation programme will be developed and implemented to enhance oversight. The Western Cape Provincial Parliament will also continue to provide funding and assistance for members’ programmes within their constituencies. These programmes should conform to the provisions of section 118 of the Constitution, as mentioned earlier.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament’s Budget for the 2011-12 financial year is R88,242 million, which relates to an increase of 17.68% of the 2010-11 adjusted budget.
The main cost drivers of the budget are: compensation of employees – R35,401 million: provision has been made for nine new positions and the refunding of an existing position. Provision has also been made for ICS improvement of service conditions, which includes the implementation of the remuneration study. Computer services – R2,501 million: provision for data lines and internet charges and for the development of a document management system, e-filing and new applications, including the website upgrade.


I wish to convey my gratitude to the administration for the hard work they put in to prepare plans and develop this budget. It is now time for us to give effect to those plans. I also wish to thank the hon members for their continued support in the Rules Committee and also to give the necessary guidance and recommendations to us.

*Ms A ROSSOUW: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity to once again be part of this debate. Over the years our budget grew considerably, as well as the services which were then made available to our members to do our jobs here to the best of our abilities.

If I remember correctly we did not even have 50 staff members in 1994, and there was also a service to deliver. I just want to say that what we receive today is on a totally different level, but we appreciate what every member does. I want to use this opportunity to thank each staff member of the legislature, but I think as political parties we owe it to our support staff that supports our parties to thank them as well for their dedication in serving us and making it possible for us to perform our tasks to the best of our abilities.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Budget is increased by 17,68%, as you said yourself, and is welcomed by everyone. We want to thank you and your team who bargained for this with the correct motivation of the Treasury.

The responsibility now lies with us to spend and manage these funds in the correct and responsible way. On behalf of all the members we are also grateful for the significant increase in the secretarial grants in our constituency.

The Speaker also spoke about training which is an essential aspect of members and our staff. I want to use this opportunity to thank you for the training session was recently given specifically to members on another level and which is not completed yet.
Mr Speaker, in the mean time you took a step to extend the expertise of our staff by way of focussed training especially for our committee section, as well as the staff in the House who is working on the different aspects of procedures.

The management of the Western Cape Parliament is currently under scrutiny regarding the consideration of the Western Cape Parliamentary Service and Financial Management Bill. The part on financial management in another province is currently the subject of a case before the Constitutional Court and we are waiting to see what will happen.

Mr Deputy Speaker, regarding the so-called “governance” of the institution, we are adamant to increase the democratic space to guarantee fair say to the parties and the management of the legislature. This is applicable to the administrative management as well as the management concerning certain constitutional functions, for example public participation and oversight of the executive authorities. Thus we will have to look at all the Rules of Parliament regarding the rules of the game within this institution. We will probably have to look again at the role and function of structures like the Programming Authority and our Rules Committee, should we make these changes.

Mr Speaker, requests have already been made, as you just mentioned, that we compile guidelines regarding our public participation and oversight of the legislature. The Constitution however is clear on what should be done regarding public participation and oversight. I am not convinced that we need a super ordinate strategy for that, but there should definitely be synergy between the oversight role of the committees and public participation. Too many, according to my point of view, are moving in different silo’s. There must be meaningful public participation in order to make better decisions and to oversee the government and Executive Authority. Outreach programmes should be driven by members and not be the action of an official, although an official is an important link to the success of the programme.

Our process of public participation should be focused on the mandate given to us. We cannot start to deal with programmes randomly. Unfortunately the impression is sometimes left that where actions were made with good intentions we’ll have to think how we are going to accommodate groups and how we are going to improve our outreach to make it fit into the broader strategic plan of this Parliament. Therefore we are grateful, Mr Speaker, for the special way you decided to make funds available to us to have activities in our constituencies.

I just want to mention that I’m of the opinion that we must have very good control over the funds granted to our constituencies, whichever way you decide to grant it. Although we don’t have to go through the process, there should still be control so that we know it is spent on the appropriate things.

A big issue was made by the Chief Whip of the ANC about the so-called closing of the democratic space. Let’s see how, amongst others, the number of session days was increased since 2008.

In 2008, under control of the ANC, we had 31 sessions. [Interjections.] This was increased to 35 in 2010. Interpellations— and by that I say from all our members; this is not just of a particular party – increased from 37 to 48. In 2008 437 questions were asked.
Last year these were increased to 588. In 2008 we had 227 standing committees. Last year we had 297, only 3 less than 300, standing committees—a total increase of 70.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the process shows that we are by no means closing the democratic space in that regard. We started by dividing our committees into clusters, which means two committees can simultaneously be busy with oversight work. Up till now it was possible for even five committees to be working on a program on the same day. Does that look like the so-called closing of the democratic space?

A proposal to in future have session days on Thursdays was approved by the Rules Committee. The final implementation will be decided at a meeting of the Programming Authority just to enable the committees to use their available time more economically in order to do better oversight work. A remark was made that a Thursday might not be a good option because of poor news coverage or the possibility of poor news coverage.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we’ll have to decide whether news coverage is more important to us than to use our time economically to make sure that standing committees do their oversight job in this Parliament effectively.

The ANC Chief Whip mentioned that they are equated with the representation of a party with one member in the Parliament. The smaller parties are more or less equally divided according to their proportional representation. To say that they are put on equal footing with smaller parties is just not totally true.

The single party representative should sit on every other committee he wants to gain insight into and has every right, like any other member of the Opposition or the ruling party who is not a member of the committee, to join in discussions and thereby making a contribution. A committee may even take their proposals into account. The ANC claims they don’t have a seconder to support their proposal. In fact, according to our rules there is no need for a seconder for any decision. [Interjections.]

Mr Deputy Speaker, I don’t want to repeat the proposal for smaller committees, as I have already done at a Rules Meeting. There is no intention to remove the democratic space from any party, but the DA’s proposal was accepted, that all the political parties should think again in order to really study the implications of Rule 74. On grounds of the findings of the caucuses, the issue will be dealt with again as soon as we return after the election.

The irony is that this Rule was valid since the first order rules. In fact, it was applied since shortly after 1994. We have a Westminster government system, and decisions are made according to a majority decision and the representation of the political parties. Should consensus not be reached, we’ll unfortunately have to vote; even if that is something one would rather not want. What is really the difference if there are 20 members on a committee and the majority is also simply just one vote? [Interjections.] All members can vote, but we said we’ll consider it and see what the implications are and make a decision on that. [Interjections.] The DA is prepared to study the issue thoroughly in order to make well-informed decision.
Mr Deputy Speaker, last but not least, at the end of last year I was a member of a group who had to do the catering ...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms A ROSSOUW: There were three companies on the short list. I’m glad you mentioned here that the process is almost completed. When we come back we’ll probably have our new caterers. I want to thank the people who, in the meantime, delivered the catering under dire circumstances, because to come in and do it every day was not easy for them. We are looking forward to a new dispensation. Mr Speaker, thank you for everything you did to make it easier on them.

Once again, thank you Mr Speaker, for your commitment to allow us to make this Parliament one of the special and well-managed parliaments. The DA gladly supports this Budget Vote.

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Deputy Speaker, the ID welcomes the Provincial Parliament Budget, with its focus to improve services and support. I’m sure that the vision of this Parliament will be upheld and its strategic plans will be achieved.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is clear that the Provincial Parliament is certainly working hard towards bringing parliament to the people by increasing its public participation sessions and education outreach programmes. The ID also notes the administration’s prioritisation ...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr R B LENTIT: The ID also notes ...

[Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Lentit, you may proceed.

Order, hon members!

Order! Proceed, honmember.

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Deputy Speaker, the ID also notes the administration’s prioritisation on filling empty posts as well as the training and development of staff. I am glad to see that my recommendation pertaining to the creation of a succession plan and career development programme to retain staff has been taken note of and that the Speaker, Mr Esau, takes recommendations seriously and is committed towards the implementation thereof. I look forward to the enhanced and speedy Hansard services, as this has a direct effect on the capacity and ability of both Parliament and members.

The budget states that executive support will be at the forefront of Parliament’s objectives. This allows for superior tracking and reporting of resolutions and recommendations from and to standing committees.

I thank the Speaker for his leadership in shaping this Parliament to becoming a democratic body, where its members can exercise their oversight role without hindrance in order to participate in law-making processes and programmes which promote an accountable and transparent government which delivers services to all.

The ID supports the Budget.
Mr P UYS: Mr Deputy Speaker, the core function of the Legislature is to provide oversight of the Executive, promote public participation and access, conduct its business in an open manner, see that the Executive provides it with full and regular reports and pass legislation. This is but some of the criteria against which we should measure and evaluate the Legislature.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there was reference to the Budget. I think it is a substantial increase of 17,68%. The majority of the funding will go to staff and staff compensation, and we really hope that it will reach the staff and that we do spend the money.

During this year, we have seen some improvements. The secretarial and constituency allowances, as mentioned by the Speaker, will be on par with that of the National Assembly. I think that's an improvement. That will reflect, with inflation, about R2000 a month, I believe. I think that's substantial and major progress also to the staff who had to find the money in that.

The second thing was the enabling allowances. I think what was achieved here with all the political parties was that we could make it more flexible so that members can really utilise it in a proper way.

Some progress was made regarding the IT, especially the networking process. I believe that there are still gaps that must be filled. Regarding our website, we are not getting there. I hope that very soon we will be able to do that, where people from outside the legislature can access the order of the day, the Minutes, Questions and everything related to that. I hope that we can really speed that up and get it going as quickly as possible.

I refer to the upgrading of the House – the benches. The sound, I think, was a major problem in the past and hopefully that has now been sorted out. There has been some progress in our committee rooms. I think there’s still some way to go with some of the cameras and some of the sound that’s not coming through properly, but at least there is some progress that has been made in that regard.

We see that the Parliamentary Service and Finance Management Bill was put on hold. The ANC opposed this Bill just in time, before it was brought to the Legislature. I think it was a very wise decision that we took to put it on hold and wait for the Constitutional Court to give clarity in this regard with a declaratory order. I would also like to thank the Premier of Limpopo for taking the initiative to take it to the Constitutional Court.

During the year the Speaker and the staff revised the 5-year strategic plan. That was a concern to me, because the 5-year strategic plan was never submitted to the Rules Committee. To start amending the 5-year strategic plan midway is also a concern, and we really are awaiting a copy of that to interrogate the 5-year strategic plan. I must say that there was no involvement of the Rules Committee whatsoever in this.

Regarding the commemorative days, I think for the first time this year we could sort that out and at least get the procedure and a process in place to get the staff aligned with the needs of members. I think it’s working fairly well. Unfortunately, we heard that for the coming financial year there will only be funding for three days. That’s a challenge that we must
address and see how we can really extend it to the five of this year, including the sixth one that we at least could fund last week.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to refer to petitions, because that’s very important – the whole issue of making ourselves accessible. The petition regulations were eventually finalised, as we all know, in June 2010 and formally launched. You remember the fairly big launch we had. I want to refer back to April 2009 after the national elections. The Executive Authority, together with the administration, set out to change the prevailing organisational structure, as a result of which the Petitions Unit collapsed and the incumbent officials transferred. Therefore, at the time of the launch there was no Petitions Unit in place to formally process any petition which may have been received or which was to be received. Despite the absence of a Petitions Unit, the Public Outreach Unit continued to do the work, and I must thank them in that regard. This resulted in a steady influx and inflow of petitions to the Legislature, not only from that unit but also from members and the community, because this was distributed to all the speakers in our municipalities.

However, the administration was not geared to process these petitions in the absence of a unit or human resource section. In turn, the petitions that we received became outdated. Petitioners were not updated or informed of the process, as a result of which the Legislature ended up in a breach, I believe, of its own law and regulations. Again the organisational structure was changed. Not once was the re-establishment of the Petitions Unit considered or budgeted for in view of the fact that it still does not form part of the administration.

This leads one to the inevitable conclusion that the new administration is not serious about petitions and, in effect, about service delivery. This is even more alarming if one considers that the regulations were launched in June 2010. Yet, the administration has done nothing to prepare itself for receiving a single petition, let alone the 20 or so that we have in fact received and failed to process. I’m sure that the Petition Committee can really stand in for this.

This conclusion is further supported by the administration’s very recent action when they decided to advertise certain positions. None of these positions included anything pertaining to petitions. What is, in fact, advertised is the post of Public Education and Outreach Officer, which does not include anything to do with petitions, contrary to what the Petitions Committee have been informed.

The continued absence of the Speaker was mentioned. Mr Speaker, I believe you’ve been invited on several occasions to address and attend the Petitions Committee meeting. You did not do that, and it is seen in a very serious light. We really question your commitment to the petitions process. In turn, oversight is then undermined at this stage.

On the one hand, the Public Outreach Unit propagates petitions to the community but, on the other hand, the administration does nothing to meet the community’s expectations in terms of processing petitions. The effect of this is that the Petitions Committee is being undermined, the community’s confidence in the legislature is being undermined and we do untold damage to the Provincial Parliament’s reputation as an institution of democracy. This is an injustice to the community whose trust we may lose, and it will take a long time to regain their confidence and to again establish the goodwill that has been built around this.
In view of the impending local government elections, the fact that the Speaker, we believe, is not serious of this oversight is going to lead to serious problems. You might argue that this is not the case and that some of the petitions were not completed correctly. This is exactly why we have the unit to support and help rectify any issues. One very outstanding example was that of hon member Jacobs who participated in the way of handing it over, checking that the petition was properly completed and submitted here. However, to date, there is no recognition for it, and no acknowledgement and feedback on where it stands in the process ever took place. Of course this has been reflected in looking at the budget for public participation.

In the 2010-11 financial year the budget was R2,25 million and in this year it has been reduced to R1,875 million. If we look at the spending of all the different committees, including the standing committees, we see that the spending over the last financial year was well over R200 000 – R100 000, R150 000. If you look at the Petitions Committee, it clearly indicates that they also had no outreach or sufficient meetings. It’s R823. Public involvement, we believe, is very important, but we still need to see that happening.

Mr Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Western Cape, the ANC must also protest against the DA’s breach of our Constitution and democracy by the reduction of the ANC to 1 seat of 7 standing committees. [Interjections.] One seat. [Interjections.] The DA creates that result. Let me give an example. Let’s take a very, very important committee like SCOPA. Let’s look at the ATC.I must say, by the way, that was what was decided in the Rules Committee and what appeared in the ATC are two different aspects. Let’s look at that. The ACDP – and they’re not even here today – have one member. They have one member in SCOPA as well. The DA with 22 – they have three members. Let’s look at the ANC. They have 14 members and only 1 member on that committee, and so we can run through all the committees. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P UYS: What the hon Chief Whip said there is that we can run all these committees parallel to each other. That is exactly the point. How would you give the members the opportunity then to attend all different committees? We are wondering what the situation really is. Are they closing democracy? Yes. [Interjections.] Sometimes we can also ask the question: Are they really just lazy to do the work that they’re supposed to do?

Mr Deputy Speaker, cutting the ANC representation on most committees by half is a serious impediment in exercising the constitutional oversight role to give constructive inputs and interrogate issues of importance by the ANC, the official Opposition. It is clear now that the DA in this House is determined to strangle our democracy and act repressively on the ANC’s duly elected representatives. [Interjections.] It has little regard for our Constitution and the rule of law. If we must today take the same proposal to our members in the National Assembly and ask them to implement the same principle there, I just want to hear the outcry coming from the DA about unconstitutional issues. [Interjections.] Mr Deputy Speaker, let me move on and rush to get … [Interjections.] ...

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!
Mr P UYS: … to some staff issues. This is a very, very serious matter. [Interjections.] Mr Deputy Speaker, the matter at hand here is the remuneration study that was done and that’s been … [Interjections.] The study was submitted to the Speaker on 30 June 2010. Every time when there is an engagement with the Rules Committee we ask when that study will emerge. The last commitment that we received – and that was on 9 March – was that it will be ready and that implementation will start after the 16th. We hope that the Speaker can really tell us today if this is happening. It is a proper study. There are 11 vacancies, and I believe the implementation of this study is really hampering us attracting good staff and retaining staff within this administration.

I just want to mention two of the most critical posts that are not being filled. One post that has been vacant for two years now is a CFO post. How can we function, and what pressure do we put on the existing staff? The other one is the IT manager. We see it happening from day to day. Although we have staff running around to all members and helping them, they can’t get to it. The IT manager is really critical.

Another issue regarding staff is training. In this financial year there was a budget of R412 000. Only R280 000 – half of that – was utilised. Mr Deputy Speaker and Speaker, this yearly really want your commitment and the commitment of management that the R455 000 that’s been budgeted gets used properly. Please don’t come with the excuse: Can’t we leave staff development and training? This must just happen, and we know it will happen here.

The next one on staff that I want to mention is the issue regarding the Secretary and the Secretary who left us in December. The Speaker must still come back to us and report on the exit agreement that was negotiated. He should take the House and the Rules Committee into confidence on what transpired and what happened in that regard. At the same time I want to thank the Acting Secretary for filling that position and taking even more responsibilities and distributing some of the responsibilities to other senior management.

I want to get to procurement, Mr Deputy Speaker. In a report that we received on 17 February this year it was reported that procurement for the Southern Cape oversight visit, also called the George visit, was not properly done and the proper processes were not followed. It specifically happened in the Office of the Speaker. We were also informed that the Speaker’s Office said that no buses in George were available to do this, and nobody believed it. We were even informed that hon member Von Brand is, who is a resident of George, gave two names of bus companies that operate there and that’s always available. Those people were never contacted, but a person from Cape Town was appointed to drive all the way to George with an empty bus, take us around there and drive all the way back to Cape Town. [Interjections.] Empty, of course.

Linked to this, Mr Deputy Speaker, a further report stated on 17 February that an amount of R143 742 for this trip was not approved. That expenditure was not approved. It has been considered as irregular expenditure, and we are awaiting the report from the accounting officer in this regard.

At the same time, however, I welcome the letter from the Acting Secretary. It is a letter that he addressed to the Office of the Speaker, informing them that they were wrong in the way they interfered in the procurement process and at the same time spelling out the Rules to them by saying: Stop doing what you are doing.
I hope that they will adhere to this and that the process will be fine from here onwards.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to refer to the Rules. After 18 months, the Rules Committee managed to discuss the amendments of the Rules. It has been on the agenda all the time. Eventually it was discussed on 19 November in the Rules Committee. One of the Rules — and I’m just going to give one example — was that the time for oral questions must be extended from 45 minutes to 60 minutes. Members might be surprised, because on 19 November we decided this in the Rules Committee. Today, four months later, it has not been submitted to the House. Why? I actually don’t understand. Why do we take decisions and things don’t happen? On some of the Rules I was outvoted. We were members there, but it was a Rule of the Rules Committee. Let’s do our job and let’s get going.

I want to get to Public Works as well. Hon Minister Carlisle, what we heard in the Rules Committee — not once, not twice, but all the time — is that it’s a poor, terrible service coming from Public Works in the Western Cape to the Provincial Legislature. [Interjections.] First of all, I’m not even referring to this air-conditioner that is on here. You’re either sick or you’re not all the time, because it’s too cold. If you walk outside, it’s quite different.

Regarding the space here for the staff, a proper accommodate and needs analysis has never been made of the staff itself. The lifts — of course, they ask Public Works about this all the time — are not working most of the time. They know this.[Interjections.] What’s happening here, Mr Deputy Speaker, is this broken window syndrome that’s starting here. [Interjections.] It’s starting here now. If you walk out in the passage, you see how dirty it is. [Interjections.] That’s a poor, terrible service from that hon member and his department, and he’s not...[Interjections]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

†Mr P UYS: He’s not delivering. He’s not doing what he’s supposed to do. The same happens in the traffic. He tries to organise the traffic. He should come here and try to fix what’s happening here for the staff. Look at the poor facilities for members and staff in this building.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I therefore support the Speaker when he said we must get a service ...[Interjections.] I support the Speaker when he said we must get a service level agreement with those people. Let them sign. We can’t go on their word, because they don’t respond to anything. Just walk through this building. You’ll see what mess it is in because of your department. [Interjections.] Keep it up, Mr Speaker.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I don’t know what my time is, but let me try to conclude. [Interjections.] The one issue that was really disturbing in the last Rules Committee that we had was when we discussed the issue of standing committees and the number of members in standing committees.

We heard that there have already been negotiations between the DA and the three smaller parties in the Legislature and that those negotiations resulted in the DA wanting to increase the number of members of the House from 42 to 53 members. How would we afford it?
We don’t even have enough space for members here and you’re referring to 53 members, with the cost, the waste and everything that will go with it. Mr Deputy Speaker, ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order! Hon Uys, can you conclude your speech.

†Mr P UYS: This is my last sentence, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Deputy Speaker, good things are happening. We need an urgent turnaround strategy. We will support that. Please listen to the Opposition as well. We’re not always there to just oppose; we’re also there to help take the process forward.

*Mr H P GEYER: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to take part in the discussion on Budget Vote 2. The Speaker rightly referred to the statement on whether we have been successful in executing our responsibilities as elected representatives of this province, and that we are accountable for that.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to refer to the Hansard and the big gap that exists since the new system was implemented. In the past edited transcriptions of speeches delivered by hon members were available within 24 hours on a special request. The current system, however, does not allow that, and when pressured, the transcriptions now are only available after four to five days. This method of work leaves a gap, because important information that has to be confirmed by the bank is now only available days later.

The documenting or procedures in the House through Hansard, which members and officials are expected to refer to, is already 10 months behind schedule. On top of that the translations services are not up to scratch. Nothing is translated from Afrikaans and isiXhosa. [Interjections.] Could you protect me, Mr Deputy Speaker, against this running commentary?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr H P GEYER: It was so nice when the member was absent this afternoon. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You may proceed, hon Geyer.

*Mr H P GEYER: If there are limitations or problems in this regard it must be addressed to give everyone in this House the opportunity to listen to conversations in their own language.

†Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to address the issue of the enabling allowances, although many of the members have spoken about this. As you are aware, the fuel price has risen sharply, which has a huge effect on the travel allowance members may claim. We are pleased to learn that the enabling allowance will be increased to ensure that members can fulfil their tasks in their constituencies to the full extent. We trust that the funds will be used in the appropriate way.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the behaviour of members in the House earnestly needs to be addressed. The Chair, the Premier, as well as the Leader of Opposition need to be respected and handled with the appropriate dignity.
I agree that heckling is part of good debate, but I get the impression that we make far too much use of defamatory statements. This House is a place of dignity, and the necessary respect must be paid by all members.

*Mr Deputy Speaker, I’m also concerned about the large number of vacancies ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, we can’t hear hon Geyer. Please tone down your interruptions. Over to you, hon member.

*Mr H P GEYER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am concerned about the large number of vacancies that still exists in this legislature.[Interjections.]Especially regarding the work of committees there is a pressing need for staff who is not appointed yet. Standing committees can only function successfully if the administrative staff that should do the work is appointed.

Another urgent need is the fact that this Parliament has been functioning quite a long time without the service of a head financial officer. Does anyone know when this vacancy will be filled? I believe it has been outstanding for quite a while now and needs to be filled.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a saying that if you pay peanuts you must expect monkeys to work for you. We'll have to try and get our salary packages on par with those of the national Parliament. At this stage the legislature is the supply source for national Parliament. We train a person just to lose him/her to national Parliament because they offer better payment.

Mr Deputy Speaker, with regard to training, I want to request that during the compiling of training programmes there will be concentrated on extending the knowledge of members on actual focus points. In other words, focus on equipping members with knowledge they can use in their work environment in this legislature, for example a wider knowledge of rules, laws, the analysing of annual reports, etcetera.

†Mr Deputy Speaker, the upgrading of the provincial Legislature is another very important aspect that needs to be addressed. Some time ago, members were informed of a planned upgrading, but it soon became clear that somehow liaison had not taken place between the Department of Public Works and this office. It is of great concern that officials arrive in the basement of this building and at other locations to take measurements and advise occupants of this office that a section of the wall is to be taken down within days. This immediately gives access to the building and thereby jeopardises floor space of office presently in use. [Interjections.]

It is imperative that the Department of Public Works sits down with members and officials in this building to discuss the way forward. [Interjections]Mr Deputy Speaker, has the department taken our office space needs into consideration? Since the last presentation, certain needs were expressed, yet no feedback is forthcoming. Will the Department of Public Works ensure that our office space is sufficient? [Interjections.]
What also comes to mind, Mr Deputy Speaker, is the fact that the air-conditioning system does not meet the requirements of the law. Is the matter going to be addressed, as it seems as if this is going to be a major project? It is very concerning to see that there is no lift in this building that can accommodate a stretcher for a seriously injured person. [Interjections.] What plans are envisaged to address this problem? [Interjections.] The upgrading of this building is going to take years to complete, and the necessary liaison needs to take place to ensure a smooth flow of action taking place from time to time. [Interjections.]

*Mr Deputy Speaker, there is also a gap in research. This legislature does not have enough researchers. As a result the work of committees is neglected. An incisive decision should be made to strengthen the committees as far as research capacity is concerned.

However, I want to congratulate the Speaker on the improvements to the House, namely the upholstering of these couches. It is such a pleasure now to sit here during long sessions. Thank you too for the great improvement to the sound system that was installed. At least one can now have one’s voice be heard. [Interjections.]

The installation of flat screens in the passages that show the different sessions of the standing committees and other information do help a lot. The linking of proceedings in committee rooms 1 and 2, as well as proceedings in the auditorium that is broadcasted on the central system is a great improvement. It enables members in the whips’ rooms to monitor all proceedings happening in the legislature. This is a big improvement. Thank you for that, Mr Speaker.

†Mr Deputy Speaker, thank for the opportunity to speak on this Vote. I support Vote 2.

†The SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, first and foremost, I’d like to thank all the members who have participated in the debate for the inputs made and the suggestions, recommendations and concerns raised.

I’d like to thank hon Rossouw for her inputs and also for the recognition given to the improvements made in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. This was also done by all the other members. Acknowledgement was also given to the increase of staff, the increase in the salary bill, the improving conditions of service, the improvement and even the strategising around career pathing and the training of staff. That has caused a slight delay in the implementation of just an ad hoc programme, but a medium-term programme has been organised for staff and the bursaries for staff have been increased tremendously. It has been increased by more than 100%.

We have taken all those matters into consideration to afford the opportunity for staff development and to look at those courses in particular that will contribute to a full degree or a further degree being achieved by the staff. That would be accredited courses that are being pursued.

Regarding the issue of training for members by PALAMA, I think the Speakers’ Forum have negotiated extremely well.
There is an opportunity now to grow the education and further development of our members in terms of the job that they perform but also professionally so that they can develop and achieve post-graduate degrees and also pursue other careers as possibilities.

Concerning the FAMLA, clearly, we know there is a judgment that is pending from the Constitutional Court, but we also acknowledge that there are a number of other legislatures, including national Parliament, that have already approved the Bill. In fact, we got the direction from national Parliament to pursue this matter but, of course, those things that have occurred – incidents like the Limpopo Premier taking the Speaker or the Parliament to court to review the financial aspect particularly – I think we have considered that matter and postponed our particular legislation from being implemented, although others have implemented it. There may be consequences then for the other legislatures as well.

Regarding public participation and oversight, certainly there is a need. We are discussing the matter in the legislative sector with the Speakers’ Forum, that there be greater synergy between the different policies and strategies that we design, that they speak to each other and that we set clear guidelines for all the legislatures in the country. Of course, it cannot be imposed and enforced upon legislatures, but certainly a well-coordinated, integrated approach can then be given to all legislatures for consideration and applying it to their activities and outreach in the communities.

The hon Rossouw also mentioned the number of sittings and sitting days of committees, questions, etc. The Programming Authority monitors that and addressed that particular issue.

Regarding Rule 74, I think several members have raised the issue again here for discussion. It was discussed in the Rules Committee. Decisions were taken by the Rules Committee and, of course, implemented accordingly. I would not want to respond at this stage. There is still further correspondence that is taking place with the hon Uys about the matter. Of course, we are currently following decisions taken by the Rules Committee. There has also been a decision taken that there also be further inputs regarding Rule 74 that must be considered by the Rules Committee.

Hon Rossouw also referred to other aspects of issues raised, like the seconding of proposals, etc. Of course, we can also announce that the catering contract has been concluded, as read out in my speech. We’re looking at also concluding the travelling contract. I think by next week or the week thereafter it will be finished. Those things have all been put in place to minimise the unnecessary paperwork that takes place with all the procurement and the time contacting people. We will have a dedicated service provider that will give a weekly report to the Finance Department, and we can have a proper structure in place that will then facilitate this process.

I would like to then speak to hon Lentit. I want to thank you for the support for the budget. I take note of the issues raised by you of public participation and education. This has taken place. We’ve been extremely busy as a parliament to accommodate visits by our guests, by schools and the public at large. I even went to different communities to address them on various issues of Parliament.
Of course, even the radio stations participated in radio programmes to promote the core functions of Parliament and how public actually engage Parliament and the various processes. That is a continuous process. I did request even the members of the House to continue at every forum where they are to promote and make people understand the responsibility of participating in the affairs of this Parliament. It is important that all of us do it. It is not the responsibility only of the Speaker’s Office but of each and every individual who serves here and represents his and her particular constituency. That’s why we’ve also given money for members’ programmes in constituencies, so that there is greater contact between the members and the constituency to promote Parliament’s operations and the involvement of communities in Parliament’s activities.

The issue of the filling of posts has certainly been coming on for various reasons. We’ve tried to put parameters in place that we do not have unduly delayed filling of posts, but there has been a number of reasons, and good reasons, why there has been a delay in posts being filled. Some people were appointed and they did not accept. Another process followed and somebody was appointed. In some cases we have three or four processes going. It’s very unfortunate that it could not be executed and completed, but I do know that we have nine posts that we would like to fill very soon. Of course, these posts should be filled by 1 April. Those things are all in place. In fact, the CFO file is on my desk. The persons have been interviewed and the assessments have taken place. It is now for us to consider the assessment and the interview that took place to make a final decision regarding that matter. We do take your concerns very seriously, because it can definitely improve the performance of this Parliament if we have additional staff, particularly those key positions.

I have also noted the issue of the reporting on resolutions and monitoring of policy and legislation. I think it’s very important that the standing committees also take that into consideration and make it part of a standing item on the standing committees’ agenda. Any relevant legislation pertaining to a committee should be pursued and we need to find out how it is being implemented. I think we’ve learnt from the international consultative seminar that was hosted by the national Parliament, which the Speakers all supported.

One of the issues raised is that we need to monitor this, otherwise we cannot be effective. The standing committees, to a large extent, in South Africa have not done that and there is a clear indication from the Auditor-General’s Office and the international seminar that this is one of areas that we need to focus on. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) should be attached to all the different programmes to see whether we achieved those millennium goals, what we have achieved, how much have we achieved and where the shortcomings are. I think that respect has been given to us and we need to make some standing arrangement so that we can see our development relative to our country and our country to the rest of Africa and the world. I think that is our responsibility as members who have to exercise oversight.

I then want to proceed to hon Uys. I have taken note of all the concerns raised. A number of the issues were, of course, dealt with in the Rules Committee. There are reports that speak to many of these issues. I want to thank you for the comments and the support of those increases, secretarial allowances, enabling allowances, the programmes for members and, of course, constituency allowances.
Those things will support members in running the offices within Parliament and also running the offices outside Parliament and to give effect to oversight in different ways. I hope in that way we will continue to support the members in doing their job effectively.

Regarding the IT network, I think we can always improve on it. That is an area which is extremely dynamic and changes regularly, but we have taken the serious systems into consideration. One of that will be the document management system (DMS), which will be key to all the coordination of any correspondence that comes into and goes out of this institution and which takes responsibility at each and every level. We can actually monitor it as it moves from one person to another person. It would also serve the petitions process, where it can be monitored when it comes in – where it is, where are the snags or the bottlenecks within the administration. The system will speak to those efficiencies that we need to actually introduce into the system.

I have spoken about FAMLA. We acknowledge the improvements of he committee rooms. We will look at further improvements, where possible. The upgrading of the House and, of course, the review of the strategic plan was mentioned. We will have those copies. I will just remind the staff that those copies should be sent to the members immediately so that they have them available.

There is a different approach to the issue regarding the commemorative days. I think all the Whips were consulted. There will be a new set of guidelines, setting out how it must be managed. All of us have a responsibility when we spend taxpayers’ money and when we are serving the public. We are also responsible in accounting for it. The guidelines simply speak to that. We want to make it easy, but we also want to make it accountable, that we can answer for what we have spent. We would support the members in whatever is required. We will even send out an official to assist a member.

Regarding petitions, I think there was a lengthy discussion. I did address the Petitions Committee about the matter. There is some misunderstanding which we’ve encountered. I’ve explained to the committee that any issue that comes to Parliament is not a petition, first and foremost. One has to establish if all the criteria have been met. I went to a lengthy exercise to explain how this process actually works. If it is a petition, one still needs to ask the questions: What other avenues were exhausted? Was the local councillor approached? Did you go to the council? Where is this problem? Is it at local government, provincial government or national government? Did you take the necessary measures? There are a number of issues – the checklist – that we have to go through in the administration. Once the checklist is complied with, it then appears on the status of a petition. The petition is then referred to the Secretary of Parliament and from the Secretary of Parliament to my Office. Once it reaches my Office I know the processes have been concluded and I then refer the matter to the committee for consideration. It is only at that stage that the committee actually then engages with the petition, but before that it cannot be considered.

I think we’ll have further meetings with the Petitions Committee. There is no suggestion that we do not have staff. We have allocated staff currently, although it is not a fulltime job, because it only operates as a petitions unit. It is not justified at this stage that we have permanent staff, and the petitions have not gone through the full process to be labelled as petitions.
When that need arises, I give my commitment and I pledge that if that is the case, we will immediately employ somebody to take charge of petitions. I have absolutely no objection to that. It must be justified, and of course we know that we're going to spend. In the past, there were members appointed and there was not a single petition dealt with for two years. It was a permanent unit. What did the members actually then do? [Interjections] No, no, please! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The SPEAKER: Hon McKenzie, I did not refer to anybody. I'm saying that this was the case. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon McKenzie, order please!

†The SPEAKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I just want to raise the issue as to why I've delayed that, but certainly if that need arises, I pledge that I will employ somebody immediately. However, at this moment, that will reside under public participation. There is a senior officer that is responsible for it and there will be a junior officer that will assist. They will have to process everything, do the necessary correspondence with the different spheres of government, get back to us, then it must be classified and then we will proceed on that. My commitment to support petitions is 100% there.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: But speak to the Chair... [Inaudible.] He does nothing. [Interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

I also note the issue of public participation – from R2,52 million to R1,875 million. I think there's also been a shift of some funds with regard to advertising and the responsibilities of catering. It's not that the money had been reduced. We've even employed an additional person. I think we need to just look behind the budget and ask what shifts have happened with the particular items behind public participation. That clarity we can forward to the members and they can then understand how that was actually shifted.

I've addressed the issue of Rule 74. I've addressed the staff issues. The remuneration study has taken some time. I even submitted the remuneration study – we're the only province that did that – to all provinces and to national Parliament. There was a discussion. No decisions were made at the Speakers' Forum. We have continued with the Patterson grading system which we've completed, with all the notches. We've looked at the Public Service and at Parliament. It's on my desk. Tomorrow I'm having a meeting with my SMT regarding the matter. [Interjections.] No. I have to ensure that I do the necessary consultation before I put my signature on that, because there are financial implications to the institution and we have to take that responsibility. [Interjections.] Absolutely. I have indicated in my speech that it will be implemented in April. [Interjections.] Consultation will take place also with NEHAWU. That is mandatory. We have to consult with the union as well. [Interjections.] No, not at all. [Interjections.]
†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Proceed, Mr Speaker.

†The SPEAKER: I’ve discussed the issues regarding the training of staff and the budget. I have spoken to the Rules Committee regarding the exit agreement of the Secretary. I’ve also said that I will consult with my legal advisors regarding the response to that issue – what is allowed and what is not allowed to be divulged for public information. At this moment it is still a confidential agreement between the previous Secretary and myself as the employer.

Regarding the procurement, the matter has been handed over completely to the accounting officer. He has taken full responsibility for investigation and reports. The matter is resting with him and he has followed up his responsibilities with the current Acting Secretary.

Regarding the amendment of the Rules, I want to refer to the 60 minutes for question time that we asked for. Unfortunately, there were certain objections to other paragraphs in the last Minutes. The Minutes were not formally adopted. There was a delay. At the next meeting that will certainly be adopted. All the Whips agreed that there will be an extension, and we have accommodated all questions that stand over as a separate item, and not part of the 45 minutes that we normally deal with questions. However, that item, once adopted, will be immediately implemented.

Concerning Public Works, I have indicated in my speech that I have had a consultation with the hon Minister Carlisle. We have come to an agreement that there will be engagements to look at the draft service level agreement and that we pursue that matter to improve the relationship of how we deal with maintenance issues.[Interjections.] At this moment there has been a very good response by officials within Public Works. They respond quickly to certain issues as soon as we report them. They do not wait for the normal 72 hours. It is within 24 hours. Sometimes it is immediate, sometimes it takes 48 hours, but they try to give priority status to Parliament’s requests. That has been a direct communication between ourselves and Public Works. The service level agreement is under discussion now and it will then be reported to the committee.

Hon Geyer, I want to thank you for the comments that you’ve delivered. I also note your concerns. I have reported the issue of Hansard to the committee. I have also indicated in my speech that there are matters that I cannot disclose in public now, but the issue is being pursued vigorously. We are going to address and resolve the matter. We have taken all those concerns into consideration. It is a major concern for us, because it pertains to the business of Parliament. It is important that we resolve it, but we are bound by the terms of the contract. We need to address it and do it properly otherwise we are open to a legal suit.

The issue of the interpreting services, we have improved on what we had before, and we will continue to strive to improve. I think a survey was sent out to all the members. It urged members to give their honest and frank opinion when reporting. The survey has been sent out. In the past, I must say, we’ve had a very bad response. We get about four people to respond, and that doesn’t help us in the administration when we want to address serious matters. We send it out, expecting that we’re going to get members’ comments and act upon those things. [Interjections.] I am urging members that we deal with those issues.
However, we need to respect the language policy of this province and we need to implement it. I therefore fully support the interpreting and language issues.

I think we covered most of the other issues. [Interjections.] I have spoken to the staff responsible regarding the emergency evacuation plan. Arrangements are currently being made. I’ve noted the one issue that we don’t have, ie a stretcher that can fold so that a member can be carried ...

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: There are older members on that side. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: We have spoken to Sister Crossley. She is ready if any Member of Parliament would like to be trained in first aid, but we are also doing it for our staff. [Interjections.] We’re putting a one-page emergency evacuation plan in place that we will then distribute to the members so that they can see who is responsible on every floor and where the resources are if you need to evacuate. Of course, we want to acquire the stretcher, as recommended by hon Geyer.

Mr Deputy Speaker, that concludes my comments on the issues raised by the hon members. I’d like to then once again thank the members for their participation and their active engagement within the Rules Committee to make me aware of issues. I also thank my staff for being very responsive and responsible and for supporting us to be able to address those issues.

Debate concluded.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! That concludes the debate on these Votes. Dinner will be served in the Members’ Lounge. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:16.
The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 6 – Health)

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I acknowledge the hon Premier, Helen Zille; Cabinet colleagues; the Leader of the Opposition; hon member McKenzie; chairperson and members of the standing committee; Members of the Provincial Parliament; the Director-General; the Head of the Department of Health, Prof Househam; delegates from the health sector; media; special guests, among whom I notice Dr Max Price, the Rector of UCT; Prof Marian Jacobs, the Dean of the Faculty of Health and Science; many other important people in the health sector; and people of the Western Cape.

THE OPEN OPPORTUNITY SOCIETY FOR ALL

The Western Cape of our dreams is a future where every person has the opportunity to live the life they value.

In the State of the Province Address, the hon Premier referred to the Western Cape of our dreams as a place where caring, competency, accountability, integrity and responsiveness can be seen. It is a place where there is strict financial management and transparency, rather than corruption. Such a dream is possible because we have embarked on a journey of interaction and collaboration with the private sector, rather than being an entity to ourselves, because this government perceives its role as a facilitator, not a regulator. The Western Cape of our dreams is a place where the economy grows and our health insurance plan benefits all citizens, not only the select few. It is a place where our people are fit and healthy to generate an income, feed and care for their families and live the life they value.

On this journey, the Western Cape Department of Health made a major mind-shift that sets the Western Cape apart not only from the rest of this country, but also from other regional governments. It is an approach to public health care that is certainly new and could redirect the debate on public health management. Strategic Objective 4 of the Provincial Strategic Plan: Increasing Wellness adopts this new approach.

Last year, this strategic objective was launched which defines the provision of health services as the core function of the Department of Health but, in addition, it identifies the need to educate our people on the early detection and prevention of disease. The latter is not the responsibility of the Department of Health alone, but will be addressed inter-sectorally between spheres of government, different departments in the provincial government, non-governmental organisations and the private sector.
Four working groups have been established, which will report to the Human Development Social Sector Committee, to address the upstream issues that contribute to the burden of disease. These are maternal and child health, the reduction of injuries, the promotion of healthy lifestyles and HIV/AIDS and TB. Effective strategies in these areas will have a long-term benefit on the disease profile of our people.

In line with this goal, the Premier will convene a Wellness Summit later this year to which all stakeholders, both public and private, will be invited to participate.

The Western Cape Department of Health will focus on the patient and the patient experience, placing the quality of care for patients back at the heart of our vision. This strategy will provide the framework for future service, personnel, infrastructure and financial planning. This can only be achieved by strengthening the District Health Services to form a solid base, with regional hospitals, central hospitals and other support services as a strong support.

The completion of the Khayelitsha Hospital later this year and the Mitchells Plain Hospital next year are two milestones of improved service delivery on the road to wellness for the people of this province. Finally, after a lifetime of travelling to distant hospitals outside their communities, the pupil of Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain will have access to hospitals in their immediate vicinity that will compare to the best in the world. That certainly is a step closer to the Western Cape of our dreams and our government’s vision of becoming the best-run regional government in the world.

KEY FOCUS AREAS

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape has 4.6 million people who depend on public health services. The budget I’m tabling here today totals R13,395 billion for the 2011-12 financial year. In addition, the province has access to a national conditional grant for tertiary services. But, as the hon Alan Winde so aptly pointed out, this year’s budget has been designed to prevent ill health, not simply to treat it.

During last year there has been significant investigation and exploration which has led to a range of partnership projects, such as the Pink Drive mobile mammography project, the donation of the German Fraunhofer Institute Mobile Laboratory for HIV and other disease testing and Unilever Health Educational Partnership. Partnership projects envisaged in the coming year are the modernisation and upgrade of medical facilities in the province, programmes to correct process flow and systems within our facilities, partnerships to provide specialists services such as oncology and renal care, and the possible establishment of a surgical training centre of excellence.

CHALLENGES

Mr Deputy Speaker, an ongoing challenge for the Western Cape Department of Health remains the available finances and human resources required to meet the demand. Budget planning is further complicated by the unreliability of population figures. For this reason we welcome the results of the national census due to be undertaken during this year.
Although more than R1 out of every R3 of the provincial budget has been allocated to health, the need and the demand is so great that the budget allocation still does not fully meet the demand for health services, and limits the department’s ability to reach its strategic goal of effectively managing the burden of disease. This is illustrated by the fact that, although medical inflation has cumulatively grown 16% over the past two years, the budget provides for an inflation rate of 7% in Year 1 and 4% in Year 2 of the MTEF. The department will adopt management strategies to stretch every health rand to the maximum.

The department is committed to increasing awareness of and drives initiatives to address the factors that contribute to the burden of disease, such as poverty, lack of sanitation and potable water, and unhealthy lifestyles.

The provision of sufficient staff remains a challenge, and it is clear that we must improve the turnaround time for the filling of funded posts.

SPECIFIC BUDGET DETAILS

As mentioned earlier, the Department of Health is allocated R13,395 billion in the 2011-12 financial year, and represents 36,4% share of the entire provincial budget. This is an 8,23% increase from the revised estimate for the 2010-11 financial year.

The year-on-year allocations are as follows: R14,391 billion in the 2012-13 financial year and R15,666 billion in the 2013-14 financial year, amounting to a total of R43,452 billion over the 2011 MTEF. I must acknowledge, Mr Deputy Speaker, the support of the Premier and my provincial Cabinet colleagues in this regard towards health.

The contribution to the provincial health allocation from national conditional grants amounts to R3,718 billion and the budgeted income from patient fees in the 2011-12 financial year is R483 million.

Provincial Equitable Share

Due to data revisions, the new health formula and changes in the weights assigned to each of the components, the Western Cape’s portion of the Provincial Equitable Share (PES) formula increases from 9,23% in the 2010 MTEF to 9,37% in the 2011 MTEF. The revised health equitable share formula also factors in the patient workload on the service. The inclusion of the Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD) as part of the overall health share of the Provincial Equitable Share formula …

*Mr H P GEYER: Mr Deputy Speaker, for how long must we endure this conversation between the members on the other side, while the Minister is busy speaking? A discussion is being held here between three members. Will you address this please? [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Magwaza, we don’t use the term “impambano” ["madness"] here in the House. Can you withdraw what you have said?

Ms N P MAGWAZA: [Inaudible.]
The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You said, "Ukuba uqalisa impambano." ["If you start madness."] We don't use ...

Nksz N P MAGWAZA: Ukuphambana?
USEKELA SOMLOMO: Ewe, ukuphambana.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follows.]
[Ms N P MAGWAZA: To be mad?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, madness.]

Ms N P MAGWAZA: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Magwaza, you referred to the hon Geyer ...

†Ms N P MAGWAZA: I withdraw it, Mr Deputy Speaker.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. You may proceed, hon Minister.

†The MINISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for the water break.

The inclusion of the Occupation Specific Dispensation (OSD) as part of the overall health share of the Provincial Equitable Share formula has resulted in a reduction of the Western Cap’s provincial equitable share allocation over the MTEF period.

Conditional grants

The various national conditional grants that the department receives include:

- R1,973 billion for the National Tertiary Services Grant;
- R408 million for the ...

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Minister. Please take your seat.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: How long will you allow the hon MEC for Housing to be in conversation with the member at the back there?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon McKenzie! We didn’t suspend any conversation, but what we have said is that we don’t allow any member to have a loud conversation in the House. That is what we said. [Interjections.] Thank you very much. You may proceed, hon Minister Botha.

†The MINISTER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I continue as follows:

- R408 million for the Health Professionals Training and Development Grant;
- R661 million for the Comprehensive HIV/Aids Grant;
- R119 million for the Health Infrastructure Grant; and
- R482 million for the Hospital Revitalisation Grant.

The province has received a proportionately larger share of the additions to the National Tertiary Services Grant (NTSG) following the 2010 National Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.
I want to thank our colleagues in National Treasury and the national Minister of Health for responding favourably to our submission in this regard, ...

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER: ... but of course we would have welcomed the full amount and another “Hear, hear!” to address the accumulated underfunding ... [Interjections.] ... of the NTSG over the past years, which amounts to at least to R1,1 billion. And, yes, I have a good relationship with your national Minister, hon member. [Interjections.]

A further amount of R174,247 million ... [Interjections.] ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: ... has been added to the Comprehensive HIV/Aids Grant over the 2011 MTEF to meet the increased demand for prevention and treatment, largely driven by the raising of the CD4 count threshold for treatment and to enable the health sector to develop an effective response to HIV/Aids, including universal access to HIV counselling and testing.

Revenue

Mr Deputy Speaker, I referred to the health rand earlier. The department remains committed to stretching the health rand through maximising revenue generation and collection from current sources of revenue, while at the same time exploring alternative streams of revenue to counter the ongoing budget constraints.

Tariffs for funded patients will be raised by 5,9% with effect from 1 April 2011, and the tariffs for unfunded patients will remain at current levels in the coming year. This is our clear message to those in poverty, that we are indeed providing relief.

The tariffs for the licence, registration and inspection of private health establishments are under review and will be increased to allow full cost recovery in the coming year.

As promised in the House last year, a healthy and working relationship has been established with the private health sector. There has been a marked change in the private sector’s approach to us, and those in the gallery here today who represent private health care bear testimony to this. I would like to use this opportunity to welcome all the private sector representatives in the House here today with us. Thank you for accepting the invitation to collaborate with us and joining us as we venture into new health care partnerships in the Western Cape. New relationships are being forged with the private sector to explore additional streams of revenue, and two investigations are currently under way to determine the appetite in the private sector for the marketing of commercial rights for health facilities to fund ongoing maintenance challenges and the implementation of a voluntary health levy.

Specific distribution of the budget
Mr Deputy Speaker; the health budget is divided between eight budget programmes. Compensation of employees accounts for the biggest component of 57% of the total budget – that is R7,6 billion. Thirty one per cent is allocated to the procurement of goods and services – that is R4,1 billion, which is 55% of the total amount of goods and services procured by this Provincial Government.

PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

Strategic management and overall administration receives R445 million. This amounts to a nominal increase of R95,379 million or 27,26%.

In my 2010 Budget Speech I announced that I would establish an Independent Complaints Commission (ICC) to provide an independent structure where complaints can be lodged when the existing structures have not resolved complaints to the satisfaction of the complainant. This body, consisting of 13 members from various stakeholder groups, has been established and held its inaugural meeting in February 2011. I can report that complaints have already been referred to the ICC for their consideration. This is also a first of its kind in the country and aims to improve the quality of service and the treatment experience of our patients.

Additional funding will be provided to consolidate the Chief Directorate: Strategy and Health Support and a new Directorate: Health Impact Assessment to strengthen the information management systems at all our facilities. This is necessary to improve the quality of data collection.

The home delivery of chronic medication through the Chronic Dispensing Unit will gain new momentum this year. I will announce the details at a press conference within the next few weeks but at this stage it suffices to say that a contract has been concluded with a new service provider that will allow for expansion throughout the Province as the budget allows. This is indeed a major advance over other provinces and, in my view, a major advance in global terms. If a patient receives chronic medication delivered on their doorstep – that is service delivery.

PROGRAMME 2: DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

Health services in the district health system are allocated R4,927 billion, which is 36,78% of the Vote, versus last year’s 35,65%. This translates into a nominal increase of R514,586 million or 11,66%. These funds are divided amongst the 10 sub programmes with 74% or R3,6 billion allocated to community health clinics, health centres and district hospitals. These facilities will provide primary health care services to 16 million people and more than 1 million patient day equivalents in district hospitals.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the relatively high rates of child mortality in this province, and a major cause of the burden of disease, will be addressed through more prevention and promotion activities on district level, and the strengthening of maternal, child and women’s health. The department aims to reduce the mortality of children under the age of 5 years to 30 per 1 000 live births and the maternal mortality to 90 per 100 000 live births by 2015. The launch of the Road to Health booklets will be a key rallying tool to enhance the wellness of children, with a special focus on prevention. All key partners, including NPOs, our universities and the private sector, will be involved in this project.
Focus areas for increasing women’s health include motivating more pregnant women to seek antenatal care before 20 weeks of their pregnancy, to target a reduction in the delivery rate of women under 18 years, increase the cervical cancer screening rate and improve family planning services.

I have already referred to the commissioning of the Khayelitsha District Hospital in this financial year to be followed by the Mitchells Plain District Hospital in 2013. These hospitals will be commissioned in a phased manner over the MTEF and the first phase will include the relocation of the interim Khayelitsha District Hospital, currently based at Tygerberg Hospital, to the new site.

Community-based services, which are provided by home-based carers appointed through non-profit organisations, remain an exciting growth area and an empowerment opportunity for people in local communities. The initiative contributes to economic growth through job creation at grass-roots level and significantly enhances access to care beyond the health facilities. The allocated R146 million will increase the number of community-based carers from this year’s 2 500 to 3 000 in the 2011-12 financial year. Yesterday, on World TB Day, I called for the equalisation of the payment of community care workers so that those who care for TB patients receive the same stipend as those that care for HIV patients.

The HIV/Aids programme receives R661 million which is augmented by a further R166 million from the Global Fund in the 2011-12 financial year. We are extremely appreciative of the ongoing support of the Global Fund whose contribution over the MTEF amounts to R579 million. The Western Cape is the only provincial recipient in the country of this grant, which will enable the provincial department to strengthen grant programme management, while expanding ART infrastructure, ARV services, PMTCT system, peer education and palliative care services. The second phase ... [Interjections.] Yes, with DA’s taxpayers’ money. Interjections.] The second phase ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Order!

†The MINISTER: The second phase will follow directly after the original period to cover a further three-year period of grant funding.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the last year our strategies to reduce the burden of HIV/Aids and TB ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

†The MINISTER: ... indicate major increases, and even in global terms, this province is delivering outstanding services to our people. The numbers speak for themselves: 80% of all people diagnosed with HIV are receiving treatment, care and support – 80%; by the end of January 2011 the number of patients, both adults and children, on ARV therapy has increased from 24 000 to 116 000; prevention of mother-to-child transmission services aim to reduce transmission to 3% or below 3% actually; and the delivery of HIV and TB services at all district, secondary and central hospitals for clients with complex HIV and/or TB.
Mr Deputy Speaker, I am particularly proud to introduce to you today a man who received the National Cecilia Makiwane Recognition Award last year at the Annual Excellence in Health Care Awards for the groundbreaking work that he has done with regard to TB. This is the highest accolade for nurses in our country. Mr Deputy Speaker, let us welcome Mr Jan Blom in the House today, and there he is. [Applause.] And he is male, too. [Laughter.] Mr Blom —and my wife was also a Miss Blom— trained at Valkenberg Hospital, worked as a medical trainer in the SA Defence Force and the Tygerberg Hospital and also as a nurse at the Nelspoort Hospital in the TB and psychiatric wards. Currently, Mr Blom is working at the Wesbank Clinic in Malmesbury. He is involved in supporting programmes for farm workers and played an instrumental role in the establishment of a tracing system to identify TB patients that has led to more than 85% of patients completing their courses and thus reducing the number of TB patients on the West Coast. Mr Blom is an exemplary citizen of this Province, dedicated and committed to his calling. Thank you, Mr Blom, for your contribution to enhancing the wellness of our people. [Applause.]

PROGRAMME 3: EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr Deputy Speaker, our EMS fleet compares with the best in the world, and enables this province to host world-class events such as a Soccer World Cup, the Cape Argus Cycle Tour and the Two Oceans Marathon — all events that play a major role to attract international investors to the Western Cape in support of long-term economic growth. Our fleet includes a state-of-the-art four-wheel drive response vehicle, four rescue support vehicles complete with full technical support and jaws-of-life, medical helicopters and paramedics on motorcycles. Delegations from other provinces regularly stand in awe of these assets, and can only aspire to the equipment and skills that EMS adds to the department’s portfolio.

Represented in 50 towns in the Western Cape, Emergency Medical Services and planned patient transport will receive a nominal increase of R34,052 million or 5,85%. The allocation is R616 million or 4,6% of the 2011-12 Vote.

The overall target is that EMS should respond to 75% of all calls within an hour. Emergency Medical Services provide excellent medical rescue services in the Western Cape and the Wilderness Search and Rescue System is unique in the country. The rescue service is built around the existing EMS and consumes relatively little additional EMS resources … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon Minister Carlisle! [Interjections.] Hon Minister, order! Hon McKenzie and Minister Carlisle, please stop your interjections.

†The MINISTER: The rescue service is built around the existing EMS and consumes relatively little additional EMS resources, but its availability when needed is what is saving lives.

The Air Mercy Service provides access for any critically ill or injured patient to specialised care. Whilst they provide rapid access to appropriate care, the service frees up ambulances to attend to local calls.

A service that defines health services in the Western Cape, and has positioned this province as strides ahead of our counterparts, is the 76 HealthNET patient
Transporters. They transport outpatients from district to regional and tertiary hospitals. Every month, every working day of the month, approximately 3 000 patients are transported to and from Cape Town hospitals. This year the department will aim to reduce inappropriate referrals to our central hospitals.

PROGRAMME 4: PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

The largest share of this programme allocation will go to the provincial hospital services, which are largely funded from the Provincial Equitable Share but receive an allocation R71,951 million from the Health Professions Training and Development Grant to train health professionals.

Provincial hospital services are allocated 16,07% compared to last year’s 23,97%, and translates into a nominal decrease of R813,828 million or 24,445%. The programme funds 1 340 general specialist beds across the province and will manage approximately 569 000 patient day equivalents during the 2011-12 financial year at an estimated cost of R1 609 per patient day equivalent.

The largest share of the provincial hospital budget will go to the regional hospitals – R1,149 billion or 53,37%. Mental health will receive a boost with the allocation of R570 million to psychiatric hospitals. This will include additional beds at Stikland and Valkenberg Hospitals. Planning for the complete rebuilding and revitalisation of Valkenberg Hospital is continuing which will see the integration of new buildings with the old and historical building on this site. TB hospitals receive R195 million, rehabilitation services R136 million and dental training hospitals R103 million.

This year, a third specialist surgeon will be appointed at Worcester Hospital to alleviate pressure on the surgical services. Finally, the planning will begin for the relocation of the Orthotic and Prosthetic Centre from the old Conradie Hospital site to the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre at the Lentegeur Hospital site.

An HON MEMBER: When?

The MINISTER: This year.

An HON MEMBER: When?

The MINISTER: You will say. [Laughter.][Interjections.] I’m the client; you’re the ... [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, my colleague Minister Carlisle is eagerly waiting to lay his hands on that premises.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: That is a totally new debate. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order!
†The MINISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, when we are looking for money Fransman’s name comes up every time. [Laughter.] Mr Deputy Speaker, … [Interjections.] Yes, for different reasons.

Mr Deputy Speaker, when one listens to the numbers in a budget speech …

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER: Robin, listen now. [Laughter.] Mr Deputy Speaker … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†The MINISTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, when one listens to the numbers in a budget speech one tends to get lost in the numbers and forget that this budget is about our government creating opportunities, and even a new life for our people. This Vote here today is not just about the numbers but about the people who depend on us for health services and about the ability that we have to change their lives for the better – the farm worker who has high blood pressure, the domestic who suffers from diabetes, the poor and the vulnerable who will live a life of pain and suffering if we as a Government do not provide accessible and efficient services.

*In the gallery today is Mr Stoffel Goqa of Beaufort West. Four years ago they discovered that his vision had deteriorated to such an extent that he could only just distinguish between light and darkness. Consequently he had lost his job, and he was not able to generate an income for his family. During November last year, he was one of the 16 patients who had undergone a cataract-removal operation at the Beaufort West Hospital. It changed his life altogether. Shortly after that, he was employed again by subcontractors who lay pipelines for cellphone networks. Today, Mr Goqa is independent again, and he can make a positive contribution to the economic growth of Beaufort West, the district where he lives, his family and our whole province. [Applause.] Thank you very much for taking the trouble to be here and that you have travelled so far to come here. The story of Mr Goqa is typical of the story of many people’s lives we touch and change.

PROGRAMME 5: CENTRAL HOSPITALS OR HIGHLY SPECIALISED SERVICES

†Worldwide this province is renowned for its highly specialised medical services, but the high cost of medical inflation has put enormous strain on the health budget. This is also the programme that provides a platform for research and the training of health workers by our universities at the three central hospitals – Groote Schuur, Tygerberg and Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospitals. The programme is allocated 29,52% compared to the 21,68% allocated in the adjustments at the end of last year – a nominal increase of R1,270 billion or 47,35%, due to the shift of funding for Level 2 services in the central hospitals from Programme 4 to Programme 5.

The total National Tertiary Services Grant of R1.973 billion and R259 million of the Health Professionals Training and Development Grant are allocated to Programme 5, which represents approximately 56% of the funding allocated to the programmes.
Personnel expenditure has increased particularly due to the occupational specific dispensation for nurses and doctors that have been implemented. The OSD for other categories of staff is currently being implemented. Importantly, the Health Professionals Training and Development Grant was not adjusted to accommodate the cost implications of the OSD and the National Tertiary Services Grant only partially adjusted which impacts on the ability of these grants to fund a sustained volume of service.

The central hospitals will manage 1 109 467 patient day equivalents in 2 520 beds at a cost of R2 804 per patient day equivalent during this financial year.

The budget provides for a neurosurgical microscope and a gamma camera for the Groote Schuur Hospital, and a mammography machine for the Tygerberg Hospital.

The challenges facing patients with renal failure requiring renal dialysis and kidney transplants surface regularly in the media. This morning, I want to welcome a couple in the House who can tell the story of how a kidney transplant that Mrs Darries underwent 18 years ago has given her and her family a new lease on life. Where are Mr and Mrs Darries? [Applause.] In the gallery are the patient, Mrs Ina Darries, and her husband David who, by the way, had more than 40 years’ service in the Department of Health from Day 1 until his last day. Up until last year Mrs Darries was an active school teacher and today she continues to be involved in caring for other kidney transplant patients. I met her the other day on my visit to the Tygerberg Hospital on World Kidney Day. Thank you very much for your presence here today. [Applause.]

The Tygerberg Hospital Division of Nephrology performs about 25 kidney transplants per year while treating about 250 patients with renal failure. What is important to note about kidney transplants is that the Western Cape has an adequate budget to perform kidney transplants. The challenge is rather finding sufficient organ donors. It is for this reason so important to create a greater awareness about organ donation. Again, thank you to Mr and Mrs Darries for sharing their story with us here today.

A major advance in the central hospitals is the implementation of a digitalised system of X-raying and scanning patients and transmitting these images across institutions. While the start-up costs are significant, it will have significant benefits for patient care and management efficiencies going forward. A practical example is the ability to provide expert opinion on scans and X-rays at a distance. This is particularly important for the rural hospitals, thus the system will be rolled out to the Khayelitsha District Hospital and three rural regional hospitals.

A significant development for women’s health is a new partnership with Pink Drive, which I launched two weeks ago. Sadly, of the estimated 8 000 new cases of breast cancer each year in South Africa, about 1 500 are diagnosed in our province and is the most common cause of death of women from cancer. We believe that the mobile mammography screening service will assist in the earlier detection of breast cancer and thus save lives.

In the same spirit of collaboration, the department is partnering with a consortium of private partners that include Best Care Always, Life-Health, Medi-Clinic and Discovery to focus on training programmes for infection control in our hospitals.
PROGRAMME 6: HEALTH SCIENCES AND TRAINING

The R233 million or 1.74% allocation amounts to a nominal increase of R15,182 million or 6.96%. Of this budget the Western Cape College of Nursing receives R52 million whilst R72 million is allocated for the provision of bursaries, largely for nursing students at the Western Cape College of Nursing and the University of the Western Cape. We are expecting 400 nursing students to graduate in the 2011-12 financial year and be absorbed into the provincial health services.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in the context of economic growth it is essential that we budget for skills development, and it is for this reason that the programme funds training for Emergency Medical Services personnel, discipline specific courses for employees, 2,000 home-based carers and 120 artisan assistants.

PROGRAMME 7: HEALTH CARE SUPPORT SERVICES

Laundry and engineering services, forensic pathology services and the Medicine Trading Account is allocated 1.87% in comparison to last year's 1.97%. This amounts to a nominal increase of R7,334 million or 3.01%.

At R65 million Laundry services will launder 15 million pieces of linen this year and outsource a third. Add to this the increasing cost of water and electricity. As part of the revitalisation projects at the Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain hospitals, the Lentegeur laundry is being upgraded. Aging equipment in the George Hospital laundry will be replaced and the Tygerberg laundry is being downscaled.

Engineering services are allocated R75 million to manage routine maintenance and repairs. The challenge is the funding available for maintenance as set against the value of capital stock currently in use.

Forensic Pathology Services are allocated R98 million, of which R70 million is national conditional grant funding. In the Western Cape, the Forensic Pathology Service is rendered by 18 facilities across the province, which includes two academic laboratories in the Metropole, 2 departments of forensic medicine, 3 referral laboratories, and smaller laboratories and holding centres on the West Coast, Cape Winelands, Overberg, Eden and Central Karoo.

To date, the Western Cape Department of Health has completed the construction of five new forensic pathology facilities – Malmesbury, Paarl, Worcester, Hermanus and George. This year’s budget will be used to construct a new facility to replace the current Salt River Forensic Pathology Unit, as well as new facilities in Beaufort West and Riversdale. At the end of last year, we celebrated the turning of disaster into a victory with the official opening of the renovated building on the Tygerberg Hospital precinct, which had been left in shambles when former Joe Slovo residents departed, as the new Western Cape Provincial Pathology head office.

PROGRAMME 8: HEALTH FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Mr Deputy Speaker, although I’ve mentioned the Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain Hospitals more than once in my speech today as milestones in the history of this province, the department has 30 capital projects under construction, 18 capital projects in planning stage and 13 projects in retention.
At present there are 88 projects in feasibility stage. These are the most capital projects that this province has been working on at any given time of this government. The total estimated cost of all capital projects for the next five years exceeds R8 billion. These projects vary in size and extent, the smallest being a typical ambulance station of R10 million and the largest being the estimated R1 billion restorations and redevelopment of the Valkenberg Hospital. It also includes the planning of a mega project for the Tygerberg Hospital, but not the R4,5 billion capital expenditure that is anticipated for that project.

Health facilities are allocated R2,6 billion over the MTEF period, and 74% of this funding is from conditional grants, which are made up of:

- R482 million from the Hospital Revitalisation Grant; and
- R119 million from the Health Infrastructure Grant in the 2011-12 financial year.

The decreased allocation in the Health Infrastructure Grant has been offset with earmarked Provincial Equitable Share funding of R41 million. The remaining equitable share funding has been earmarked as follows:

- R169 million for major maintenance and capital; and
- R5 million as a donation to the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital for ward upgrading.

It remains our target to establish a health facility within easy travelling distance for every citizen who depends on our health services. For this reason the infrastructure budget is distributed to projects throughout the province, from Kwanokathula Community District Clinic in Plettenberg Bay to Grassy Park and Melkhoutfontein; from Wesbank in Malmesbury to TC Newman Community Health Clinic in Paarl, to Riversdale Hospital; from ambulance stations in Lamberts Bay to revitalisation of the Worcester and Paarl Hospitals.

Projects planned to commence construction during the MTEF period include:

- a new Community Health Clinic for Du Noon;
- new Community District Clinics for Hermanus, Knysna, District Six and Delft Symphony Way;
- new clinics for Rawsonville, Napier and Strand Nomzamo;
- new ambulance stations for Malmesbury, Piketberg, Tulbagh and Robertson;
- new emergency centres for Karl Bremer and Knysna Hospitals;
- the revitalisation of Valkenberg and Brooklyn Chest Hospitals;
- the Tygerberg Hospital Mega-project;
- the upgrading of the emergency centres at the Red Cross War Memorial Children’s Hospital, Tygerberg Hospital and Groote Schuur Hospital; and
- a new Forensic Pathology Laboratory at Groote Schuur Hospital to replace the Salt River Mortuary.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in closing, the Western Cape of our dreams is a place where a growing economy creates jobs for our people who are healthy, well and able to care for their loved ones. I believe that this budget is a step towards that dream. At present, our province is the only province in the country where such a dream is possible, because we have a government which has prioritise economic growth that is the only single path out of the poverty cycle.

My first question to all those who provide services, both public and private health sectors, is: Do we treat our clients with dignity and with respect? My second question is to the people who depend on our services: Are you taking responsibility for your own health within the means available to you? Health and wellbeing are our greatest gifts. Let us strengthen ourselves and stand up against disease for a healthier society.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Head of Department, Prof Craig Househam – he is simply the very best – my office staff and my wife Sarie, in her absence but always supporting me, for their continued support.

In closing, I would like to thank the 28 610 employees of the Department of Health for their commitment. Your efforts inspire me and all the members of the House.

*Thank you to my Creator, who gave me the strength and insight to do this challenging work. [Applause.]

*Ms A J DU TOIT MARAIS: Mr Deputy Speaker, at 36,4% of the total provincial budget, the Department of Health receives more than a third of the available funds for the 2011-12 financial year. It is therefore very gladdening to see how the department plans to use its budget, not only to offer solutions for the great demand for medical care, but also to address the upstream causes so as to promote overall health in the province.

The department's primary focus – in order to offer accessible and comprehensive health care – is in line with the National Core Standards. The strategy "increasing wellness", rests mainly on the devotion of the past year, which serves as a foundation.

†The successful establishment of the Independent Complaints Commission (ICC) will forgo the perception of the department as being self-protecting with regard to complaints – complaints which, in most cases, are emotional. It is an independent authority which intends to be fairer towards its clients and the department. The ICC will receive, investigate and make recommendations on complaints against any of the Western Cape Department of Health's facilities and/or administrative functions of the department. The Commission is not meant to replace existing structures but rather to supplement the formal channels of lodging and handling of complaints and to ensure effective and comprehensive service delivery to the people.
*Mr Deputy Speaker, the district health services have an increase of 11.66% in their budget for the 2011-12 financial year. This model will provide for comprehensive service delivery which is specifically targeted for a specified community or area. Comprehensive service delivery is only effective if there is a creative and active local system at the actual point of service delivery. The district health legislation of 2010 can ensure that individual institutions are heard and that their needs are acknowledged. District councils will eventually serve to enable consumers and providers of health services to cooperate to find solutions for addressing local problems by means of good communication.

It is also gladdening to see that community-based services delivered by home-based carers are being extended. The cooperation with non-profit organisations will see to it that community-based carers will increase by 500 to 3 000 in the 2011-12 financial year, as already mentioned by Minister Botha.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the effective management of the department facilitates many other collaboration agreements. By combining scarce resources of money, time, knowledge and staff with those of non-government organisations and the private sector, the department is in a position to accomplish more. One of the most recent examples of such private partnerships is of the mobile laboratories that were received last Wednesday, 16 March 2011. The mobile laboratories are the outcome of extensive negotiations between the Western Cape Department of Health, the University of Stellenbosch, National Health's Laboratory Services and the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering. These mobile units will give people in the rural areas access to facilities for which they would normally have to travel to Cape Town, especially for the testing, diagnosing and combating HIV/Aids infection and tuberculosis, as well as the outbreak of possible pandemics, such as the H1N1 virus. These are world-class facilities that are made available to people in the Western Cape, who need them most. It is technology which is used for the benefit of the people.

We, as the standing committee, will keep a close eye on the objectives set by the hon Minister during his Budget Speech and on the department responsible for them on an ongoing basis. Of these objectives are, among other things, the training of 2 000 home-based carers in the 2011-12 financial year, as mentioned, to extend the community-based training of artisan-assistants to supplement the maintenance services.

Although from now on the focus is going to be on promoting people's health, it is still gladdening to see that provision is being made for building new medical centres, as well as for the maintenance and renovating of existing health facilities. One of these projects is the upgrading of the Valkenberg Hospital that will receive R26.8 million for the 2011-12 financial year, R50.5 million in the 2012-13 financial year and R190 million in the 2013-14 financial year. This proves the department's prioritising of patients' needs, which are forgotten too easily.

The effective management of the department enables the department to offer access to basic health care to everyone in the province in an unprecedented way, compared with the rest of the country. The sustained devotion by all role-players means that the quality of care and services offered bear testimony to a standard that will procure a better life for everyone.
A few incidents of critical conditions, as reported in the media, were not only addressed but rectified. The earnestness with which the Department of Health dealt with the dumping of medical waste, having reported on the matter and having reacted very swiftly, showed that the interests of every resident of the Western Cape are continually catered for.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would also like to avail myself of the opportunity to thank the department and staff under the political leadership of Minister Botha for their devotion to deliver service of excellent quality.

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Department of Health was always treated as if it is a baby member of a family, and this is where the media didn’t always report on what the department was doing right, or debates in the House were always focused on political point scoring and the well-being of those who need health care most was always ignored.

Mr Deputy Speaker, under the leadership of Minister Botha this has changed. The focus on the well-being of patients proves that there is political will and vision to improve the quality of care for all patients that make use of public health care facilities.

Minister Botha has also proven that one doesn’t have to have a medical background to make a difference, because medical care is everyone’s problem, and it is also our problem in the House. However, the Minister and his department have proven that effective management of resources to execute the department’s strategic objective is now placing health care in the forefront of the province and the rest of the country.

*Mr Deputy Speaker, many of our patients with terminal diseases have made peace with the time they still have left on earth, but all they desire is to receive the best treatment until the day they close their eyes.

This brings me to a point where I lost a family member who died from cancer. While she was still in the hospital – and we were all anxious – she phoned me and was in high spirits. I said, “Haai, moet jy nie lê nie?” She said, “Nee, ek hoef nie, want die sorg wat ek in die hospital kry is wonderlik.” It was the Tygerberg Hospital, and that is where she died. She had been kept happy by the staff in that hospital. That is what we have to do to make the people feel good in the hospitals during the last moments they have left.

Mr Deputy Speaker, this brings me to a point where I am very concerned because of the waiting times at our community hospitals, and especially at the day hospitals and clinics. The old people have to wait from early in the morning to be attended to, and if they go in from 07:00, they still have to wait to get a file to see a doctor, and then they have to wait again to get their medication at the pharmacy. They only return home in the afternoon at about 16:00 or 17:00, and they are our old people. It is a matter of great concern.

This is a point that is going to be made as a recommendation in the standing committee, and I request that the Minister will give his attention to it when he returns to his department. The ID supports the budget.
Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity.

From the embryo stage of the life cycle up to the moment of the last breath, a person needs health care, and the quality of life depends one hundred percent on the quality of life a person enjoys or the quality of health care a person receives.

When we then have to give consideration or not to the approval, of almost R14 billion budgeted for this Budget Vote, the quality of health care for those who need it will be the only criterion for such a decision. We will then listen carefully to what the political head says about health in the province. We shall carefully study the plans he tables. We will then meticulously monitor and evaluate what takes place in the province's health institutions and we will listen to the experiences of the patients of the province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the budget consists of the equitable share and conditional grants, totalling R12,9 billion. The department’s own contribution is R483 million. This amount shows an increase by R39,6 million from the previous year. The ANC note the fact that the global fund contribution of R600 million over the MTEF period have been incorporated as departmental monies and not as donor funding, as it should have been. We were told that it has been done on the advice of Treasury. The question we ask to the MEC is: Was it to create an artificial higher than previous years’ departmental contribution towards the budget, and what is going to happen after the MTEF period?

It can be argued that the money will be used for a very good cause, as indicated in Programme 2010. The fact remains that it is not money sourced from provincial income; it is donor funding and should be reflected as such in the budget.

I want to deal briefly with Programme 1: Administration. The purpose of this programme is to develop and maintain a competent workforce. A long time can be spent on debating this aspect, but there are three points I will have to touch upon, which have already discussed extensively in the House. It is the use of language at our health institutions. Still too often we hear about patients who are not served in their mother tongue. We hope that this budget will also give attention to this.

Then I also wish to touch upon something which is a very sensitive matter, but I think we must speak about this. It is about the attitude of many of our health staff towards all our patients. Not everyone is guilty of this, and I am the first to say it, because my mother receives good treatment in the government hospital in Vredendal, where grandmother Alida Maarman often has to be admitted. They don't even know who she is, but she doesn't complain. But there are people who do complain, and I think we must also give attention to it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I had to speak telephonically for a long time to a person at the hospital —and I don't want to mention the name of the hospital here; I'll tell you this — and the person on the other end then admitted that at one time they again had problems concerning attitude.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the MEC was not in the House when I spoke about the moonlighting of doctors and nurses. This is the third aspect. If there is one aspect this budget will have to address, it is the filling of vacancies. We know it won't happen overnight, but we must deal with it as a serious matter. It remains a headache, and we cannot have a situation year in and year out where our medical staff commute between government and private hospitals.
Mr Deputy Speaker, I hear what the MEC is saying. The Wellness Programme is an interesting programme, but I have now been wondering. The staff are so tired from running around or so tired from working in the private hospitals, and when they come to the government hospitals, they must be subjected to your wellness programme. The Minister must say if he is satisfied with this state of affairs. I am sure something is being neglected somewhere and I am also sure it's not in the private institutions. I am of the opinion that this moonlighting by staff is unacceptable and the Minister must give attention to it.

†The Department of Health and a few other departments have transversal issue pertaining to each and every sub programme of Programme 2. A collective approach towards the challenges facing the department in the various sub programmes will not only benefit recipients, who in this case are the poor people, but the financial benefits of it towards the department’s budget will be most welcome.

*Minister, we know about the R80 million this department has to spend regarding the security aspect, and a savings can be achieved if the department and the Department of Community Safety cooperate. I am speaking as a lay person, since I am not a doctor or a medical person, but as far as I am concerned it just says something. We can save somewhere if we have a collective approach to the things.

I have also heard that 59 of the 900 toilets at the Tygerberg Hospital are not in working order. Maybe I am out of order, but I have heard about it. Perhaps Public Works – and I am now sorry the Minister who talks such a lot is not here so that we can tell him ... [Interjections.] Local government can help with the nutrition of patients, agriculture, and shortage of staff, training, education, environmental health issues, road accidents, transport and public works.

Minister, I had an experience early in the year. The day before my son had to start working, he was bitten by a snake. We then went to the Vredendal Hospital. If there are people here from Vredendal, again I say thank you for the good service we received there, but I think that also in this case training is needed. There are so many people here who do not know how to work with people who have been bitten by a snake or stung by a scorpion.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am mentioning these examples because Programme 2 poses a tremendous financial challenge for the department is and that yet, in collaboration with the other departments, a pruning mechanism could be considered.

I now come to Programme 3: Medical Emergency Services. There are still people who complain about how long ambulance services take. I can again speak about the Vredendal Hospital with praise. Let them hear this because the ambulance there is a very fast one.

†I refer to Programmes 4 and 5. Here I want to mention that we are in a province where families are suffering and struggling with the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse. They misuse it, and there is this new thing, Tik. I would like the Minister to listen to the plea of many parents of these young children, for there to be more places where they can be rehabilitated. That’s why I moved a motion on Tuesday that we need to discuss the need for more rehabilitation centres.
Mr Deputy Speaker, as mentioned earlier, I am of the opinion that the following – vacant posts – need to be attended to as a matter of urgency.

*Programme 5, specifically offers the platform for training medical staff, as well as for research. Research in indispensable in the medical world, and I will want to see that more money is made available for research. Without research we will not be able to work ahead.

†I now come to Programme 6: Health Sciences and Training. Sub programme 3 of this programme deals with the provision of bursaries for health science training programmes. I urge the standing committee to have a full briefing on the programme. How many bursaries have been granted, at what cost and how many of these scientists are working in our facilities?

*Mr Deputy Speaker, the MEC started off his speech: “The Western Cape of our dreams is a future where every person has the opportunity to live the life they value”. I agree with him, but the reality is that there are millions of people in this province who cannot afford medical care. Before the hon members on the other side can say it's not his fault – and I think nobody will do it now, but Carlisle would definitely have done it – I just want to say that we will have to be honest. It has to do with the legacy of apartheid, and also this department did not escape from it.

On one of our visits to the Tygerberg Hospital, we had to be shown how separate development is applied. It is one hospital with two identical wings – one for whites and one for people of colour. There are two separate nurses’ hostels – one for whites and one for people of colour.

Mr Deputy Speaker, today we can look back on the fighters against apartheid with gratitude that those days in the health facilities are now a thing of the past. Disease does not seek things out. Pain does not choose the colour of your skin to impose itself on you. If, furthermore, you are not so fortunate to have a medical aid, no matter who you are, you have to rely on the provincial health institutions.

We are looking forward to the day when the National Health Insurance Act will be applied in practice. I agree with the chairperson of the standing committee that we must play our oversight role very thoroughly. We will follow up every word the Minister has uttered, as well as every promise he has made.

I will conclude by saying that health care in the province still has to go a long way to rectify equality. We are still living, and we cannot ignore what we see in the newspapers. If someone says he wasn't treated fairly by not having been assisted in time, or another person said that she had to give birth on the ground, we cannot close our eyes to such incidents. We have a long way to go, but we trust things will improve in the future.

*Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Mr Deputy Speaker, by accepting this budget, the Department of Health aims at expressing its strategic objectives according to the theme: “Increasing wellness”, thus enhancing overall wellbeing. The problems in the Western Cape are two fold. One is to offer quality health care for the people in the Western Cape, as well as looking upstream to the causes of the problems. The latter is what is referred to as the “burden of disease”.
Wellbeing often offers a choice. Many diseases can be prevented by balanced eating habits, exercise and making a decision not to drink or smoke excessively. HIV infection can be prevented by safe sex. These are often difficult choices to make, and even the best intentions are not adhered to, but it remains important for people to assume personal responsibility for actions that may result in an injury or disease.

By promoting a healthy lifestyle, prevention mechanisms and individual responsibility, the burden that diseases impose upon people, as well as on the budget, can be reduced. The department has committed itself to provide guidance, as well as to participate in transversal initiatives across various departments in order to improve wellbeing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is gladdening to see these concepts being realised. The Premier's conference regarding the reduction of the burden of disease will be presented during 2011. The conference will ensure that the latest data on the subject is made available. Furthermore, it will also ensure that important inputs can be gathered from all the role-players to draw up an action plan. This goal-oriented commitment is proof of this government's willingness to find solutions in an inclusive manner which can benefit all residents in the Western Cape.

When it comes to HIV/Aids, numerous objectives were set to promote wellbeing: By testing 770 000 people for HIV, making antiretroviral therapy available to 116 345 HIV patients, as well as distributing 102 million male condoms and 1 million female condoms.

These objectives require on going evaluation. It is encouraging, however, to see how the HIV counselling and testing campaign will make a success of these objectives. Rolling out this campaign in schools is an additional initiative which is welcomed. The thorough planning concerning the implementation, the testing and the support that will be offered deserves thanks and praise. In addition to encouraging young people to know what their HIV status is, it is also another initiative for delivering services to learners who spend most of their time in classrooms and have less time to visit clinics.

By learners being tested, their wellbeing is enhanced. Those who test negative can be informed on how to remain negative by taking responsible sexual decisions, whereas those who test positive are given the necessary support through counselling and medication. In this way, everyone can look forward to a better life by using the correct information and the early diagnosis offered in the province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, yesterday, 24 March, was World TB Day. The provincial objective to test 750 000 TB patients in the 2011-12 financial year, proves the earnestness which this curable disease is dealt with. In Cape Town the rate of cure is 80% – the best in any Metro in the country. Once again it is due to the effective collaboration between the different levels of government in the Western Cape, as well as private partnerships that have been established. The partnership is between the provincial Department of Health, the City of Cape Town and with Médecins Sans Frontières – the non-government organisation, Doctors Without Borders – to combat the MDR-TB, as well as the XDR-TB, and this results in noteworthy successes.
There are five MDR-TB centres in the Western Cape to deal with about 1 300 cases a year. Of the 1 300 cases, 70% are treated at a primary health-care level.

It is a matter of concern, though, to see the carelessness of the national government when it comes to the breeding places of TB. One such breeding place is prison. Overcrowded prisons with minimum ventilation result in perfect conditions for the virus to spread. In Pollsmoor not only TB, but also MDR-TB and XDR-TB was present among the prisoners – without those with the virus being kept in isolation. Negligence in addressing the problem at any level of government causes problems that we in the province can not afford, and the people of the province do not deserve.

The Western Cape does, in fact, have one of the best cure rates in the country, but this does not mean that there must not be a sustainable and on going effort to consider early diagnosis for putting a stop to the pandemic.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there are a few specific initiatives and/or projects in this budget I want to highlight, since it extends and promotes effective service delivery. The first is the Independent Complaints Commission that was implemented in the Department of Health during 2011, and is the first in the country. Next is the new directorate in terms of health- impact assessing, which will improve the quality of data reporting and result in still better planning with regard to service delivery. Then there is home delivery of chronic medicine which reduces transport problems for patients and ensures the safety of patients, especially the elderly ones. The bond between mother and child, as well as the health of women in general, is also catered for, and the focus is also on getting more women to the prenatal clinics before 20 weeks of pregnancy, which is an annual target for this department.

The increase of 5,85% in the budget for emergency medical services and the planned transport for patients is welcome. The R570 million which means psychiatric wards having more beds in Stikland and Valkenberg Hospitals, especially in the light of the burden that drug abuse is imposing on these facilities is also welcome. The digital X-ray system being used in one of the facilities but which will also be visible in other facilities, is a welcome initiative and improvement, especially as far as rural and isolated areas are concerned. Then there is the new partnership with the Pink Drive which ensures early diagnosis of breast cancer; the 400 new nurses who will complete their studies during this year at the Western Cape College for Nursing, and who will enrol in service delivery; and the five new forensic pathology laboratories that have been opened throughout the province, should ensure that there is no backlog in pathological investigations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, to ensure the wellbeing of our people we will need true cooperation. In the government department it has already been promised through transversal inter-departmental initiatives to deal with poverty, unemployment, housing and education. These are all contributing socioeconomic factors that require attention. It also requires additional cooperation by everyone in this province. The budget of the Department of Health offers an opportunity for everyone in the Western Cape, and enables us to offer a better life for everyone, and for that reason I wish to congratulate the Minister and his department on his budget, and I support it.
†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to thank every member who contributed to this debate, especially for their support of the Vote. Thank you very much for that. I want to reflect on individual participants.

*Hon Marais, chairperson of the standing committee, first of all thank you very much for the wonderful work you are doing there with all the members of the committee. I truly appreciate it. It is a committee which is wide awake and is doing good work. You, yourself, are from the medical professional group and you have much experience. It is good working with you.

The Independent Complaints Committee is a very important instrument in monitoring and evaluating our service to patients, and I think more members have touched on this subject of how we treat our patients. It is not only a mechanism for investigating complaints and eventually finding an objective which is less costly and quicker to find an answer, but it is also a method for hopefully encouraging those in our department, who do not deliver good service, to do so. I always want to say that of the 28 610 staff members in the department, the vast majority are people who are single-minded and wonderful workers.

I often visit institutions where we give 10-, 20-, 30- and 40-year awards, then I am surprised at the dedication of people who spend a lifetime in the profession. Then there are a few who damage the profession and the department. It also lands up in the press, and we work very hard at it, but to bring about a cultural change is sometimes very daunting. We hope that this division will achieve success with it.

You referred to the district health services. We are really far ahead in the country. Last year, the national department undertook a tour to Brazil it investigate this district health system. The national Minister was very angry because I did not want to go with them, but I could not go along to something which we have already implemented. The department was far ahead, and we had much success with it. It was brought about over a long period. It is not only in our government's time that success had been achieved in its implementation. It does good work. It puts the department straight from an administrative point of view.

The entire question about home-based carers is a very exciting alternative type of medical care. We can no longer build enough hospitals. We can no longer create expensive facilities. The types of disease, the scope of treatment methodology and other things have changed so much in the past decade or two that this service can now be used very effectively. Once again, this department was very well equipped for doing it, and much success was achieved with it. I cannot remember exactly how many patient cases we have.

†I can assure you that these 2 500 home-based carers are generating a couple of million visits. Those are patients that would've been somewhere else in the system if we hadn’t had that. If we actually analyse the cost per patient, it's a wonderful exercise, but then also it’s an exercise or a project which gives people an opportunity to get basic training, education and then an opportunity for further training if they want to embark on a career in health services.

*The strategic partnerships are an indispensable matter. Government can no longer meet all the requirements of health care, whether it be in America or South Africa.
As it is, this budget is the biggest in our government. It takes R1 out of every R3. We cannot expect to spend more money on this, but yet it is still not enough. We're still short of funding and short of staff. We therefore have to look at alternatives. One of the alternatives is to form strategic partnerships with numerous other role-players in the medical fraternity. Whether it is the private sector or other governments, and whether it is NGOs, NPGOs or other countries, we must seek alternatives to solve the problem. Likewise, we must more effectively stretch the existing rand with which we are working, but we must also look at our systems and how our premises or our facilities are set out so that we can get optimum use of every rand we spend. We are busy with all these projects. They are not quick projects. They are not always visible projects, but everything is in the planning stage at the moment, or while they are being done.

The new plans we have with renovating facilities, maintaining them and with the backlog in maintenance are very exciting. We talk about the whole patient experience, but also to enhance the service. We have, once again, good partners in the private sector who help us with it. I wanted to be further with this earlier, but hopefully during this financial year we will be able to make very interesting announcements about it.

†I accorded recognition to the staff, and I cannot do so enough. The staff is the backbone of this organisation. You can have the best facilities, you can buy the best equipment on earth, you can have the biggest budget and whatever, but if you haven't got the dedicated people to do the job you have got nothing.

*Hon member Lentit, thank you very much. One does not necessarily require practical experience to make a success of something. The success here does not only concern the Minister. It also concerns the team, the entire government and the department. It concerns the history we have inherited regarding a successful Department of Health in this province. One needs management experience and leadership to make a success of anything on earth, and the department has the competence. One just has to manage and direct it.

You made an important remark, hon member Lentit, about the treatment of people. I always say: It is unacceptable to treat poor people poorly. The least we can do – the very least – is to treat people decently. It costs nothing. After that we must buy equipment. After that we must build hospitals, and after that we must appoint people. Friendliness, honesty, helpfulness, a smile, a handshake and offering help costs nothing, and it solves half of our problems. If we can only get our customer service right. It is not easy, it is not quick and it takes long. Believe me, the “pockets of excellence” are there. There are fantastic people in this department. I would like them to live their lives to the full, and they must inspire other people so that we can get it right.

The hon member Witbooi referred to the history of our country, and I'm going to say more about it just now. We have destroyed each other to such an extent in this country that this is the least we can do.

The waiting lists at clinics are a challenge. We have various plans in place. There was the appointment system that was implemented, which was reasonably successful. One of the greatest things I think we are going to do, which is going to be a success, is the extension of the Chronic Dispensary Unit. The largest component of people in our clinics are people who are there for chronic
medication. We want to take away the second visit for coming to fetch the medicine. We will pack the chronic medication in the Chronic Dispensary Unit, and we will go and deliver it at your house. We are going through a big component. We are speaking of probably taking more than 2 million people and 17 million visits out of our system. If, together with that, we change our attitude, improve our service, spend our money effectively and upgrade the facilities, you will have a totally new experience in health care, and that is what like to do.

Hon member Witbooi, thank you very much for your disciplined contribution. I appreciate it. We've already experienced hotter moments in our lives, but thank you very much. I appreciate it. I think the importance of health care and the importance of sanitation is really beginning to make a deep impression on everyone, because it remains the basic foundation for a healthy or good community.

I am not going to repeat many of the things you have said, because I have already addressed some of them, but you have referred to oversight. The department is only busy working in an honest way. If there is anything that troubles you, and if there is anything you want to have more information about, we must ask questions and have debates, but there are also shorter routes. Feel free to use those routes. The department is not closed. The department is not like the ANC's time when you could not phone an official. [Interjections.] You are welcome to contact ... [Interjections.] I am speaking about the Rasool government, but not the ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†The MINISTER: I am not speaking now about the competent part of the previous ... [Interjections.] At the end of the day we need to get the information as soon as possible and as quickly as possible. This department is not a closed enterprise; it is the public’s department. I am simply working there, and so are all of us. Get the information you want to have, and if you do not get it, feel free to contact me. I will help you with it.

*You referred to our own revenue. We are working on plans to improve it. I have already said much about it. I'm not going to say more about it.

The matter about how the Global Fund is going to be incorporated into our schedules and management systems, is news to me. I did not know about it, but that's how I learn a lot every day. I received a note from provincial Housing that says:

The Global Fund has always been included in the provincial budget. Decision taken by Treasury and department, due to the magnitude of the grant, to ensure full auditing, and it was done with the approval of the Global Fund and is a requirement of the grant.

†If it is a requirement of the grant, then we actually don't have a choice. However, it makes sense for me if it is about auditing. There is a reason why we’re the only regional government in South Africa, but I think actually in the world, that still gets global funding. [Interjections]
For a long time, many years, but there is a reason for that and that is because it was always well managed and it was successfully used, and we need to protect that reputation. Don't let us fight about where we store it in the pages. Come and let us fight about the net result of the use thereof.

*You spoke about the use of language. I'm not going to respond to you about it now, except to say that we are busy looking at use of language. It is very challenging. It's also about much more than just our official languages. We have many visitors in the province. We have much labour that immigrates and again emigrates. We have many tourists in the province. There are a few challenges we have to look at. We would like to help everyone who is sick and needs service.

I have already spoken about the attitude of our staff, and I think we agree to that. When you have information about poor service, I want to ask you to please give it to us immediately. The sooner we receive the information, the sooner will it be investigated. The hotter the case is, the sooner we will come to a solution. We must take those people who do not treat our people decently out of the system. Help me with this, please.

You have said much about the moonlighting, and it is true that moonlighting is on the official system at the moment according to which it happens in the private sector. It is recognised as a nursing information management system and it is implemented to monitor this aspect. It is an official system. It is a problem, but the CED and the conditions of service have done much to compensate our staff better. At the moment we are ahead again. I don't know how long it will be before the private sector overtakes us again, but at the moment we are ahead again. This round is ours. It's going well at the moment with keeping staff and the general satisfaction of staff. I hope we can maintain the lead, because I must say it is an important story. One doesn't want to have your staff standing yawning at work all day because of it.

As far as the security services are concerned, you mentioned that we had spent R80 million on them. We calculated the other day that our government spends around R800 million on security. When a brand new facility is built in Mitchells Plain and it is vandalised while it is open, I want to know what the security company was doing there. To go and break a toilet out at the Tygerberg Hospital, you must actually tell a few people to just stand aside so that you can quickly get out with it. Then the security guard will open the door for the person and ask: can I help you? There's something very wrong here, and we will have to look at the whole appointment protocol and the entire procurement matter. At the moment we are looking at it among colleagues at Education, Community Safety and Public Works. We are putting our heads together, but if there is any assistance or plans, please help us with them. A lot of money is being lost here and we cannot put a stop to it. I am telling you now, without them it is still worse, but we must also have a method for getting rid of them without having expensive court cases for doing so. It's quite a big challenge. I wondered for a moment, or a brief thought struck me that we must perhaps have our own structure, but I must tell you that labour is also a big problem. We are rather cautious about it.

You spoke about wellness and the transversal aspect of the responsibility of health care and wellness. I really want to claim this. Do not blame me for this. We've changed that in this department. We've broken down the silos and we've established the horizontal lines, with the vertical responsibilities.
It's working well at the moment. We cannot address TB if we don't have better housing. We cannot address teen pregnancies if we don't have education on board. These things are interdependent on each other. It's a government issue and not only a Department of Health issue. It is already working much better. We have great plans together with Agriculture regarding services. The alcohol strategy and the substance-abuse strategy is in the Premier’s department and in every department. It's not only at Welfare Services or at Health.

As far as emergency services are concerned, there are still problems. There are also major problems with misuse of the system. There are people who need a loaf of bread or a packet of cigarettes and let an ambulance come. I don't always know how to address such things, but it is still a matter of education and once again the responsibility of the residents. Take responsibility for what you do. If you misuse an ambulance you might someone his or her life.

We must spend more money on research. We will give you all the information about the bursaries you have asked for. You made a remark about people who cannot afford health services, history and the legacy of apartheid. I always refer to the Tygerberg Hospital as our own Voortrekker Monument in the Western Cape. It is a bilateral symmetrical building. If you cut it through the middle, it is exactly the same, except for the theatres. If you have cut through the skin, everything has the same colour.

We have a hospital in Atlantis, Mitchells Plain and Eerste River. Of the more than 50 hospitals in this province, it is the sum total of hospitals in the largest part of the population. If you colour-in the map and you draw apartheid vacuum circles, you realise that all hospitals were built where people needed them least, and that all the service is required where there are no hospitals. That is why it is an absolutely emotional matter to me, and it is an unbelievable privilege to be part of a state-of-the-art, modern facility such as the Khayelitsha Hospital, being for the first time in the history of the province in a poor community. We must be very proud of what we, as a province, are managing to do with it. It's still going take a long time to eradicate this legacy of apartheid, but we must work at it every day. Attitudes and how we treat each other and act, can make the road shorter. We have to make this road shorter.

The hon member Labuschagne was the last speaker. I thank her. You mentioned personal responsibility. Do you realise that personal responsibility could save 80% of this department’s budget? If only we could act with more responsibility. As people, we are fallible. Everyone of us have things we must not do. I do not like to talk about my own, but every person must be responsible for his own life and for his own health, and we must make people aware of it.

We were incredibly successful with the improvement in the HIV/AIDS campaign, and you saw the figures that had increased from 30 000 to 116 000 in a matter of 18 months. It was very successful. We have continued to build on the successes of the past. Our partnerships with the private sector are very exciting. We have one of the best TB cure rates in the world, but once again, our society gives us one of the highest TB cases in the world, and that means we will have to join hands.
†You mentioned something very interesting about TB and the conditions in our correctional services facilities. You brought something to my attention, and I’ve noticed Prof Househam here and the audience from the HIV/TB care NGO. Maybe we should join forces and see if we can help – not to criticise, but to help. Those people come out and they are re-entered into the society. At least they are also entitled to a healthy life, wherever they are. We must see if we can go and help there, and I think we will take on that challenge.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude by saying that the new vision of wellness, the transversal approach, will eventually bring us a healthier society. If we succeed with our growth plan we will be able to create jobs and grow the economy in the province to provide a healthier society. We will be able to take up those jobs and to grow our province. Thank you very much to all who are making a major contribution towards this.[Applause.]

Debate concluded.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Botha. We’ll allow five minutes to the guests of hon Botha just to leave the House, those who feel to do so. Those who feel they want to stay, you are welcome.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 4 – Community Safety)

†The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I greet the Premier in her absence; Cabinet colleagues; the Leader of the Opposition in her absence; members of the Standing Committee on Community Safety; members of the Provincial Parliament; members of the law enforcement agencies and Justice Cluster; a special welcome to Judge Nathan Erasmus and also to the NPA Director of Public Prosecutions; Rodney De Kock, who has come to support me; leaders of the local government and Mayco members; the director-general, if he is here; the HOD, Dr Lawrence; all the directors, the Department of Community Safety and the Ministry staff in general; our partners in safety, especially those people who volunteer their time to serve on community policing forums and neighbourhood watches; our partners in the private sector, and here I want to welcome Mr Zandile Ngcaka from South African Breweries and Professor John Carter from the University of Cape Town, who have been doing valuable work with us; and special guests, it is an honour to have you here today.

A safer society for all

The Western Cape Government is committed to making this province a safe place to live, work and be in. A safe province allows its people to be free; free from the fear of becoming victims of crime. A safe province attracts skills and investments and empowers citizens to take charge of their lives and their own futures. This is the Western Cape of our dreams.
To realise the Western Cape of our dreams we need to create growth and jobs and thereby extend opportunities to all the people of the province, poor and rich – and I want to emphasise that, hon McKenzie – allowing them to do better and improve their lives. In order to create growth and jobs we need to boost the economy and to focus on education and wellness so that our citizens can play an active role in the economy and help to alleviate poverty. Safety plays an important role in each of these aspects.

To quote the Premier, Helen Zille, a very serious impediment to growth is crime, ladies and gentlemen, especially violent crime. It not only deters investment and costs jobs, but it violates peoples’ right to live without fear. Therefore, we have to do what we can within our limited resources and constitutional mandate to increase the safety of citizens of this province.

The provincial government has no operational control over the law enforcement agencies or the courts. The question then is: How do we make this province safer for all without having control over the police agencies? To answer this question we have been conducting extensive research into finding innovative alternative responses that include the whole of society. I will expand on this later.

Our first focus is that of effective oversight, Mr Deputy Speaker. Section 206 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides provinces with a powerful tool, mainly to monitor police conduct and to oversee the efficiency and effectiveness of policing. The Western Cape Government is therefore committed to the development of an oversight model that will allow the province its own right to exercise effective oversight and to hold law enforcement agencies to account.

The police services are certainly a great part of the safety solution. It is, however, not the only solution. We believe that the way to increase safety in the Western Cape is for the law enforcement agencies, communities and civil society institutions – of which there are many with many success stories – to work together.

This is the second focus area of the Department of Community Safety. We are investigating ways in which to harness the successes of these types of initiatives and use the best policies of these examples to increase safety, especially for those communities that are most vulnerable and torn apart by violence. There are many examples of where communities have done outstanding work in making the environment safer, and this needs to be acknowledged and supported.

Thirdly, the Department of Community Safety is championing a process aimed at bringing what is termed the “whole of society thinking” into our operations, including how we manage risks and how we secure our staff and our assets.

The fourth focus of the Department of Community and Safety is that of increasing safety on the province’s roads.

The Department of Community and Safety is to receive a total budget allocation of R310,9 million for the 2011-12 financial year, which represents a nominal 7,6% increase on the adjusted budget allocation of 2010-11. With this budget we are reprioritising focus areas and becoming smarter about how we use our resources.
The department previously had four programmes. However, in order to comply with specific budgets and programme structures as prescribed by the National Treasury, the department now has five programmes of which Programmes 1, 2 and 3 are standardised for all community and safety departments across the country.

The budget allocation across the five programmes is as follows:

Programme 1: Administration receives R36 million;

Programme 2 and 3: Oversight, crime prevention and community police relations receive R20 million and R44 million respectively;

Programme 4: Traffic management receives R164 million; and

Programme 5: Security risk management receives R48 million.

Our first focus area is that of oversight, and the importance of oversight cannot be overstated. This year the South African taxpayer will be spending just over R60 billion on SAPS. This is roughly the equivalent of some R160 million per day. To put this into perspective, the amount spent in four days on the police, nationally, is double the Department of Community Safety’s budget for the entire year.

With this massive investment I believe we can rightly ask the question: What do South Africans receive in return for this ever-increasing investment? The police budget has tripled in the last decade, yet crime remains unacceptably high. Even after the reported 7% decrease in the murder rate last year, sadly South Africa ranks high on the list of murder rates per capita.

We see daily reports of murder, rape and other forms of violent crimes, and we all know people, and ourselves even, who have fallen victim to crime. It is against this background that, although we acknowledge the success of the police in some areas, much has yet to be done to make South Africa and the Western Cape safer.

As the provincial government, our duty is that of oversight to ensure accountability and to ensure that SAPS acts appropriately and efficiently and delivers services to the people of the Western Cape in the fight against crime. Effective oversight remains fundamental to ensuring the proper allocation and use of resources, Mr Deputy Speaker.

*We have seen various media reports where the conduct of members of the SAPS is contrary to its code of conduct and ethics. The large number of reports on police brutality and corruption are perturbing, and it is only by means of proper oversight that those incidents can and must be investigated and eradicated. At the same time we must also acknowledge that the vast majority of police officers put their lives at risk on a daily basis to make the country and province safer, and to them I will always be grateful.

There are, however, a small number of officers who do not act in the interests of the citizens.
In a report to the national Parliament’s portfolio committee of police this month it is reported that approximately 20,000 firearms are either lost by police officers or stolen from them. These firearms that were entrusted to the SAPS, most probably landed in the hands of criminals.

†The Department of Community Safety has, through its complaints hotline and reports from the public, dealt with over 600 investigations into complaints against the police in the past year. The department has furthermore monitored service delivery at all 149 police stations and has monitored compliance with, for example, the Domestic Violence Act and sector policing. It has also monitored the answering of telephone calls at police stations. The Municipal Police Service was also monitored and evaluated for compliance with relevant legislation in this regard.

This administration is currently developing a model to further strengthen and develop this oversight. Proper oversight, we believe, has the potential to serve as a catalyst for the improvement of service delivery within SAPS, adding considerable value to our efforts, not only to achieve the province’s Strategic Objective 5, that of increasing safety, but also to align it with the National Outcome 3, so that all South Africans feel and are safe.

We heard in the previous Budget Vote about the issue of service delivery at hospitals. We have the same issue at police stations. Last year the provincial Cabinet approved the drafting of legislation which is aimed at enhancing effective oversight over law enforcement agencies.

We have, however, not given effect to this decision because of a parallel process undertaken at a national level on the Civilian Secretariat for Police Services and the Independent Complaints Directorate, which required clarity. This process is now underway and legislation will be placed before this Parliament in the coming financial year.

The Western Cape remains fully committed to the development of its constitutional powers and its right to monitor not only police conduct, but that of all law enforcement agencies in the province and to use such powers of oversight to improve service delivery for all the people of this province.

For the new financial year an amount of R20 million has been allocated to Programme 2: Civilian Oversight within the Department of Community Safety, to ensure that it expands its oversight role. This amount includes funds earmarked for the independent collection and analysis of accurate and reliable information about the safety challenges that are faced by our communities.

This includes information on crime trends, gang activities, security risks and so forth, enabling role players to ensure that resources are aimed where we most need them. A further R9 million is earmarked to monitor and evaluate police conduct and, if necessary, to independently investigate complaints from the public about the manner in which they are treated by the police.

During the 2010-11 financial year the Department of Community Safety conducted comprehensive research in close co-operation with various stakeholders, including SAPS and the community police forums.
This research, in compliance with section 206(1) of the Constitution, provides a detailed analysis of the policing needs and priorities that exist in the Western Cape.

A questionnaire tool was developed, peer-reviewed and approved for data collection. Data collection was facilitated with every CPF in all of the 149 police precincts. Interviews were also held with Business Against Crime. The results of the Community Safety Barometer 2009-10 were also used in the PMP report.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a number of key recommendations were made, most notably the following:

1. That the South African Police Services develop a strategy to address the problem of weapons and sharp objects used in violent crimes;
2. The need for an illegal drug supply reduction strategy in order to deal with the substance abuse challenge in this province;

And I want to say in this regard, we have had incredible successes with our law enforcement people, operating jointly with SAPS in stopping the introduction of crime to the province and stopping it at Beaufort West and Knysna.

3. That the activities of organised crime syndicates in general, and gangs in particular, in the province be acknowledged as a driving force behind the high incidence of drug abuse and violent crimes.

This detailed report has been submitted to SAPS for incorporation into the national police plans affecting the province. We shall continue to interact with SAPS to monitor and evaluate a new police plan.

Neighbourhood watches and community police forums have an important participatory role in the whole of society approach and are important safety partners. The department has capacitated 1 000 neighbourhood watch volunteers to assist SAPS and increase police visibility. We will continue with the provincial Neighbourhood Watch Expansion Framework. This will set provincial norms and standards for neighbourhood watch structures, develop protocols for training and resources and increase capacity in high-priority areas through training and resource allocation.

The Department of Community Safety supported 71 CPFs and all CPFs in the province were provided with training. In the oversight model we are developing we believe that the role of CPFs needs to be strengthened so that these bodies are properly capacitated to perform their legal mandate of civilian oversight of the police.

Accountability, however, remains a key requirement of our new proposed model. All structures, including CPFs, must remain accountable for any funds that the department places at their disposal. I believe it is important for tangible outcomes to be achieved through this funding. For this reason we are looking at clarifying the role of CPFs through the introduction of standardised monitoring tools and checks for the CPFs.
Mr Deputy Speaker, our second focus is that of applying the whole of society approach. As I mentioned before, the Western Cape government is working towards a whole of society and a whole of government approach to safety. The whole of society philosophy advocates making safety everyone's responsibility. This can be done through a process in which we mobilise resources, knowledge, creativity and concern for all role-players to embolden safe communities on a partnership basis. This is in order to create safe environments and communities in which crime is less likely to happen in the first place.

This can be achieved through the development of sustainable partnerships between the provincial government, civil society groupings and communities in a collective effort to realising Strategic Objective 5, and that of increasing safety. The formation of such partnerships should enhance social crime prevention and promote good community police relations, thereby making communities safe through multi-agency partnerships.

I want to say in this regard, the legitimacy of the police needs to be enhanced, because that is one of the big problems that we have in most of our townships. The whole of society approach emphasises integrated social crime prevention measures that are aimed to holistically address the root causes of crime in communities. Good community police relations can equally strengthen the whole of society approach and will encourage the active civil society formations.

Here we must get the civic associations on board and we must get all the other structures in our communities involved. The requirements for the sustainability of those partnerships will include access to government funding. However, I wish to emphasise that this will not be effective if we are not absolutely sure that the money can be accounted for and is being spent in the best interests of those communities.

An amount of R43, 9 million is allocated to Programme 3, which covers crime prevention and community-police relations, is made up of three priority areas, namely social crime prevention, promoting community-police relations and the new focus area of promotion of safety.

Mr Deputy Speaker, gangs remain a particular scourge in the Western Cape and the root cause of many safety concerns exists within our communities. The Department of Community Safety has and will, therefore, continue with its gang intervention strategy which we have followed as an integrated provincial approach with our partners, the Departments of Social Development, Sports and Culture, Education and also now Economic Development, as well as municipalities and the justice cluster as a whole.

Here we are also looking at the private sector to come on board to assist in a number of the projects. I will also be engaging the national Minister of Correctional Services to ensure that communities directly impacted by the release of gangsters from prison are given a voice at parole hearings. The impact that the release of these inmates will have on communities must be considered and it is in this regard that Judge Erasmus, who is the chairperson of the board of directors of Nicro, has also come on board to assist us to look at every case before we release people on parole.
*The development of the youth is something that is close to my heart. It is for this reason that my department is continuing to make camps in life skills available to young people. It is especially the children who live in gang-ridden suburbs such as Manenberg, Atlantis, Kewtown, Hanover Park and Bokmakierie, that benefit from the camps. A Provincial youth-safety leader’s camp for young people from all over the Western Cape was held recently and follow-up camps will take place during school holidays.

In this connection I also wish to specifically mention to the House, Ms Lucille Meyer, chief executive officer of Cape Nature, and say thank you for her contribution. She offered the entire camp to us free of charge and they participated in facilitating the camp.

It is offered in close cooperation with other civil community groups and various other government departments in order to promote a holistic solution to the problem.

The Chrysalis Academy is at the forefront with the training of high-risk young people. Our focus is to equip the children with skills and opportunities so that they will not degenerate into a life of crime. We remain devoted to youth development by means of the Chrysalis Academy. Our current interventions at Chrysalis are aimed at ensuring accountability for the public funds in support of this important institution in a sustainable manner.

It is envisaged that three training courses will be implemented during the 2011-12 financial year, with a gradual increase in the number of young people who will be trained over the next three years. For the current financial year our objective is that the academy will train about 500 young people.

†The department’s third focus is that of improving the security of our people and our assets. The provincial government is responsible for securing the assets of the Western Cape government. Our people remain our greatest asset and as such we have to think about not only making our buildings safer, but also ensuring that all people working and visiting here are safe too.

We are required to ensure that the service delivery environment is a safe one since it impacts on the quality of services rendered. That extends to the traffic cop who is sitting on the Laingsburg road at eleven o’clock at night. We must make sure that his service delivery environment is made safe.

The Department of Community Safety’s security risk management aims to implement a compliance framework in order to institutionalise holistic safety and security management. We will continue to focus on current services such as providing surveillance, guarding services, and contract management of outsourced security, access control etc.

The highly specialised occupational health and safety regulatory environment also necessitates the maintenance and specialised skills in this regard. The department seeks to promote greater compliance within the provincial government by facilitating the implementation of occupational health and safety directives.

In applying the whole of society approach, where safety is everyone’s responsibility, it is important to use the resources that we already have and we as the government must take the lead in this regard. What if every government employee became a community safety ambassador?
Just imagine, hypothetically for a moment, if we could utilise technology that already exists to transform the cell phones of each and every provincial government employee into mobile safety buttons? What if this system were then monitored by the Department of Community Safety, which would phone the person back to get the details of what was being reported, whether it be a pick-pocketing incident, a broken fence or a fused light on a dangerous road that needed to be fixed, or even a violent attack.

The correct agency would then be mobilised to respond and in this way we are looking at safety and prevention. This is the success of the CCTV cameras, but with one important difference, namely that we become the eyes and ears of community safety, thereby creating a 70 000-member-strong neighbourhood watch. Just imagine the possibilities.

This is how we need to be thinking in order to maximise our resources in making the Western Cape safer. This is but one idea and I am certain that there are many more ideas in the public gallery and from the public out there, and I am urging people to contact us with ideas at safer@pgwc.gov.za. Please forward those ideas to us. [Interjections.] Yes, we would welcome it, hon Ozinsky.

Our fourth focus area ... [Interjections.] ... is that of increasing road safety. Increasing safety in the Western Cape is extended to increasing safety on our roads in collaboration with my counterpart, hon MEC Carlisle, who has just arrived back in the House from ensuring that it was a priority for all road users to get home safely. [Interjections.]

Safe roads play an important role in our economy and its growth. My department’s provincial traffic component, in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies, has conducted a total of 3 192 roadblocks and effected 2 169 drunk-driving arrests over the last year. For the year thus far, in order to prevent overloading, a total of 530 283 vehicles were weighed and with one month still to go we hope to improve our record and weigh 50 000 more vehicles than the last year.

Since we started integrated operations with SAPS throughout the Western Cape, we have achieved great success in our drug operations. Kat, dagga, cocaine, heroin, mandrax, and illegal cigarettes amounting to almost R28 million were seized and confiscated. We plan to have at least two special, integrated operations per week with SAPS in order to make our provincial roads drug-free roads.

It is interesting how cutting off the supply to the Western Cape in Beaufort West and Knysna has an effect on, we believe, the gang flare-ups in Cape Town. The different modes are also interesting; when I was in Beaufort West last week a hired private car was stopped and 147 bags of dagga were confiscated. That was very, very interesting.

Since October 2010, a total of 1 665 school buses, 186 privately owned buses and also taxis were stopped throughout the Western Cape Province. Eighteen buses were discontinued and impounded, and I want to emphasise that. Arrests were made for overloading, thereby ensuring that our learners get to school safely and safely home again in the afternoons.
Provincial traffic police will be out in full force over the April and Easter holidays. There is a zero tolerance approach to drunken driving, and here I have a whole plan for the coming Easter Weekend.

The Western Cape Provincial Traffic Department is the only provincial traffic service in South Africa that offers a 24-hour, seven-days-a-week service. Our officers are on the roads all day and all night to increase safety for road users. The other provinces are now consulting with our department on best practice so that they can have a 24-hour service similar to the Western Cape.

The Gene Louw Traffic College has been successfully accredited with the Road Traffic Management Corporation, as well as the LG Seta and Sasseta in the past year. All the facilitators have been registered as assessors and moderators with the relevant Setas and have implemented the roll out of the traffic qualifications, which will see traffic officers being trained over a period of 12 months instead of six months as was done previously.

Gene Louw College will be focusing on the upgrading of the college in the upcoming year in order to make it one of the only colleges in South Africa that will be able to facilitate all training interventions in situ.

We will be conducting compulsory refresher training courses for all our provincial traffic officers at all 12 traffic centres. We have now received full accreditation from SAPS enabling us to distribute and control firearms to our officers. I am pleased to announce that we are the only department in the province whose traffic officers have not lost one single firearm!

An HONMEMBER: Good!

The MINISTER: Good, yes. The department has undertaken to teach and assist learners and unemployed youth to acquire learner drivers' licences. Various schools, NGOs, neighbourhood watches, SAPS reservists and other community-based institutions have also benefited from these causes.

The successes in this regard have led to our offices being inundated with requests from various quarters for assistance. Through this programme we have reached 6317 learners and unemployed youth. A driver’s licence is often a requirement for employment and could make the difference between getting and not getting a job.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the Premier for her guidance and support. I thank her for her hard work to make this province a well-governed province. I also wish to thank my Cabinet colleagues for their significant contribution and for their collaboration on many projects that are aimed at increasing safety, growth and ultimately prosperity in this province. I have worked with every single Cabinet colleague in a collaborative way.

I thank the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Mr Mark Wiley, and all the members of his committee – hon Kathy Labuschagne, hon Anroux Marais, and hon McKenzie. I wish to thank the Head of Department, Dr Lawrence, all the directors and the staff of the department, and I mean every single staff member, even the person who makes the tea, for their contribution.
I also thank the department’s traffic officers, specifically the traffic officers under the leadership of Mr Kenny Africa, for their dedication and their efforts to making the province safer.

I wish to thank the Ministry staff and its leadership, my new interns and every single staff member. I want to thank General Lamoer, in his absence, for the incredible relationship we have in getting constructive things done, and the police officers in the Western Cape for their efforts in fighting crime. I equally wish to thank the Municipal Police and traffic services. These men and women work tirelessly to ensure our safety, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to thank the media for the pivotal role that they play in getting the message out and also for the role they play in holding us to account. Lastly, I want to thank my wife, Dianne, my son and my adopted son, Jessie, and I see my two brothers are also here.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, this budget is about being smarter with our resources and about better ideas and approaches to safety. It is about making the province safer for all who live in it and for those who love to visit it and for all, rich or poor. Safety directly impacts on our economy, on attracting investment, on how our children learn and perform and whether they stay at school or not. A safe environment creates the climate for economic growth, development and ultimately jobs. And jobs and education are the ticket to breaking the cycle of poverty.

A safer province is essential in realising the Western Cape of our dreams. As the Premier said in her State of the Province Address a few weeks ago, the Western Cape of our dreams is a place where children can grow up taking their freedom for granted and where every child is safe, sheltered, nourished and loved. We are learning that to open the door to opportunity is growing our economy and prosperity. I thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

†Mr M G E WILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, the hon Minister must be congratulated on a budget speech well-presented and which indicates an exciting new path for his department. His no-nonsense, hands-on approach to tackling the scourge of crime and the state’s ability to combat it, is to be admired.

In many respects the department is going through a period of rediscovery. This is not a bad thing for any organisation, but maximum effort must be made to ensure that this period is well used to ensure the best results with limited resources. I say “limited”, because the Minister’s budget indicates only a 7,6% increase at this stage and much of this will go towards the new corporate design.

*As the Ministersaid: they will have to learn to work more smartly for optimal results.

†Not only is the department going through a structural change but there is also the interpretation of its mandate with regard to its relationship with SAPS. These are important times for his department which for years has had the reputation of being a Cinderella, being neither fish nor fowl, and often filling the gaps left by other departments due to their rigid mandates.

The department has at times done valuable and unique work and has a proud track record of being the fire-brigade in times of crisis. Regrettably it has also had some very low points.
During the times of the ANC government many of these initiatives were lost and the department saw its primary oversight role over SAPS virtually collapse, and the citizens suffered as a result. The situation was sometimes exploited by a police leadership that was becoming increasingly dictatorial and unaccountable. When this happens the very fabric of our Constitution is affected.

Our government role is pivotal to the concept of transparency in an open society. We should not be in fear of the organs of state and neither should they be allowed to develop an attitude that the populace and, more importantly, their chosen public representatives are simply there to be humoured. We are all part of the whole of the South African society.

Because the provinces do not have control over SAPS, it is imperative to ensure that the few instruments of oversight that we do have, work effectively. Watering down our limited role or not learning from past experiences will be foolish in the extreme. For this reason earlier this week the province rejected two pieces of police legislation.

The civilian secretariat Bill is long overdue. The Constitution insists on it and it is much needed. However, the ANC national government could not let go of its centralist tendencies and the new law will see the current Western Cape Community Safety Secretariat, which has functioned successfully for years, lose some of its powers to the national entity. In other words, it will become a provincial office of a national organisation, like the Land Claims Commission.

Please remember my statement earlier this week when I quoted the regional Land Claims Commissioner who she responded to my question for information:

I am the regional representative of the national entity responsible to the national Parliament and report to the national Minister ...

However, she refused to give even the most basic information.

The new Independent Police Investigation Directorate Bill (IPID,) will resort under the National Minister and the accounting office will be General Cele, a recycled ANC politician deployed to one of the most important professional Public Service jobs in this country.

†Mr M OZINSKY: That is not true.

†Mr M G E WILEY: We all know what happened to his predecessor. Oh, you say it is not true.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon member!

†Mr M G E WILEY: We all know what happened to his predecessor; he not only became a convicted criminal, but an international embarrassment to boot. General Cele is doing his best to follow suit. Police raid Chapter 9 institutions and he says he knows nothing about it. They lose over 20 000 firearms in the last few years and he does not take responsibility. He signs an illegal lease worth R500 million for the benefit of a buddy and refuses to accept any accountability; and earlier this week he tells Parliament that his counter-terrorism reaction squads, specifically created for the World Cup and which are increasingly being accused of brutality, are not going to be distributed to the understaffed police stations as was originally promised to Parliament.
His unforgivable and injudicious comments relating to the Dewani case may well see the failure of the extradition of the chief accused collapse.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Of course not. Not a chance.

†Mr M G E WILEY: So how on earth will an official within his department be able to hold him to account ... [Interjections.] ... if he treats Parliament and his own Minister in such a contemptuous way? The IPID can only work if it is truly independent and reports to and is accountable directly to Parliament.

The revision of the department’s role and direction to the working of CPFs, the gauging of public opinion through its safety barometer and the development of strategies for policing needs and priorities are to be commended.

The police have again taken ownership of the administration of CPFs and this has, as was the case last time they did, led to some dysfunctionality in some CPFs due to the lack of dedication to the concept of civilian oversight or simply under-resourcing within the police. [Interjections.] However, the department’s intention and concept of having a MOU with CPFs, task-specific deliverables and accountability is both exciting and can be rewarding for all concerned.

The project will need good supervision and understanding of the roles and clear delineated lines. Unfortunately, in too many cases people who get elected on CPFs are there for the wrong reasons, in much the same way that some police officers betray their calling by sinking into criminality. I look forward to seeing the same template being applied to the municipal police.

This Parliament will watch the results with keen interest. At this point I wish to pay tribute to the vast majority of SAPS officers who work long and dedicated hours on an often thankless, dangerous task and for relatively little reward, especially those at station level. The public owes them a debt of gratitude.

I would like to pay tribute to Gens Burger and Strydom who are here and also Brig Japhta, especially to Gen Strydom, who retires in the middle of the year after long and sterling service to the public and the Public Service, and to Brig Japhta who will be promoted and will take over his role as the visible policing Divisional Commissioner.

I want to turn to the Minister’s whole of society approach. I am sure we can all agree with this concept as we are all role players in our communities. It is in our best interests to have safe communities and the Premier has pledged to strive for a safe province which attracts skills. At provincial level we may not have a direct responsibility for the police, but we can contribute to the fight against crime by helping to mobilise the community.

Society wants to be involved in creating a safe community and is willing to contribute towards it in cash or kind. We are a society of the willing, but we are equally right in demanding that our contribution, be it in the payment of taxes or voluntary effort, is given the respect that it deserves. This mobilisation of society can take many forms and I have already referred to the CPFs and how they will monitor police activities.
We have to work with what we have and we have a lot. Just last month the portfolio committee invited CPFs and neighbourhood watches to make presentations on how they use IT, through SMS-ing, to track criminal activity and supply SAPS with reliable information.

This is the true eyes-and-ears approach and the level of commitment by ordinary men and women in this regard was absolutely remarkable. I am constantly amazed at the level of dedication that the many thousands of neighbourhood watch members put into their communities.

I am equally concerned by the understaffing of many police stations and it appears that the repeated minimum standard of two vehicles with two qualified officers per vehicle per policing sector is simply not adhered to at many stations, with little indication that this will be addressed.

Society is getting fed-up with criminality and the moral degeneration that goes along with it. For this reason a Bill of Responsibilities was launched by faith-based organisations this week. This Parliament can only support such initiatives and just last week I witnessed initiatives such as the MOD school sports centres and the Tafelsig Drill Squads which are underpinning this moral regeneration.

The pride, discipline and enthusiasm displayed by these youths of all ages was very moving and a stark reminder that the only obstacles to their full development are the hurdles and narrow attitudes of adults who constantly interfere with tried and tested methods that have ensured, over the ages, that we get the best out of developing adults. In this regard I am pleased to hear the Minister say that the Chrysalis project will be resuscitated shortly after a short period of revision.

This was needed following the disgraceful period where the ANC took an award-winning youth project that they inherited and within a short period turned it into something unsustainable, where the objective delivery of excellence was watered down because they simply cannot understand the simple ingredients that are needed for responsible service delivery, or the building of an accountable society.

The youth know what they want. They want clear guidance, positive role models, to be taken seriously and to feel that they can make a contribution. And they can. Our future depends on their ability to contribute positively. The Chrysalis concept gave the most vulnerable youth just that and the success stories emanating from graduates should lend a sense of urgency to those who are given the responsibility of giving direction to the youth.

The new Programme 5 has an important role to play in the protection of our assets and is a critical success factor for a healthy society. I would urge the department to explore the possibility of establishing minimum security standards along those found in ISO 9 000 standards, and not to appoint security service providers who simply do not have the capacity to protect our assets.

Simply by paying money to have a warm body on sight is not protecting your assets. Similarly, a culture of ownership must be inculcated among the provincial staff to look after and be accountable for the assets in their care.
The departments in the criminal justice cluster are going to have to talk to each other more meaningfully. I refer to the current debate, which the Minister referred to, about releasing violent criminals on parole. It is inconceivable that hardened criminals, who it cost the taxpayers millions of rand to incarcerate, can be considered for early parole without consequences.

I would like to join the Minister in his objection and would like to suggest that the province explore the possibility of publishing the names of those violent criminals who are applying for parole, together with their crimes, so that the victims and all the survivors can give evidence at their parole hearings. It is being done and I am looking at the balding head of the Minister of Transport, who has successfully published the names of drunk drivers. I believe that similar action could be taken with regard to prisoners applying for parole. It should not be done behind closed doors.

I want to close by thanking the Minister and the HOD of the department for their support to the committee. I also wish to thank those traffic officers who work under difficult circumstances, often with a hostile clientele, in order to keep our streets safe. Keep up the good work. Thank you. [Applause.]

*Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Mr Deputy Speaker, the R310,9 million budget for the Department of Community Safety is not necessarily representative of the premium this government puts on safety. What does, however, endorse it is the way in which the Minister and his department reprioritise, make choices and take responsibility for working more smartly to ensure excellent results.

As the Minister has already highlighted, according to section 206 of the Constitution the department plays an oversight role over the affectivity and efficiency of the SAPS. It is one of the reasons why we welcome it and support the fact that the Minister is committed to reinforcing the oversight role by getting communities and civil organisations to work together by means of a model of law-enforcement agencies.

We are all aware of it that the perception of a community guides their thinking and actions. The cases of police involvement in crime, even though very little, and the high crime figures in spite of the extended SAPS in terms of budget and staff, results in various communities having a negative perception of the SAPS, and consequently do not put their trust in their local police service.

An additional negative factor that emerges from either oral accounts or personal experience, or misconceptions, is that family violence and sexual offences are not dealt with effectively and efficiently.

Consequently a large section of the vulnerable community, namely women and children, feel that they are not safe and also not able to rely one hundred percent on the protection and support of the police. All this, in spite of appropriate legislation being in place to ensure safety. The conclusion is therefore drawn that its application, according to the community, leaves much to be desired.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the oversight model of the Department of Community Safety comprises, among other things, that a provincial neighbourhood-watch framework be compiled to develop norms and standards for neighbourhood watches and GPFs, as well as to establish a protocol for training and resources.
Complete community involvement as a strategy will reinforce the principle of partnerships and contribute to crime prevention. The initiatives to curb gang violence and to make young people able-bodied in communities in cooperation with the departments of Social Development, Culture and Sport and Education, are the first step on the road to success, and we all welcome it. The departments' role and task with regard to road safety is extremely necessary and show positive results, especially with regard to bus transport which school children are involved in, and we also welcome this.

In conclusion, I just want to make special mention of the provincial traffic department for the 24-hour service being delivered to the province. It is a feather in the cap of the department that this service is regarded as best practice and that implementing it at national level is being considered.

The funds being spent on the Gene Louw Traffic College are really value for money. This institution's accreditation, as well as the registration of all facilitators, assessors and/or moderators, is noteworthy. Their thorough training course that extends over 12 months, ensures efficient traffic enforcement and effective licensing.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the budget of the Department of Community Safety is supported.

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Deputy Speaker, with the 56% of the people in the Western Cape feeling unsafe in their communities, I would like to congratulate Minister Fritz on his practical approach to tackling crime during the past six months that he has been in office.

The leadership and visibility displayed by the Minister and his department, SAPS and the traffic department is what people want to see and show that the provincial government does not tolerate the violation of human rights. The department's holistic strategy in terms of ensuring safety and security in our communities, schools, public spaces and on our roads will slowly but surely reduce the cycle and history of violence.

The ID welcomes the emphasis on strengthening the province’s oversight role of SAPS and other law enforcement agencies. This will not only help people to feel truly protected by the justice system, but it will ensure that police officials do not abuse their authority and power. It will ensure that our police stations are equipped with facilities and personnel who can deal with trauma and cases of violent crime.

The implementation of the Gang Intervention Strategy, which will be carried out in collaboration with other departments, will cripple these organised units and save the many young people who are lured into these gang operations.

*I now wish to speak about respect for our police and traffic officers. In the old days when seeing a police or traffic officer, one almost got a fright – not being scared of them but out of respect, and I think that respect has disappeared. [Interjections.]I had respect for them, and my parents also had respect for them.

Mr Deputy Speaker, that is what I'm speaking about: the department must do something about it that we get that respect for our police and traffic officers back, because without them the department's strategy cannot be carried out.
Without them, nothing can be done and the government cannot do anything either. [Interjections.]

*Mr P C MCKENZIE: It seems to me you are crazy.

*Mr R B LENTIT: Yes, you may say I'm crazy. When I speak about police officers, then I'm crazy because you don't know what you're talking about. [Interjections.] When we speak about the people, are we then crazy? [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon McKenzie!

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Deputy Speaker, the fight against crime cannot be won by government alone. Therefore I applaud the department’s focus on strengthening partnerships and further capacitating community police forums and neighbourhood watches through investing allocations in training and resources.

Deputy Speaker, the vision of the hon Minister Fritz to strengthen the bond between communities, the police service and all other role-players, is a winning model to ensure a safe environment for all. The ID supports the budget. [Applause.]

*Ms A J DU TOIT MARAIS: Mr Deputy Speaker, in our democratic society the citizens increasingly put pressure on our police service, not only to combat violence and crime, but also to treat each one with respect and dignity.

Effective civil oversight is necessary and by means of that it is ensured that the South African Police Service finds fulfilment in its powers and authority in a way that shows respect for law and order, individual rights and freedom. It is then also the department's constitutional mandate to get a stronger focus on civil oversight.

Civil oversight over the South African Police Service and other law-enforcement agencies ensure effective and efficient execution of their service-delivery objectives. The monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on police services is the department's responsibility.

With the framework regarding accountability envisaged by the department, meaningful indicators regarding service delivery must be established. Capacity-building operations are particularly difficult to measure. Poorly based measures and indicators have the potential to undermine the process.

The same applies to the monitoring and evaluation of police conduct. The department must ensure that the South African Police Service manages its systems of reporting, that feedback and conduct monitoring is sufficient and up to standard, and is in accordance with the requirements for policing in the Constitution.

During the interaction between the Standing Committee and the department, the shortage of or unavailability of social workers and advisors at trauma centres once again came under discussion. Although the department does not appoint social workers, the cooperation agreement between the Departments of Community Development and Social Development urgently need attention. The upgrading and maintenance of trauma centres are a requirement, especially in our rural areas.
The existence of crime, talking about crime, the reports on violence and the fear of violence affect the basic quality of our lives. The department's vision is to create an open-opportunity society where there is no fear of violence and crime is combated.

However, it is not only the responsibility of the South African Police Service to combat crime, but is also in the interests of schools, hospitals, businesses, private institutions and the individual residents, and each one of us present here. I thank you.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Minister, I don’t know if you forgot, but one of the things that I normally do is if I have appointed someone and if someone works for me, I will remember, and therefore I think we must all congratulate your HOD Gilbert Lawrence, on his birthday today. So we congratulate him.

Then, as the chairman of the committee said in terms of the three or four policeman who are sitting at the back there, I also just want to say that I could say something about all three of them. I want to say that General Strydom has given more than 44 years of his life to the South African Police Service. General, we congratulate you and we salute you for everything you have done for the South African Police Service and we hope that you will enjoy your early retirement with your family. [Laughter.] Early retirement! [Applause.]

Mr Deputy Speaker, to know how serious a government is about tackling crime, one will always judge that by the budget that they present. If you take the budget, I notice the Minister didn’t give any correct figures; he rounded off all the figures to the next higher level. Some of those figures did not go to the halfway mark, which should have been the case if he had rounded it off to the next lower level. What has happened is that this police budget is only R310,5 million, one of the lowest of all the departments in this government.

You wanted to say “community police”, but you spoke about “police” all the time, so I will talk about that. What this signifies – and this is the shock – is that there is only a 7,5% increase on last year’s budget. People can throw figures around, but if they want to be honest with you they will tell you what percentage they are giving.

Do you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, last year I said what would happen to the traffic officers because of the budget. And most of them, all of them, have come to me this year ...

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: All of them?

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Most of them; I won’t say all of them because then you will victimise them. [Interjections.] Most of them have come to say to me that it was exactly correct. All our traffic officers are financially worse off than what they were last year.

We must not play with people’s livelihood and come here and say that we are the only traffic service that has a 24-hour service and all that nonsense. This government has taken away the overtime pay for traffic officers. [Interjections.] This is why I say that we must really be serious when we talk about this budget. I sympathise with you, Minister, because I know you wanted to do the best with this.
The Minister has said that he wanted a safer society for all and all of us on this side of the House agree with him on that. But in making this a safer society for all, this year you have only increased by 2.7% the most important part of the budget that makes this a safe society for all.

It isn’t even inflation. In fact, 69% of this budget goes towards salary and staff – the staff expense component of this budget. Nothing further can be done for you. And these are the things that we must grapple with. If you talk here, talk is cheap. Anyone can make great, nice speeches. [Interjections.] Everyone can, but if you scrape away the veneer then you see how serious your bosses are about what they want to give you.

I want to say that the MEC is trying to get more money and he always says that he will go out to businesses to ask and the business have always been good. I remember when the MEC had a problem in Hanover Park, and when he went to see that community in Hanover Park he did not have one cent, not a single cent, from this department to help alleviate the problems in Hanover Park.

What did the MEC say? He said it again in this House. He said it from the seat where he was. He said, “No, I am going to ask business”. Now let me ask you, MEC: What business has helped you in Hanover Park? How much extra money did you get other than the money that this Government has given and what we have budgeted for to assist the people in Hanover Park? And who managed that money?

Last year, when I said the same thing about this budget, there was an outcry from that side, if you remember. They said it would never happen. And I have proved it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, today we heard the MEC say so much about the community police forums, and we have heard him say such a lot of things about how they are going to combat crime. But with a 2.7% increase, how are you going to help the community police forums?

Where you are needed the most, if you are honest with us, there you can provide nothing. You see, the Minister said effective oversight … [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: What rubbish. For a change you are talking rubbish.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It’s true. [Interjections.]

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: The Minister said effective oversight. You are not going to get me off track, I am going to be honest. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P C MCKENZIE: Why don’t you talk to that MEC who said you can’t even build proper things at some hospitals.[Interjections.] The department’s responsibility – and I agree with you – is monitoring and evaluating and reporting on police service delivery.
I must be honest, I see all the agencies are here, but the most important agency over which the Minister has power, the Metro Police, is not here. He has no power over those men in blue at the back there. [Interjections.]

Now you listen to what I want to say. Let me talk about this department’s failure in oversight. Is it not true that the department admitted — you were present, you also said something about it in the standing committee — that if it writes to the police about complaints that it receives from the public, it never gets answers.

In fact, your only partner, the person in charge of that section said, “We have given up. What we are now going to do is we are not going to communicate with the police anymore on those matters. What we are going to do is we are going to talk to the CPFs.” Why? Because the job you are being paid to do by the taxpayers, that oversight, you have shown that you cannot do it any longer.

I’ll tell you more. Let me talk about oversight and especially the Metro Police. I look over my right ...

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: It’s your left actually, you fool. [Laughter.]

†Mr P C McKENZIE: In Makhaza, what happened? Now this is part of the oversight, and you know, Minister, I haven’t heard you or your department say anything about what happened in Makhaza: the shooting with rubber bullets, hoping people sitting in the road will disperse as in the apartheid days and all the shots that were fired were at close range. I am talking about what happened under your watch, Minister.

Let me tell you about Du Noon. About 350 ladies, who were wearing blankets in the winter, were protesting because of lack of service delivery. In fact, you know what they were protesting about? They were protesting about raw sewage going past their houses down the pavement.

You know what happened? They were shot at and many were injured. What oversight role did you or the department play over that? [Interjections.] Hunger? I’ll talk about hunger. Do you know what the Premier of this province said about hunger? She’s quoted as saying — “We have instructed the police …” Now let me tell you what the Premier’s instruction caused. It caused four people to lose their eyesight. Scores were hospitalised.

There were violent scenes and we all saw it on the media. People were dragged out of their homes. That is the instruction that she as the Premier gave against the citizens of this province. Of the people who were shot in Eerste River one was a lady who was shot in her back about four times as she was trying to run away. It was just like the Sharpeville days. And I am talking about it happening under your watch, while you were MEC.

In Elsies River the other day 10 people were wounded, three seriously, with rubber bullets and they needed hospital treatment. There was one person who was a disabled person. He is walking with a limp even today. Now when I say that the government must have a passion for wanting to help, the “skiet, skop en donner” tactics have passed.
I will give you one more example then you will know about this. In Nyanga the other day, when a four-year-old girl was shot with a rubber bullet ...

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Now what was happening there?
†Mr P C MCKENZIE: You caused it with your taxi strikes. [Interjections.] You caused it with your taxi strikes. You see, our oversight .... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, order!

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Our oversight role is not only ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon McKenzie, take your seat. [Interjections.] Order! Order, hon members! Hon Skwatsha, order please!

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: You know, Speaker,...[Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister Carlisle, order, please!

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: As I said earlier, this member has ... [Interjections.] ... why do I hear running commentary?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon member, take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Minister Carlisle, order, please!

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, he mentions Fransman’s name and he blames Fransman, but it was Fransman and those people who went to go speak to the taxi people to stop the violence, not him. He stayed in his office. He stayed in his office with his bodyguards protecting him... [Interjections.] ... with his bodyguards protecting him, paid for with taxpayers’ money.

Let me talk about the people that we have oversight over. Let me talk about the Metro Police. My word! They talk about cadre deployment. They always attack us by saying there is cadre deployment. When they appointed Robert Young as a Metro Chief, it was through cadre deployment by the DA. You see!

What happened to Robert Young? [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon McKenzie, will you address the Chair please.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Yes, sir. What happened to Robert Young? He didn’t have the qualifications and Robert Young was sacked after we made a noise about this. The person that this government had put in charge of the Metro Police ... [Interjections.] ... then had to sacked. And I am saying that we have the oversight over the Metro Police also, but he has never used it.

You know what this man did? He brought his stepson, Gilbert, into the job without the necessary qualifications and his stepson was then saying that he worked under his stepfather. [Interjections.]

You see, let me say something else. Let me say ... [Interjections.] I see that we are really affecting them. That's why they are making a noise.
Let me tell you something: The chief of training for the Metro Police was a director. He was stripped. You now don’t call him “director” anymore, you must call him “mister”. And now when they say where they are, let me tell you … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon McKenzie, take your seat. Members, the loud interjections are not allowed. Both sides, please, can you allow the speaker to speak. [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, where is the man that was their Metro trainer? They did not sack him and he is still working as a Metro trainer, but he is not called “director” anymore, he is called “mister”.

They have found out that of the people that the DA has appointed as Metro officers, 80 of them so far do not have the necessary qualifications. No wonder the City is in the mess it is.

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Is it really in a mess?

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: In fact, it is in such a mess that just yesterday – and I thank our courts for that – two Metro officers were sentenced to eight years imprisonment for covering up the fact that one of their colleagues had murdered someone. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P C MCKENZIE: Now this is why I say we want to be strong with the police, but the oversight for whom the Minister annually gives his approval so that they can operate … [Interjections.] … “vaalosse”.

Let me tell you what is needed for policing here in the Western Cape, in the Metro. We must have an audit of what is happening there and you should call for a complete investigation into what is happening in our Metro Police Service. Minister this … [Interjections.]

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: …

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! May you take your seat, Hon McKenzie, thanks.

†Mr M OZINSKY: … As pointed out by the hon Wiley on Tuesday, there was a ruling that you would deal decisively with members on this ongoing heckling. Hon Carlisle has heckled every sentence in the speech. When will you deal with him as hon Wiley suggested?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ozinsky, I was not in the chair on Tuesday, so you are referring to the Speaker who was in the chair. [Laughter.] Thanks, but … [Interjections.] Order! Hon member, take your seat please. I was not in the chair on Tuesday, but it is … Hon Skwatsha, can you listen please. But loud interjections, as I have said before, are not allowed from both sides and I plead with hon members, please can you allow the hon McKenzie to finish his statement.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Deputy Speaker, if I may just address you on this. The rulings are consistent irrespective of who is in the chair, so if the Speaker says it should be dealt with in that way as was recorded by the hon Wiley, then it doesn’t matter who was in the chair.
†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Ozinsky. Hon Wiley doesn’t have a right to make a ruling in this House. The Speaker is the person to make a ruling, and you can’t refer me to the ruling that was made by hon Wiley.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Deputy Speaker, I didn’t refer to a ruling made by the Hon Wiley. What I said is that hon Wiley reported this to the Speaker, who was in the House, and they made a ruling. That is the point that I am making.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! What did they do?

†Mr M OZINSKY: The Speaker made the ruling which you are also bound by, because the rulings have to be consistent.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Wiley, take your seat please. I am not going to discuss a ruling that was made on Tuesday. If you are not happy with my ruling that I am giving at present, you may then write a letter and I will deal with it. I am not going to say anything about Tuesday. Hon Skwatsha, if you want to refer to Tuesday’s ruling, I am not going to deal with it now. If you are unhappy with my ruling then you can appeal. Thank you. Over to you, hon member.[Interjections.]

†Mr M SKWATSHA: Can I address you on this?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: On Tuesday’s ruling?

†Mr M SKWATSHA: I am very happy that your … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Skwatsha, I am not going to discuss Tuesday’s ruling. May you take your seat. Over to you, hon McKenzie.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: Can I address you, Chair?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: About Tuesday’s ruling?

†Mr M SKWATSHA: No, about what you said now.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Fine.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: I am very happy about your ruling. [Interjections.] Can I be protected, sir? Mr Deputy Speaker, can I be protected.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, speak hon Skwatsha.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: Can I get a sense, Chair, that you do agree that a ruling made by the Speaker or … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Skwatsha, I have said that I am not going to discuss Tuesday.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: No, I am not speaking about Tuesday.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Skwatsha! I am not going to discuss the Tuesday ruling now.
†Mr M SKWATSHA: Yes.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What I have said ... [Interjections.] Order! Hon Skwatsha, take your seat. Yes, if there is any member in the House who is not happy about the ruling, then you must appeal the ruling that I made. I am not going to refer myself to any ruling that was discussed. Thank you very much. Over to you, hon McKenzie.

†Mr PC KENZIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are appealing to the Minister to do something about this nonsense that is happening in the City with this method of smashing people’s houses, knocking down people’s doors and going to the wrong houses. Please, do something ... [Inaudible.]

You know, Minister, ... [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members!

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: MEC, you did speak about this and I saw it in the newspapers over the last day or two. Also, you and your chairperson spoke about these gangsters that were going to be allowed to come out on parole. MEC, I watched your interview and I got the gist of your interview. But it was very strange that in that interview you said that everything was not so, it was not, and we had to change it.

Let me explain something to you. You say that this number of people had to be released. They were coming up for parole, which is correct. They were not going to be released on one single day.

†The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Obviously.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: That is not what you said. [Interjections.] Now you are saying it because we caught you out. [Laughter.]

You see, these people who had to be released on parole, Mr Deputy Speaker, were going to be released over a year. In fact he did say ... [Interjections.] ... Will you protect me Speaker.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon McKenzie, take your seat please.

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Will the hon member take a question, sir?

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: I promise that I will take a question from him if he can just sit quietly for two or three minutes.

The Minister did say in the interview that he wrote a letter to the Minister. The Minister has not yet received the letter. So ... [Interjections.] Say it louder so that I can hear it! [Interjections.]

Now the national Minister has not yet received the letter. In fact, he was still battling yesterday to get the MEC on the phone. We must not try to get cheap political gains out of this thing.
Minister, what I like about you is your experience. You got it at the national Parliament when you were a member of the Standing Committee for Correctional Services.

I now ask myself, if you now want to talk about the parole and the way the people come out on parole, why did you not do it when you were there? Let me tell you that the ANC is not going to release anyone who will cause a problem for us. [Interjections.]

Ha! Because that is what he said. [Interjections.] You see, let me say, remember … [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P C McKENZIE: You must remember that you are in charge; you are in charge of community policing here and this oversight role is important.

You spoke about the cameras. You spoke about cameras and we all like cameras. I don’t mind that half the cameras aren’t working, but ok, we all like them. But where are you going to install the cameras? Do you know where they are going to install the cameras now, Mr Deputy Speaker? [Interjections.] They are going to install the cameras at UCT, because UCT has got the money to provide for their cameras. But the same amount of crime is happening at UWC, but they are not installing cameras there.

You see, that is the difference, and the people with the right colour can fund it on that side. Then they can let the other colour kill each other at the other place.

Let me say something else … [Interjections.] Now, is that your next … [Inaudible.] You said – and I like what you said – that you must protect provincial assets.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon McKenzie, your time has finished. [Interjections.]

†Mr P C McKENZIE: I can’t hear, Mr Deputy Speaker.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can conclude, your time is finished.

†Mr P C McKENZIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. You see, in my last paragraph I want to say I agree about protecting the assets. However, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Education got up here and said what they are spending on replacing assets that people steal. You said this morning … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon McKenzie.

†Mr M G E Wiley: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: Yesterday I rose relating to the additional amplification that is given to ANC members. Now it has happened again. I didn’t do it during the speech, but the point is … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! What is the point, hon Wiley?
Mr M G E WILEY: The point of order is that the ANC is constantly given preference by the person controlling the amplification in this House. Both members … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Wiley, what is the point of order? I can’t hear you?

†Mr M G E WILEY: When hon McKenzie and hon Ozinsky stand up the person operating the microphones turns two microphones on. The precedent is being set … [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M G E WILEY: I am standing on a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M G E WILEY: I am standing on a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, and nobody else can stand while I am speaking. Now the precedent has already been set … [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M G E WILEY: The precedent has already been set.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Wiley! That is not a point of order that, that is not … [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

†Mr M G E WILEY: It is a point of order.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order! That is not a point of order. That is not a procedural issue.

†Mr M G E WILEY: It is a procedural issue, Mr Deputy Speaker.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, order! Take your seat, hon Wiley, please.

†Mr M G E WILEY: Then I will put it in writing.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Skwatsha.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is a serious allegation …

†Ms M TINGWE: Yes, it is.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, hon members, order!

†Mr M SKWATSHA: … against someone who cannot defend himself.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Take your seat, hon Skwatsha.
†Mr M SKWATSHA: I will, but can you indicate what are you going to do about this?

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled that it is not a point of order. What do you want me to do? That is not a point of order. Thank you very much.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: What I want you to do … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Minister Fritz.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: You should withdraw.

†The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. Thank you … [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†The MINISTER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I want to start off by saying that it is quite worrying. I know this is a political House, but when you start playing with the lives of people out there it becomes a problem.

Just last night a deputy principal at a school in Khayelitsha on his way home was shot four times and killed. He was shot four times, taken out of the car and driven over, because of political stupidity and gutter politics around the serious issue of safety in our communities. And we don’t have time for that nonsense, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I want to ask and I want make an appeal that when we debate, and hon McKenzie correctly pointed out to us that I come from the National Assembly where we have debates at much higher intellectual levels … [Interjections.] I am saying this with absolute respect: Let us conduct our debates at a respectful and intellectual level so that we don’t reduce it to gutter politics. [Interjections.] I don’t do it; I don’t ever do it. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER Order, hon Brown! Hon Minister, address the Chair please.

†The MINISTER: Thank you. I want to continue by responding to hon Wiley, although I am not going to respond to a lot of issues that he has raised. I think there is a lot of agreement on what he has said. I think we need to look at the new Secretariat and the board to see how we can work and grow around it.

I want to continue by saying that we will work hard irrespective of what a number of people have said about CPFs. We are going to get the best model for community involvement and this province is going to write and, in fact, produce the model for the national White Paper on CPFs and community oversight.

I find it interesting and, hon McKenzie, I must say I honestly respect your view. I really listen to what people say. I don’t just reject views, but I honestly listen and see how one can use them. I believe in an absolutely dialectical process of interviews. [Interjections.]
Therefore, hon Mark Wiley, the point I want to make in regard to the oversight over the Metro is that our department produced two thick documents on oversight in which we have done exactly what you have asked. They contain the audits and all the other kinds of subheadings. Those two reports are available and we must really get a copy to the hon McKenzie from our department and, in fact, to the standing committee.

I want to say that the whole of society approach – I am so happy Prof Cartwright is here – requires us to work smarter with what we have. This is not about dumping money into communities. The problem, hon members, is that we have a history and we have a tradition of dumping money in communities.

Now tomorrow this very House will complain about how that money was spent. Then everyone in this House will ask how accountable we are and then the poor people there are accused and blamed for not keeping proper account because we didn’t put systems in place, hon members.

I want to honestly and respectfully put it to you, hon McKenzie, you were in the House and before that, your predecessor, and you know that there were no systems in place in the department. [Interjections.]

I have to build new systems. There were absolutely no systems in place. There is not one system in place. [Interjections.] And so that is the problem. [Interjections.]

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: There was ... [Inaudible.]

†The MINISTER: The barometer? Oh yes, the barometer! [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon McKenzie, you had your chance. Order!

†The MINISTER: I want to continue by saying traffic officers come to you and complain about the 24-hour shift. Now you know I have never gone and I will never go on hearsay. There are structures and there are union structures where people can raise these issues. You are the very one who says that overtime was taken away, but in the next paragraph you accuse us of spending most of our budget on staff payments.

I don’t understand the logic. [Interjections.] You said so! [Interjections.] Exactly. What you say sometimes absolutely defies logic.

I want to continue by saying it is easy to use Makhaza and to use Hangberg and to use Eerste River ... [Interjections.] Acknowledge it, acknowledge it! [Interjections.] However, last night at twelve o’clock I got a call from hon Mr Bongi about people invading houses in Mpheta Square. [Interjections.]

Do you know what we had to do? We had to go there to enforce the law. And they were the same people who got involved with the taxis.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: And then you deny the fact when a child is killed and shot... [Interjections.]
†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, order!
†The MINISTER: You deny the fact that your people are involved. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Minister! Order!
†The MINISTER: And this is what my problem is. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon Minister! Take your seat, please.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Deputy Speaker, on a point of order – sorry, I have two of them. [Laughter.] Deputy Speaker, on a point of order: Hansard has to type what is said here. If they can’t hear … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, leave Hansard and come to the point of order.
†Mr M OZINSKY: But the point of order is whether it is parliamentary for the hon MEC to refer to another hon MEC as the “hon MEC Bongi”? [Laughter.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, that is not a point of order, hon Ozinsky.
†The MINISTER: That is how people waste time. [Interjections.]
†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order at all.
†The MINISTER: I want to conclude with thanking everyone who took part in the debate. I want to thank everyone for the constructive comments and for their contributions to the debate. I even want to thank hon McKenzie… [Laughter.] … although sometimes he doesn’t make sense.

There is no logic in it, but he gave a contribution, I think. And I think we need to … [Interjections.] The point I want to make is that it is better to engage with you, hon McKenzie, and getting solutions to the issues that you have raised rather than pushing you away, and therefore I actually welcome that.

Finally, I also concur with hon McKenzie in wishing General Strydom well with his retirement. I am sure that we will be able to come to you and ask you for some advice. I also acknowledge the other members from SAPS who are here. I am sorry that I did not see you. Lastly, Dr Lawrence Gilbert, happy birthday! Thank you. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED AT 13:33 AND RESUMED AT 14:15.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 12 – Economic Development and Tourism)

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, Cabinet colleagues, Leader of the Opposition, Members of the Provincial Parliament, Director-General and Heads of Departments, colleagues and friends and citizens of the Western Cape, it is an honour to address you today on the 2011-12 Budget Speech for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (Dedat).
In her Opening Speech to the House Premier Helen Zille set out the agenda of the Provincial Government of the Western Cape. She said that our role is to extend to every person the opportunity to live a life that he or she values, and that without the chance to get a job the South African dream, as espoused by our former President Nelson Mandela, will never be more than a dream. South Africa is facing an employment crisis. Statistics SA’s latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey released last month notes that by narrow definition 24% of our population is unemployed.

The Western Cape fairs slightly better with an unemployment rate of 21.9%. This is no consolation. It means that under the best circumstances an average of 1 in 5 people who are actively looking for a job cannot find one. By broad definition that includes those who are no longer looking for a job, most likely because they have simply given up finding one. This figure jumps to over 30% which is double that of developing countries like ours. In reality, almost 1 in 3 people do not have a job.

Amongst our youth, aged 18 to 24, half are unemployed. When faced with the colossal task of finding a job in this immensely competitive environment, many become despondent. The social and economic effects of this cannot be underestimated, because it is the unemployed that turn to drugs, gangsterism and crime in order to forge a living or to forget the pain of unemployment and poverty.

Mr Speaker, unemployment affects each and one of us and for all of our sakes we must address this ticking time-bomb with urgency. Until now the ANC-led Government in South Africa has failed to make any headway despite coming into power on the promise of jobs, jobs, jobs in 2004. They pledged to cut unemployment by half by 2014. In fact, since democracy the national employment figure has risen by 4%.

It is imperative that we start to do things differently. The DA-led Western Cape Government believes that economic growth is the only way to grow sustainable jobs. Furthermore, we believe that growth is primarily driven by the private sector and that the role of the State is to create the environment that makes growth possible, while providing demand-led support for competitive sectors, industries and businesses.

In the words of our Premier, our purpose is to extend the hand of opportunity to the people of the Western Cape so that they can escape poverty, shape their own destinies and live lives that they value. The Western Cape means business and that is why we have put economic and employment growth at the front and centre of our agenda. This vision is encapsulated in the first strategic objective of the provincial government.

Mr Speaker, in 2011-12 the Department of Economic Development and Tourism receives R254,414 million, an inflationary increase of 7.1% on the adjusted estimate of the 2010-11 financial year. Over the three year MTEF-period this department receives over R800 million to grow our economy and to create jobs.

In addition, Dedat is eligible to access a further R204 million asset reserve that has been set aside in the outer years as seed-funding for economic development and job creation projects. These projects will get approved against compelling business plans that will better the lives of the Western Cape residents by growing our economy.
An example of one such project could perhaps be the restoration of the OuteniquaChoo-Tjoe, a garden route icon …

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER: It could be.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: But I hope you are not.

†The MINISTER: Well, we’ll see.

It is a garden route icon and the last remaining scheduled steam train in the world. For over a year we have been waiting for Transnet’s approval to take over the operations of the train so that it can remain in service. As soon as this approval comes through we will put a request for proposals that would look at ways to preserve this icon and make it a catalyst for economic opportunity for the people of the region.

Before I outline the outcomes of the associated budgets for each programme in this department, I would like to highlight three bold initiatives that we will be embarking on in the coming year that demonstrate our commitment to innovative and different solutions to growing our economy.

First, we will drive five mega-infrastructure projects that will substantially and sustainably unlock growth in our competitive sectors, increase exports from our region and create jobs. In 2010 we launched our plan for an industrial development zone in Saldanha Bay. A purpose-built industrial site linked to one of our two major ports will significantly ramp up trade to and from our region.

The national Department of Trade and Industry and Dedat have co-funded a feasibility study for the IDZ that will give us a clear picture of its economic social and environmental impacts. It is important to note that we have not predetermined the outcome of this study, but that significant appetite for projects exist from both South-African and international businesses.

Earlier this year the Western Cape Cabinet gave in principle approval for the development of a health technology park in the Ndabeni, Pinelands area. This is a cross-governmental project aimed at bringing the country’s top medical firms, government and academia together to promote knowledge and service-sharing.

For medical practitioners in South-Africa this means we can become a competitive and international manufacturing zone for vaccines and other exports in the medical fields to other continents and, of course, to Africa. For the people of the Western Cape this park would mean cheaper and better medicine and pharmaceutical products.

A feasibility study is currently under way for this project. Based on its results, which will include public participation, we will proceed with due caution and responsibility.

In the coming year we will drive our plan to connect the Western Cape to the world through telecommunications. Connectivity in other areas has dramatically boosted GDP and jobs.
The Western Cape plans to lead South Africa and Africa into the digital age by providing cheaper broadband that opens opportunities for all of our residents. We are also completing transport and property studies for an innovation and design district in the east of our City.

For hundreds of years our inventions have been taken up by businesses and communities across the world. For instance, a Bishops educated man built the machine that dug the London Underground back in the 19th century. Allan Cormack was awarded the Nobel Prize for co-creating the cat-scan which is used in every hospital across the world today. We invented amongst other things tick-tack-toe. Did you know that, Mr Speaker? Also cyber-tracker, speedball and the snake board, the world’s leading Internet security system, MXit, and, of course, there is always Rooibos Tea. We are innovators at heart, and by pooling our talents in a specially developed hub, we will be able to foster our talents even further. The project is directly in line with Cape Town’s bid to become the world design capital in 2014.

Speaker, we are also developing a partnership with Transnet and the City of Cape Town to plan the redevelopment of our inner-city Port. The Port of Cape Town plays a crucial role in our ability to export products to the world, import products from the African market, and service the West Coast Oil and Gas Industry. We are a gateway into Africa, and as that gateway our port must keep up with the demand for growth that the new markets are bringing to our shores. And of course, Speaker, when I speak of port, I mean the port of Cape Town and linked in to the port of Saldanha.

In addition to these projects, we are also putting project plans in place for an aquaculture strategy and for an agro processing hub. The above catalyst projects dovetail with our plans for inner-city regeneration, which Minister Mr Carlisle and I will elaborate on in the coming weeks.

I am confident that all these projects will succeed because they are demand-led by industries that are competitive in the Western Cape and because the private sector is eager to partner with us.

Our second big innovation is to form an Economic Development Agency (EDA). To promote significant growth and jobs for its people, the province and its municipalities must create a shared, coherent, regional economic strategy, and an integrated framework to deliver that strategy. We have mandated Andrew Boraine to consult with all players involved in promoting regional economic growth about coming together to build on the region’s cooperative advantages, raise productivity and get more people working. His strategy for the EDA which is due to be presented in July, will speak to where our intervention should be and where they will be aligned for greater impact.

Speaker, building infrastructure is a mechanism to grow the economy and create jobs and it is meaningless unless our people are able to take advantage of the opportunities that they engender. Government regulations are often the biggest stumbling blocks in the way of new and existing businesses.

In 2004 red tape cost South Africans R79 billion, which was equal to 6.5% of the GDP or 28% of the SARS revenue. That is why we will set up this Red Tape Directorate within the department.
It will address the statutory and systematic blockages that are faced by business so that we can increase our global attractiveness as a place to live, work and visit. This team’s aim will be to lower regulatory costs to a minimum, without reducing the benefits of regulation.

It will be composed of an interdepartmental unit who will interact on a structured basis with a private sector-led group. If we are to succeed in attracting investment, we must eliminate red tape and roll out the red carpet.

Speaker, in addition to the above special projects the Department of Economic Development and Tourism will focus its plans and budget on six key areas.

Programme 2 – Integrated Economic Development Services – receives R51,742 million. The largest share of this allocation funds initiatives to grow small and medium enterprises, the backbone of the Western Cape’s economy.

Much has been made of the department’s decision to rationalise the number of RED Door offices from 12 to 5. Let me state clearly that this decision was made in the best interests of small business and entrepreneurs in the Western Cape and after considered research was conducted on this matter. In 2004 when the RED Doors were formed, there was very little support for start-up SMMEs.

Today we find the landscape significantly changed. National Government has rolled out its small enterprise development agency programme. In addition Khula Finance, Absa Bank, the Business Place and the West Coast Business Development Centre amongst others, all provide such similar services.

We now face a new challenge: Keeping our existing City- and rural-based SMMEs in business. Currently, many of the SMMEs that we have helped to get off the ground are struggling to survive because they have no reinforcement. We have made the strategic decision to fill this gap.

Over the coming year we will help them grow by providing mentorship services; sector support; supplier training and access to procurement opportunities; and, in our partnership with the private and public organisations, over-the-counter support to existing and start-up businesses. We will also help small enterprises to access funding in partnership with the private sector.

Another initiative, Speaker, of this programme is Regional and Local Economic Development (RLED). Many of our rural municipalities do not have dedicated in-house economic strategies, placing them at a disadvantage when they are considering LED projects. The municipal capacity support programme will support municipalities to accelerate meaningful delivery based on credible economic plans.

We will also provide local governments and business groupings with LED tools, such as the GTZ suite, to assist them to improve their productivity and competitiveness.

Speaker, in a major boost for LED, we have set aside R4 million for the direct financial support to growing businesses that crowd-in investment. The fund will be targeted at businesses in rural areas and in areas with significant economic challenges.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Programme 2 for putting new and innovative plans in place that will make a significant contribution to small and medium businesses in our province. SMMEs are a powerful component of our economy and we are committed to providing them with sustainable growth solutions.

Government can also promote growth and job creation by helping to build an economic brand and strategy that attracts investment, skills and visitors to our region.

Speaker, Programme 3 – Trade and Sector Development – receives R63,365 million in the 2011-12 year to perform this role. This allocation will be used to fund the Cape Catalyst projects, the Future Cape Initiative, our special purpose vehicles, and trade and investment promotion.

As outlined in my provincial Budget Speech, successful regional economies have defined identities and a vision for growth that everybody believes in and owns. The Future Cape Initiative is designed to harness the competitive advantages of the province and take our products and people to the world. Programme 3 will coordinate and provide administrative support to this initiative.

In the coming year Wesgro will continue to promote trade and investment in the region. Exports from the Western Cape create and sustain employment opportunities in export firms, and contribute toward achieving above-average economic growth. Investment into the province brings with it technology, expertise and foreign exchange, and as new businesses are formed jobs are created.

In the past year Wesgro focused its efforts on developing new market opportunities. Together with the Premier and 14 Cape businesses, Wesgro conducted a trade mission to the Gulf region. As a result of this trip, a local company has signed an NDA with an Emirates company to pursue opportunities in defence communication. A delegation from Saudi Arabia will also be visiting the Western Cape to explore agricultural opportunities.

Through targeted interventions, Wesgro plays a crucial role in the growth of our economy. So, too, do our Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). Studies show that companies are more competitive when economic foundations are shaped to sector needs. Dedat supports 13 clusters, or SPVs, based on the competitive advantages of our economy as outlined in the MEDs research.

Over the past decade the composition of the Western Cape economy has changed considerably from being manufacturing to services based. In line with this we will give intensive support to three priority clusters that have enormous growth potential: Oil and gas, information and communication technology and business process outsourcing.

We will also focus on promoting the Green Cape, the newest of our SPVs. In collaboration with Minister Bredell’s department, we are committed to bringing down our carbon footprint and planting the seeds for a greener future. We estimate that over the next decade R100 billion will be spent on large-scale renewable energy projects. If the Western Cape is to harness these projects to achieve a 15% shift to green energy by 2015, we need to address legislative and environmental hurdles urgently.
The Green Cape initiative is a one-stop shop for all green investors. Together with Wesgro the team will actively seek out key multi-nationals to ensure that these investments take place in the Western Cape. In their discussions they will promote the maximum possible use of our local talent.

Speaker, Programme 4 – Business Regulation and Governance – also has a critical role to play in economic development. This programme has been allocated R20,580 million to ensure that legal liquor traders operate according to laws of the Province and to educate consumers on their rights.

In December last year the House approved the Liquor Amendment Act and it was signed into law, opening the door for us to implement the Liquor Act of 2008. This Act will significantly reduce the burden of disease that alcohol creates in our community by reducing the number of liquor outlets in residential areas and by increasing public participation in liquor licensing. In other words, this law now gives power to the people.

In the coming year we will establish the new liquor authority after which time we will implement the Act in its entirety. We will embark on a liquor awareness campaign to promote the new rules and regulations so that all suppliers, traders and drinkers are aware of the laws. It is imperative that communities join us in our fight to curb liquor abuse. With the support of those who are negatively affected by liquor on a daily basis, we will be able to reduce the impact of liquor on our society.

Speaker, in less than one week’s time another piece of legislation with significant benefits for our people will come into force. The new Consumer Protection Act will make it far harder to violate the rights of consumers. In essence, it will provide consumers with the statutory right to confidentiality, information, disclosure, fairness, transparency, choice, safety and redress. Should any of these rights be violated, the Office of the Consumer Protector will be on hand to assist with legal advice.

In the coming year the department will begin to provide more of this service in-house. We will ramp up our toll-free call centre and employ regional consumer advice agents who will travel to the complainants. As a result funding will be reduced to some advice offices. I would like to make it very clear that we are not shutting any advice office. In fact, this would be impossible because we did not start them, open them or own them. For some time however, we have paid to them a fee to provide consumer advice services.

Upon investigation we found that they were not fulfilling the terms of their service level agreements. In fact, they were using our funding to promote other services unrelated to the mandate of Dedat. Many were also offering a poor quality service. We have a constitutional mandate to ensure that our money is spent correctly. We have therefore reviewed the system and adjusted it in the best interests of the consumer by implementing a system that offers a far better service at half the price. To suggest that we are responsible for keeping these offices open is a cheap attempt at political point-scoring.

Speaker, Programme 5: Economic Planning receives R17,032 million in order to make value judgments about the future strategy of the provincial government; we must have relevant and well-researched data at our fingertips.
We have therefore expanded the work of this vital unit. They will perform ongoing research into competitive sectors, local economic development and SMMEs in the Western Cape.

This will provide us with a greater understanding of the impact these areas have on our economy. This programme will also monitor and evaluate the work of Dedat and ensure it is achieving its expected outcome set out in Strategic Objective 1.

One of the most important industries in the Western Cape is tourism. In 2009, 1,529 million tourists visited our province, and tourism comprised 10% of our regional GDP. In 2010 our destination marketing organization, Cape Town Routes Unlimited, secured eight conference bids with an expected economic impact of R109.5 million and the potential of attracting 8 950 delegates. For every 16 leisure tourists or 5 business tourists, one job is created. In the coming year, R62,463 million will be allocated to Programme 6 – Tourism, Arts and Entertainment. Of this amount, R32,440 million will be transferred to Cape Town Routes Unlimited (CTRU) for destination marketing.

In 2011-12, the tourism, arts and entertainment team will continue to drive the re-engineering of a demand-led tourism strategy and business plan. This will be done with due consideration for the EDA, which is likely to subsume destination marketing for the province. Other key deliverables include the development of tourism niche markets, routes, infrastructure and facilities, and the regulation of the approximately 3 000 registered tour guides.

Our craft, film, music, performing and visual arts will also be supported because they are major contributors to the attractiveness of the Western Cape as a tourism destination, and create significant employment opportunities.

Earlier this month I had the opportunity to visit the set of the first 3D movie ever to be made in South Africa. The producers informed me that *Dredd*, that is the movie *Dredd*, employed 454 full-time South African staff and generated an economic impact of R250 million for the region. In addition to these obvious gains, world-class technology, equipment and skills were transferred to South African film industry employees, which increase our international offering substantially.

With its allocation, CTRU will focus on promoting international tourism from our traditional markets, and from new and niche markets including untapped African and Middle Eastern countries, China, Brazil and India. The team will also focus on increasing domestic tourism, as well as events and business tourism. In 2011-12 we have set ourselves a target of attracting 1.68 million international visitors and 4.27 million domestic visitors. We will prepare 16 bids for conferences and conventions with an economic value of R360 million and support six events with an estimated economic value of R1 billion.

Of course, Speaker, one of those events is kicking off tonight, and I know that many of you have been asking for tickets for this event. But I think the good news is that we don’t have any tickets because they are all sold out. And that is good news. We need to make sure that our events are sold out. They reach capacity because through their capacity they will then grow.
Programme 7: Skills Development and Innovation receives R16,275 million in 2011-12. With this money we will continue to run our very successful Work and Skills for 100 000 Programme, which has thus far provided meaningful skills development and job opportunities to 2 000 young people in targeted sectors such as clothing and textiles, financial services, tourism and hospitality.

This programme is making a real difference in the lives of our unemployed youth who have lost hope. Recently I met with Joel Jenkins, who joined the programme last year after matriculating from Rocklands High School in Mitchells Plain. After completing the programme he was employed on a full-time basis by host company Momentum. He told me that he had originally wanted to become a fire-fighter, but joined the programme instead and hasn’t looked back for a second. The sky is the limit for this young man who is currently an office manager, but hopes to move into the consulting sector as soon as he learns the ropes.

Speaker, we will also establish the Provincial Skills Development Forum, which I spoke extensively on in my main Budget Speech. It will provide a forum in which all role-players – business, government, labour, institutions of learning and SETAs – can partner to develop the skills that industry need in order to flourish in line with the new trajectory of our economy. Of this department’s budget R22,957 million goes to Programme 1 – Administration. This money will be used to ensure the smooth running of the department.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to thank the staff of the department for their patience, strength and resilience in the face of continued change. They have adopted Strategic Objective 1 with their whole hearts, and are committed to the vision of solving unemployment through growth. They, as we, understand that a job is the path to prosperity and a life of value, and have put the best possible plans in place with this limited budget.

So Speaker, I really do say thank you very much to this full department, to the Head, SollyFourie, and every single one of your line managers right down to every single person that is involved in the department. I really thank you for the dedication and hard work.

The solutions to unemployment that I have outlined above will not produce drastic results today or even tomorrow. But if we stay the course I am confident that more and more Western Cape residents will have the opportunity to live a life of value by creating the environment that makes growth possible, we will create organic and sustainable employment opportunities for all. Thank you very much. [Applause.]

†Mr E J VON BRANDIS: Mr Speaker, the price of oil has had an unnerving ability in the past to blow up the world economy, and the Middle East has often provided the spark. Painful reminders of this havoc are: The Arab oil embargo of 1973; the Iranian revolution in 1978-79; and Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

With protests cascading across the Arabian world, is the world in for: Serious supply disruption which could send the oil price soaring, or higher oil prices that could fuel inflation and that might prompt a monetary clampdown that throttles any economic recovery? This is the latest and biggest threat to the economic prediction and outlook for 2011-2012, if not cushioned.
A strong rand – a 11% gain against the dollar last year – has been a buffer against rising oil prices and other price pressures. But the local currency has slumped 6,9% since the beginning of January, thus fuelling inflation through higher import prices.

Against this backdrop, the Premier in her State of the Province Address, stated:

We have made a clear choice to put economic and employment growth at the front and centre of our agenda for the Western Cape. A choice for growth is a choice for the poor.

The Premier's direction is clear: Government's job is to create an environment that attracts investors, encourages innovation and supports initiative. Growing businesses create jobs and trains and empower our people.

The best example of such an initiative is the Work and Skills for 100 000 Programme, already mentioned in detail by the Minister. This joint effort by the provincial government and the private sector illustrates how better opportunities can be offered when one pools skills and resources.

Government's commitment to business development must not be mere lip service, such as a group of emerging contractors in Soweto are experiencing. Under the banner of the Soweto SMME Contractors Forum, 200 firms are considering legal action against Johannesburg Water which they say failed to compensate them. It can be crippling to a small business if not compensated for a project.

We in the Western Cape must guard against this because it can destroy the SMMEs who must help create job opportunities.

The current forecast for economic growth in the Western Cape is projected at 4,15% in 2011, increasing to 4,6% in 2013. To encourage this Province is investing more than R1 billion extra over the next three years to ensure that the foundations for economic growth and job creation are improved within the Western Cape.

The current situation is encouraged by the findings of the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey, which shows that the implementation of DA policy by provincial and local governments drive job creation where we are in power. It finds that the Western Cape has by far the most optimistic hiring plans of any province for the second quarter of 2011.

This DA-run province has a net employment outlook of approximately 9% compared to minus 1% for the Eastern Cape and a mere 4% for Gauteng. This is proof that the Province’s strategy of removing constraints to economic growth is generating new employment opportunities and combating poverty.

Further economic growth of a country cannot be influenced by one or two policy changes. The effectiveness of these changes directly depends on the institutional environment in which they are implemented. Good government is essential. Mr Speaker, this Vote is allocated R254,4 million, 7,1% more than the revised estimates for 2010-11. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is responsible for understanding and identifying opportunities.
The department is focused on six key areas to create a vibrant growing economy that will increase job creation opportunities for all citizens of the Western Cape.

The local economy could generate up to R2 billion over the next couple of months with highlighted events in the province. These include the Argus Cycle Tour, Cape Town International Jazz festival, the Two Oceans Marathon, Cape Town Pride, Cape Town Carnival as well as the Absa Cape Epic. These major events coupled with smaller business-focused events, are crucial in positioning the City and the province as a year-round, 365-day destination.

The area where there is still a huge opportunity to enhance the department’s ability to create opportunities, is to look for donor funding outside the borders of South Africa. With the good governance record of the department and the Province, it will be a salient opportunity for many donors who would like to see that their donations make a difference to all the people, especially those in the rural areas.

*Mr Speaker, the budget contributes to the achievement of the following two provincial priorities: Promoting growth and job opportunities, and promoting development and growth in rural areas.

I wish to express my thanks to the Minister for his guidance, as well as to Mr Solly Fourie and his officials for their dedication and hard work. I support the budget.

*Mr E H Eloff: Mr Speaker, it encourages me to hear that the finding of the Manpower Outlook Survey, a prestigious international job-creating agency, shows that where the DA policy is applied at local level, the policy helps to drive job creation. The survey is conducted on a quarterly basis in 39 countries. This finding was made known after a representative random sample of 755 employees of throughout the country was screened.

According to the results, the firms in the Western Cape were most optimistic for employing people, and the firms have positive prospects for the second quarter of 2011. According to the survey, the Western Cape has a net employment prospect of plus 9%, Gauteng 4% and the Eastern Cape minus 1%. It is determined by deducting the percentage expecting to see a drop in employment from the percentage expecting that employment is going to rise.

These results support the Budget Speech of Minister Winde of 1 March 2011 which focuses on job creation and creating opportunities. Both the Premier and the Minister are aware of the importance of job creation and to ensure that the economy in the Western Cape is doing well. It is also why the Premier mentioned in her Opening Speech that everything must be done to ensure that firms and people who want to invest in the Western Cape, must not be held back by bureaucratic red tape when their applications are processed.

According to Die Burger of 10 March 2011, the Western Cape barometer also showed that all indicators except construction were positive in January. The main index of the barometer is 9,4% higher and the stress index, which measures stress factors and indicate positive conditions when it drops, is 2,2% lower. This is proof that in strategy and job creation, the DA is busy achieving success and is an encouragement to the residents of the Western Cape.
Taking all these factors into account, it is a privilege to congratulate Minister Winde, Head of Department, Mr Fourie, and the staff on their excellent work and creating an open-opportunity society for all.

I support the Budget.

†Mr M C WALTERS: Mr Speaker, it is a pleasure to speak in this debate on Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism. The subject of economic development and tourism is especially pertinent in 2011 when our country goes to the polls to elect councillors to the 284 municipal councils in South Africa.

Local government is the main interface where government meets the electorate in a particularly intimate way. It is here where services are delivered to the community to create a sustainable environment and a facilitating matrix for local economic development.

It is at this level where the policies of provincial and national departments must also find application in practice and improve the economic positions of individuals and communities. Sustainable economic development is a prerequisite for permanent job creation, underpinning human dignity and financial independence. The responsibility of local government to create an enabling environment for economic development is a projection of the DA’s belief that the role of government is not one of centralised control and decision-making, but one of facilitation, one of creation of an environment in which every individual is enabled to optimally develop and deploy his/her talents thus driving a dynamic and innovative economy.

Sustained job creation and economic independence of government grants, are corollaries of such a process. The failures of municipalities in ANC-dominated provinces are indicative of the failure of its cadre deployment policy, a cornerstone of ANC dogma since before 1994. Through this policy it ignored the democratic supremacy of the elected parliament, and through its appointed lackeys controlling the leaders of power in the various levels of government endeavoured to make South Africa a country governed by a party – until Jesus returns – and not by democratic institutions.

Inevitably clashes between this approach and the values enshrined in the Constitution have ensued. This approach in which the abilities of appointees have been subservient to party loyalties, has led to inefficiencies, corruption and inability to realise the exorbitant promises made at election time. That economic development and tourism have stagnated and regressed where infrastructure and services are failing, is no surprise.

One then must ponder on the present exorbitant promises made by President Zuma on creating 250 000 jobs a year with a jobs’ fund of R9 billion, an industrial development corporation investment of R10 billion and many other innovations. One is then forced to ask the question why these innovations were not introduced years ago instead of shortly before an election.

Is it at all possible that the inefficient and often corrupt establishment which could not deliver at national, provincial and local level in the past will suddenly metamorphose into an efficient economic butterfly and be able to deliver on these promises? No, they won’t.
The ANC manifesto states that local government and communities face major challenges, among others in building effective accountable and clean local government. This neatly shifts the responsibility for past failures to local government. Fortunately, ANC municipalities which survive the election will have examples to emulate in the DA-led Metro of Cape Town and Overstrand, Swartland and Theewaterskloof Municipalities of the Western Cape where the improvement of livelihoods and good service are not election catchwords, but objectives of daily endeavour.

While fit for purpose is a principle in the DA strategy for good governance and the creation of an environment supporting economic development, it would seem as if some improvement may be in the offing in ANC areas if they are truly interested in serving the people. The ANC states in its election manifesto that they are committed – about time – to councillors who will be accountable to the communities they serve and who are efficient and competent to fulfil the responsibilities of being ANC representatives in local government.

Has the ANC after 17 years in government in South Africa finally realised that fitness for purpose is far more important than unquestioning loyalty by inefficient and often corrupt party cadres – a fragmenting party which is struggling to keep its disparate alliance together. When will the next Cope hive off? When will the next Minister see the light and illogicalities and speak out like Trevor Manuel? Are the voices of Moeletsi Mbeki, Mamphela Ramphele, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and others penetrating the corruption curtain at last?

The manifesto opens with a call to build on the progress made in realising the vision of a better life for all. The voters in ANC-held provinces must realise that this is double-speak for a very much better life for ANC cadres, such as those recently fingered by the Special Investigation Unit, as well as a national head of police whose sins were so blatant that even the ANC could not redeploy him and he ended up in prison.

The ANC further calls for a commitment to economic freedom in their lifetime, which hopefully will not last too long. Perhaps they should study the latest report on economic freedom in the world where the most free and prosperous countries adhere to the economic principles promoted by the DA. In this way we can have an economy which creates more jobs, promotes economic equality and can afford better services for all. The people in ANC provinces not only protest about poor services, but vote with their feet by migrating to the DA governed Western Cape where effective provincial and local government is practised.

The high level of crime and corruption in South Africa is a serious disincentive to inward investment. A welcome concern of the ANC is safer communities as serious and priority crimes are to be reduced, corruption defeated and our criminal justice system radically changed. Many voters will raise their eyebrows and cogitate on whether the ANC is the problem, and not the solution.

I have referred in the agriculture debate, and earlier, to people voting with their feet to access opportunities in the Western Cape and escaping the endemic poverty which persists in their ANC home provinces, where corruption, administrative ineptitude, lack of leadership, lack of private ownership in communal areas and community life dominated by an anachronistic aristocratic system, are widespread.
In the Western Cape and Cape Town the economic principles on which DA-economic policy is founded will continue to stimulate growth in existing sectors, in
some cases significantly beyond present rates, while new sectors will emerge
showing promise for new and sustained growth. The principles of the creation of
an enabling environment for business, the main drivers of growth and demand-led
private sector-driven government support for growth sectors, industries and
businesses, will underpin the programme of the Western Cape.

Although the budget of R254 million may seen inadequate to the casual observer,
it is in the innovative approaches fit-for-purpose personnel, and a clear vision of
what is needed to realise the inherent potential of resources and geographical
position, that the department’s success will lie. It is not for nothing that in its
mission statement emphasis is laid on its role as a catalyst for the transformation
of the economy. It is in the attraction and facilitation of international and domestic
direct investment into the Western Cape and growing the exports of products and
services, that the catalytic impact of a seemingly meagre-for-the-task budget will
reveal itself.

It is also in its integration of the related efforts of other departments at all levels
that it will optimise the collective economic impact of government. It is to optimise
the catalytic roll-out of the budget that the department intends to establish an
economic development agency, which will absorb existing related entities into an
integrated, streamlined organisation that will have the flexibility to manage
interventions and programmes and leverage the effect of a R252 million budget
into an economic expansion of billions with concomitant job creation.

Tourism, the expansion of existing enterprises, rural economic development, the
creation of a local economic development fund and exciting initiatives in a wide
series of industries from aquaculture to textiles, will all contribute to this catalytic
leverage of development.

Speaker, interaction with the department has been exciting and we all look forward
to its interventions taking effect in our province. I thank you.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. In fact,
you know, I want to read something to the hon member Walters since he
stepped off the ... [Interjections.] He was saying how terrible it is living in this country, that
generally the economy in this country doesn’t grow, and that people are just bad.
In fact, we really should fold up and go away.

The South African Institute of Race Selections, the organisation that the liberals in
the DA could possibly support, says the following things about the country. This is
not the ANC, this is not the SACP or the Unions; it’s the ANC. It says that in 20
years, the last 17 years have seen the most positive economic growth. In fact, it
says that the GDP will grow by just over 3% from 2013 to 2014.
But it also must remind us that pre-1994 the GDP growth was at 1%, in fact, less
than 1% pre-1994.

†Mr M G E WILEY: Three percent ... [Interjections.]

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: What it must also tell us is that in the
economy ... [Interjections.] And it would be useful if you listen to me as well when
you shout at me from where you are sitting hon member – what’s his name again?
An HON MEMBER: Wiley.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Wiley. It will be useful for you to know ...

Mr M G E WILEY: [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Look, I don’t care. I’m not scared of you. So just sit quietly. It will be useful for you to know that the economy is owned essentially by white people. [Interjections.] If you just take a look at the JSE ... [Interjections.] Because it’s true.[Interjections.] Because you see, unlike you, I’m not going to pretend that it’s not.

†Mr M G E WILEY: But why ... [Interjections.]

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It’s because it’s the truth. What the hon Minister raises here today is where we separate out. He says: Look, I’m going to go and build these big projects for you so that you can go and work. What I’m saying is that ownership of the economy is as important as working. I just want the hon member Wiley to know just one thing is on his mind.

The ownership of the economy is as important. The difference is that affirmative action has happened and taken place pre-1994 for many years. It was called White Economic Empowerment. This is my country and it’s your country. What we must do is to try to acknowledge it and then walk a path together so that we can change this economy, because the economy of the Western Cape has grown in leaps and bounds. It’s a good economy; it’s a resilient economy. It doesn’t create jobs though because in the ... [Inaudible.] ... sectors of manufacturing and so on. We don’t have big mines, but we do have incredible service. We have a beautiful country and we have a beautiful Province. What we have to do is to try and share that economy.

I don’t want to say this personally, but in the debate on Community Safety he said the reason why the CCTV cameras were in Rondebosch and not in Bellville – and it came from that side of the House – “is omdatadiaardiemensekannievirhullegedranie”.

It’s that attitude that has to drive and change the economy. We’ve got to change and drive that economy together. That’s one of the things that the South African Institute of Race Relations says. It speaks of our growing portfolio investment; a favourable macroeconomic environment; and it speaks about improved living conditions of people living in South Africa. It’s better for people to live in South Africa today than it was 17 years ago.

What we do is, we build an incredible perception of how under ANC rule you are going to die if you walk down the street. Part of the problem is that when the political parties have ... [Inaudible.] ... we live together in our streets with each other.

One of the biggest issues for me is how the leadership in this room build up that negativity. We build up that negative perception. And people in the media – some of them, not everybody – feed into it and write about it. We get up here and we say we can build a capital of the world. It’s something to be proud of. The South African Institute of Race Relations says there is a decline in the ... [Inaudible.]
†Mr M G E WILEY: [Inaudible.] ... there’s maybe a decline in the ... [Interjections.]

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It’s their ... [Inaudible.] And it doesn’t help you and me to go out and say that this is what happens because of something else.

Let me tell you something that happened in the fourth quarter. In the third quarter of 2010 the Premier was very excited about the fact that the economy is up and we were going to be doing really fantastic. Then the fourth quarter comes. Now we are not in charge of the economy at this stage ... [Inaudible.] ... one player in the economy. Then the economy drops and we don’t say anything about it. You’re not in charge of it. You can only help to facilitate, to intervene in the economy to try and make ... [Inaudible.]

And I think ... [Inaudible.] ... politics here. So that’s probably what the big issue is here. Let me deal with this issue of established businesses. According to the South African Reserve Bank quarterly release in March it says that the pace of employment creation remains sluggish despite the recovery in the domestic economic activity during the past year and a half, that former non-agricultural employment increased moderately in the third quarter in 2010, while agricultural employment increased by about 10%.

What it also says is that the private sector has not produced as many jobs as we have in the public sector, and that about 300 jobs ... [Interjections.] And there is not one answer to it, this is the point. It could be that we mustn’t give workers the rights to proper pay or that they mustn’t be protected by unions. I don’t believe that. I believe, like in the Japanese economy, if you have a “happy working”, you have a much more productive economy.

You see, H F Verwoerd once said: “One of the problems we have is that we must not educate the blacks because they are only going to do unskilled work.” Now it’s shifting from that. That’s where we’ve got to shift from, that people are not only workers; they could also be entrepreneurs. It doesn’t have to be linked to a racial group and it doesn’t have to be linked to a gender. It’s our ability to work. In 15 to 30 years’ time I think we can have an open society. But then we must be committed to work one step of the way to try and get to that.

About 300 jobs were lost in the private sector in the third quarter compared to some of the preceding years of the same period. I’m talking about a quarter. So what amazes me is that you’re still focusing though on established businesses.

In your speech you said that the return on investment is relatively low compared to established businesses – that is SMMEs. But, you see, the investment you make is an investment we make into the economy, all of us who pay taxes. So you actually have an obligation to make sure that the small man and the small woman on the street is accommodated and taken care of.

After 17 years of democracy we still see the same old patterns of ownership in our economy. The levels of inequality in this province are higher than everywhere else; the poor are very poor; the rich are very, very rich. And we all live in our enclaves. We don’t cross paths to get to each other or anything like that.
So if your role in the Budget Book remains as you say it is, facilitative and not interventionist, you would be pursuing an unequal economy, an economy that’s not shared by everybody, an economy that’s not possible to be shared by the people. Remember, there’s also the issue of confidence to be able to want to share the economy. Some people have the confidence to walk into a restaurant; other people just don’t have the confidence to do so. Today it’s not racialised, but 17 years ago it was racialised. We’ve got to build up our people’s confidence, we’ve got to build a culture, a human rights culture amongst our people and we’ve got to build it together. This is not something one person has to do, or somebody has to do somewhere in a corner. You can’t do it on your own either, Minister. I’ve said it already, we come from a very rich and long tradition of white economic empowerment and we’ve got to find ways to break it. How do you transform an economy? Somebody who has a lot must give to ensure that we create a better economy.

If you’ve been empowered and you have had an opportunity to grow as quickly and as fast as you can, you’ve got to be able to share that economy with the people. Even the resources that we have do not belong to you privately; it’s become yours, but it wasn’t yours in the first place. Because if we don’t do that the essence is that the economy will continue to grow for the big boys – the daddies with their big pockets – and their children living in the shadows of Table Mountain, or any other mountain, will repeat that cycle.

The flipside of that is that the child growing up in Strandfontein or Langa, or anywhere else, not having the same kind of support where they are will not be able to break out of that. Sometimes one out of five children break out of that cycle. And that’s good, because it gives the whole family an opportunity to jump on the back of it.

So I must say, I’m very pleased, Minister, that we had the point from Minister De Lille when she said she’s going to spend R20 million on small and mediums enterprises. She said: “I do not want a province of people who just live off welfare. I want them to start income-generating small and medium enterprises.” I am very pleased with that. I wanted to hear that from you, though. I want to hear you say that you want to support that kind of stuff.

Then there is the issue of the RED Doors. I’ll tell you what you will do next year or the following year. You haven’t supported small and medium enterprises; it’s gone to Seda. National government is responsible for it, or the business centre is responsible for it. We have a responsibility, as the State, to play that facilitative or interventionist role in trying to deal with it. The cut is exactly the amount of money that hon member De Lille is putting forward for the budget for the RED Doors. Wesgro and CTRU, I think both of these bodies are doing very well. It’s a tough economic time and, of course, they can do better. I wonder what the EDA will mean for both Wesgro and CTRU.

But I still have a dilemma that you and I had together in the House a few years ago. Tourism is fragmented in the Western Cape. You have Cape Town Tourism talking for Cape Town. Cape Town has to be the hook that every other region in the province hold onto. But I’m hoping that you’re not going to come back here next year and say: Look, those two structures are not working together and these are some of the reasons why. I think it’s a problem, I like the idea that you are going to continue working on the Outeniqua. It’s a lot of money for one project.
It’s a most important project. I think we’re a province with loads of iconic institutions around us, whether it’s Table Mountain or whatever, and we must protect and save it.

The department did another strange thing. I can’t remember where it is in my speech, but it’s also in the modernisation process. The issue of the centralisation of HR and risk enterprise and so on is a big problem for me. They move a whole lot of money, and people, to the Premier’s Office and then they have to establish another little body. And this little body that they’re establishing costs R3,5 million a year. So over three years it will cost a little over R10 million. I tell you, it would be really good to have that money and to use it to drive the economy instead of holding up somebody’s ego.

The centralisation of those services into one hand is very dangerous. The Premier and the shadow Premier have gone off to launch the manifesto already ... [Inaudible.] ... two of them big enough for all of you. I think, for me, that’s the problem. It’s this over-centralisation of power in one person, and now a bit of it goes over to the other person.

So, Speaker, I think, in essence I want to vote against this budget, because I think it’s the one budget, the one Vote that actually clearly defines that kind of inequality within the economy. The fact that the department continues to work to ensure that inequality is one of the reasons I would like to not vote for this Vote.

I do want to say though that this is also a department – and the people who work in this department – that has been very professional, efficient and effective. When we look at the number of people that have grown – small businesses, small tourism enterprises, tour guides, whatever we needed to help to grow this economy, this department has actually made sure that it happens. I know it. I’ve worked with them for about 5 years and I know it’s a highly efficient department. I know it’s an effective department and I know that the department will make it happen. And so I really want to say, Mr Fourie, thank you very much to your entire staff for holding together a department like this.

It’s not like Education or Health. It’s very defined; you know what you must do. Here you have a political head that says sharing the economy is the right thing, or growing the economy in this manner is the right thing, and you’ve got to go in that direction. It’s difficult, it’s complex, but I wish you very well. I don’t know whether we’re going to vote for it yet or not, Speaker, but I do want to say thank you very much.

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Thank you very much too to all of those that took part in this debate. I will endeavour to answer any of the questions that were raised and maybe make one or two comments.

First of all to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, thank you very much for what you do and the role that you play. You spoke about some huge risks. First, the oil price. Of course, that is a massive risk as we felt with the impact of the downturn in the global economy and the effect that it’s had on our economy. These outside risks are massive and they are not that predictable.
Obviously we can’t manage too much with regard to those kinds of outside impacts, and we just have to make sure that we shore-up and manage each situation as it comes along or comes our way.

You also spoke about small and medium businesses and the issue of focus. I think when I get to talking to the hon Leader of the Opposition I will speak a bit more about that. You spoke about the focus and creation of jobs. Of course, that’s what the President is saying. The President is saying: We need to create 5 million jobs in this country. If we want to create 5 million jobs, what we’ve got to do is we have to almost double or treble our economy because that’s the kind of economy we need to absorb what would be able to carry those kind of jobs. Now this does go a little to what the hon Leader of the Opposition was saying. That is why we need to focus on areas that can be job-creating.

She said we only focus on big companies. Well, that’s also not possible because there’s no ways that the big companies in this country can treble in size; they’re not going to. The companies that are going to treble in size, and are going to create those jobs, are our small companies, our little companies, or our SMMEs and our small and medium enterprises. That’s the only space that can create those jobs. That is why we are looking at where we give support. We’ve got to look at the big picture … [Interjections.] …

†The SPEAKER: Order, members!

†The MINISTER: ... of where we give support across the board in a South African context and then say: With our budget, what are we going to do to effect that change? Hon Von Brandis, thank you very much for supporting this budget.

I now move on to honEloff. You spoke about the manpower survey, about firms that are hiring staff. That is something I will talk to also with regard to what hon Walters said about companies that are hiring staff. You spoke about job creation and the only way you are going to create jobs is either through entrepreneurship or through companies growing jobs.

Now what we have to do is, we’ve also got to kick-start this economy. Every time you drive into the City there are far too many “To Let” signs. Every time you look at a newspaper the auction section is far too thick, and every time you look at a newspaper’s job section, the job shop is far too thin. There’s no confidence. People are worried about actually taking that step. People are worried about signing that contract. We need to make sure that we actually give that confidence to boost the economy. It’s hovering. It’s sitting at the moment. It’s not moving to where it should be moving.

The hon Walters spoke about sustainable economic growth and the economic approach. He also spoke about infrastructure. Hon Von Brandis spoke about the global markets and oil, but locally the two big risk areas are water and electricity. Those are massive risk areas for future growth, for growth in the long term. If we can’t secure those two we are going to be in trouble, the economy is going to be in trouble.

And then obviously below that comes legislation, connectivity, funding. The access to finance is a massive problem. I spoke to one of the CEOs of one of our big banks the other day.
He was saying to me that they are trying to make money available, but companies aren’t taking up the money. Why? Because of the confidence that’s not there, the growth that’s not there. It doesn’t help to double your stock on your shelf, because if you double your stock on your shelf it’s not going to get sold. It’s not going to help anybody; you can’t pay back that loan. But, of course, it’s about opportunities and it’s also about giving opportunities to young people.

There was a project that was initiated by the department the other day and I went along to it. I’ve spoken about it in the House before. It really knocked me. They found 350 graduates who couldn’t get work. They went through a process and narrowed those graduates down to 32. They are now becoming business analysts through a partnership with Setas, the department and the Graduate School of Business.

But the thing that really hit me was when those young people were standing there telling us their stories about how they battled to get through university. We are talking about people who come from a disadvantaged background, who had to work at night and study during the day to get a degree. We all say that once you’ve got your skill and you’ve got your degree, you are going to get a job. It doesn’t actually work in that way. These youngsters now had degrees and they weren’t getting jobs. It really fits in the same space as the work and skills programme, where we’ve got young people who have finished school and they can’t get a job.

Through these mechanisms they are getting access to companies and they are getting access to money that comes through Seta and through the department. Through that they are actually able to put a line on their CV that says: I have worked somewhere. Because the most common point that gets raised when they can’t get a job is: What experience do you have? What have you done before? And that affects people right up to the age of 35. It is massive; it is really a big problem. So it really is about trying to get to that space where companies are actually feeling confident enough to say whether they will take you on and employ you.

Speaker, that brings me to the hon Leader of the Opposition. She raised many things. I’m going to speak about something that happened to me, I think it must be a week and a half ago. There was a film festival launched in Stellenbosch. It was the premiere of a film. It was the first time it was ever shown in South Africa. It has been shown around the world, and is still being shown around the world. I think I’ve actually mentioned in the House that we should actually get a copy for everybody. The film is called Reconciliation: Mandela’s Miracle.

It was made by an American lady and her husband who came out here to make the film. It was sponsored by a Russian businessman. During the downturn he phoned them, when they arrived here to make the film, and said they’ve got no more funding. So she went and took her pension and she made this film. It’s one of those films that last for about an hour and a half. It’s more of a documentary with lots of interviews. It’s one of those films that bring tears to one’s eyes at times and there is absolute shock. You kind of get taken on this roller-coaster ride when you watch this film.
In a way it sort of takes us from the apartheid years of this country through to today and the role that Madiba played in that process. It doesn’t interview Madiba, but the media interviewed just about everybody else. When that film finishes, the most amazing thing you do realise is that we actually forget so quickly what it was like beforehand. People can say well, that’s easy for you to say. But when you look at some of those pieces of film that they took out of archives and dug up from places, that’s when you want to cry because you see the kind of stuff that used to go on.

Then you also realise the kind of pain that people went through, you think what it could’ve been like and then you see where we’ve come to. We actually have come a long way. I’m not saying that we’re there; we’ve got a long way to go. It was actually something that really helped me, because I think too quickly we actually forget that it wasn’t that long ago that this country was a very different place than it is today.

That brings me to my next point. The hon Leader of the Opposition spoke about so many people who don’t have opportunities, who don’t have jobs. I have listened to the synthesis thus far. Let me say that I get report backs quite regularly on the EDA process where Andrew Boraine and his team are consulting, talking across the board to municipalities and businesses and to all different sectors of the community. They are also bringing together all those studies that have been done over the last while. The one thing we said was: Don’t go and get some new study going; the cupboards are full of them. Every department and every sector of government is full of those studies. They pulled those studies out and they are busy putting the synthesis together.

Something jumped out at me the other day and I think it is in line with what the hon Leader of the Opposition said. If you analyse the city region, which is the biggest economy component of the province, and which is really the City of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Drakenstein going up to as far as Saldanha Bay and incorporating the Swartland region, 80% of the economy is in that space. There are obviously pockets that stand out in other areas, but in that space one third of the people involved in the economy in that space are comfortable; two thirds are not comfortable. They don’t own the economy, and they don’t feel part of the economy. That goes to what you are saying. We have to try and make that difference and actually make everybody own the vision, own the economy, own the space to where they want to go and project where they want to go to. Too often we spend our time in foreign countries trying to market what we’ve got when we haven’t even fixed it here. Too often we spend our time doing all of that and focusing on those international markets when we haven’t consolidated our own markets.

We speak about tourism. We need to make sure that we grow that Gauteng tourism market. We need to focus on that market a lot more. I’ll speak a bit more to tourism just now, but that’s what’s coming out in that synthesis; how do we deal with that? You spoke about job losses and then you spoke about the private sector. You also spoke about the agricultural sector and the kind of job losses in the agricultural sector, and that sometimes we don’t talk about it. Every quarter we do the BER Report which looks at the economy and at the number of jobs gained or lost. In the quarter that you are talking about 29 000 jobs were lost in the agricultural sector.
There are various reasons for that. We have to say what those reasons are, what we are doing about them and how we are adjusting them. One of those reasons was a lot of union activity. It will be remembered that our ports were closed and products were being sent back to the farms. We lost a lot of credibility, we lost a lot of market and we lost a lot of jobs in that process. But at the same time it's seasonality, so we also lose jobs due to seasonality. It's a difficult sector; you've got to track it across time. We get that report once a quarter and we see exactly how many jobs are gained, and how many jobs are lost. We have to take that and we have to work with it.

You spoke about eventually moving to an open society. Obviously we support that, and I quite like you saying that.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER: Well, I will read the last section of my speech to you again just now!

Then you spoke about start-ups versus established businesses. We have spoken about that quite a lot in the House. We are not saying we are not supporting start-ups. We are not saying we're not involved in trying to make people into entrepreneurs; not at all. We will continue with that. We will continue supporting people to become entrepreneurs.

However, when you analyse what you spend versus the outcome you have to say to yourself: Do we put all our money into that with a small percentage positive outcome? At the moment where we are in the economy so many businesses are not employing people and so many businesses that we have actually helped to start up are not able to go that next step. Those small companies are actually wondering whether they are going to make it before the upturn in the economy. How do we help those companies grow, because we know that the SMME sector is where we are going to create the jobs? So we've got to be able to change our focus and help those companies to grow.

Those are companies that have come through the RED Door space and they will continue to be the companies that come through the RED Doors that stay there. They will continue to be those companies that come through the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) offices, through the Thusong centre and through the LED processes at municipal level.

How do we take those businesses to the next level? How do you create an entrepreneur? That is a question that is asked all the time. Can you take a classroom full of kids in Grade 12 and say to them we are now going to teach all of you to become entrepreneurs? You cannot do it. You've got to find the people who spark and then focus on those people to become those entrepreneurs.

I spoke about the ... [Inaudible.] We need to share this economy. I agree with all of that. You spoke about big businesses and the role that this government plays. I actually didn’t bring it with me. I brought a whole lot of other stuff with me to try and answer questions, but I am not using it. The one document I didn’t bring with me – and we perhaps need to ask a question on it – is the quarterly report that comes out of supply chain in the Province.
Every quarter there is a report. We need to ask: How much money was handed out through the tender processes, which companies they went to and what is the racial makeup of those companies?

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I don’t get those reports.

†The MINISTER: You must ask for it. It is said that we are always putting money into and focusing on the big white-owned companies. The percentage of tenders in the last quarter that went to white-owned companies from this government was 1%. So let’s ask for that report. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Why do you still want to take on the poor old taxpayer? Come on ... [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Down with 1%. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: That’s why I’m just telling you. So ask for that report ...

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Stop patronising me ...

†The MINISTER: ... and let’s analyse it.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I can't bear the patronising way you speak to me.

†The MINISTER: The next thing is social entrepreneurship. You spoke about social entrepreneurship.

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: He is not patronising you; you are imagining it.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: You are patronising me.

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: He is answering your question.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: I’ll tell you what patronising ...

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, we spoke ... 

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Don’t come and teach me, man.

The SPEAKER: Order!

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition spoke about social entrepreneurship and the R20 million. [Interjections.]
The department is working with the hon De Lille’s department so that we actually make sure that the social entrepreneurship money opens companies and businesses in that space. It’s exactly correct, and we do work in that space. But we also work in the co-op space. I will maybe get to that with your last point. You should come along to the launches of these co-ops that we ... [Interjections.] Why not? I am getting an indication that you don’t want to come to the launches of these co-ops, but you say you want to vote against this Vote. But come along to the work and skills programmes where you see exactly where our money is going and who we are helping. Come along to the co-op opening which is going to happen shortly and you will be able to see exactly where this money is going. I invite you to please come along to that.

What I also want to talk about is tourism. You spoke about tourism fragmentation. It’s still like that. It is very difficult. The national Minister is saying exactly the same thing. I’ve gone through quite a large lesson in the last year trying to get everybody to come together under one single strategy. It is very difficult. Everybody wants to be king of their little castle in whichever municipality they’re in, in whichever office they’re in or whichever Tourism bureau they’re in. You get this pushing back all the time. I keep on saying it.

At the moment we spend R100 million a year of taxpayer’s money marketing tourism to the world, to our country. The private sector in that same space spends about R1 billion in marketing to the world and to possible tourists within our country. If we don’t build that strategy we won’t be able to really maximise on what the World Cup gave us, the opportunity that the World Cup gave us.

It is a very difficult process. I think you said you also tried for many years to get that to come together. We are trying again on Monday morning. We’ve got ...
†The SPEAKER: Order! Please members, you can heckle, but I cannot allow a conversation across the floor. [Laughter.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I have two more things that I want to raise from the hon Leader of the Opposition’s speech. The one issue is the Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe (OCT). It’s a continued project and we will continue to try. It has been very difficult dealing with Transnet on this. It’s taken a long time. I’m not giving up. We will continue to push on it. I do believe that it is something that we need to continue working on.

The last point was about the unit in the HOD’s Office under Programme 1 which looks at linking the department to the Premier’s department and all the personnel that have been moved there to offer the various services to each department.

That decision has been made; it has happened. We all know that in each department you have to have that linkage. If you don’t have that linkage it’s not going to work. What I’m going to say to that is, it’s happened. We are not going to change it, but we need to monitor and see whether it does work better or not.

With that, Mr Speaker, I think I’ve answered all the questions. Can I please just say thank you very much to everyone that took part. Once again to the department, thank you very much. I see we’ve got Tourism, CTRU and Wesgro here, thank you very much. And those of you who have bought a ticket for the Jazz Festival for tonight, or tomorrow, please enjoy it. This kind of event brings in revenue in excess of R550 million to R600 million into our economy. So enjoy this weekend.

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 15:45.
ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2011

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Referral of draft bills to committees in terms of Rule 204:

1. Standing Committee on Governance, Standing Committee on Premier, Gender Disabled and Youth and Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport:

   Draft Constitution Amendment Bill, 2011 (proposed section 74(3)(a) Bill).

2. Standing Committee on Governance and Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport:

   Draft Superior Courts Amendment Bill, 2011 (proposed section 75 Bill).

TABLING

The Speaker

Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

Annual Consolidated Financial Information for the year ended 31 March 2010.
MONDAY, 28 MARCH 2011

TABLING

The Speaker:

Department of Transport and Public Works:


The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

*Mr E H ELOFF (DA): Mr Speaker, up to the end of December 2010, consumers across the country paid almost over 46% more than the previous year for their municipal services. These figures were published by the National Treasury and were based on the reports received from these municipalities. According to the report, the biggest increases were in Limpopo with 150%, Mpumalanga with 145% and the Eastern Cape with 121%. The smallest increases were in Gauteng with 29%, KwaZulu-Natal with 31% and the Western Cape with 21%.

The increases relate to all kinds of things, from the cost of taking out library books to the development contributions of property developers and the cost of outdoor advertising. Mr Mike Schüssler, a well-known economist, argues that municipalities are demanding an increasing share of South Africa’s income, but that service delivery is getting worse.

The Western Cape had the lowest hike in account increases, and it is also the province whose municipalities provide the highest level of free basic services. The South African Institute of Race Relations states that 82% of households in the province have access to free water, 69% of households enjoy free sanitation services and 52% of households have access to refuse removal. These percentages are well above the national average. About 46% of the households in the province also receive free electricity.

If one considers the provision of services in relation to the increase in accounts, it can be assumed that the municipalities in the Western Cape have effective collection systems, with excellent infrastructures and the willingness and ability to spend money on providing essential services to needy households.

It is heartening to note that the DA-controlled Western Cape stands out above other provinces in providing basic services to as many households as possible.

†Ms CF BEERWINKEL (ANC): Mr Speaker, the ANC wants to add its voice of absolute disgust and abhorrence at the spate of violence and mayhem that has taken hold of our society and especially in our schools.

The recent senseless, callous murder of the Deputy Principal of the Ludwe Ngamalana High School, the late Mr Linga Mafu, is a case in point. That no arrests have yet been made does not help to stem the fears and boost our confidence that criminals should beware. A wife has now been robbed of the opportunity to raise her two children in a stable home with both parents.
An institution of learning has been deprived of the insight and contributions of a dedicated educator, and the learners and the rest of the community are left with more questions than answers. When will all this stop? What price is life?

Speculation is rife about the motives for this heinous deed. That school has been plagued with political upheaval, death and administrative problems before. It would be appreciated if the long arm of the law will act swiftly to apprehend these perpetrators so that justice can be meted out to those who have no respect for life or the law.

*Ms A ROSSOUW (DA):* Mr Speaker, barely three months ago we spoke about the importance of 16 Days of Activism of No Violence Against Women and Children in this Parliament, together with the rest of South Africa. Prior to that, much was written and debated by the national government, activists and non-governmental organisations about the rights of women and children with a view to the Soccer World Cup.[Interjections.] Many of the fears regarding human trafficking were not realised. This does not, however, mean that South Africa does not have a significant problem.

†Since 2003, South Africa has struggled to put into place legislation concerning human trafficking. A person caught trafficking in South Africa can only be prosecuted for kidnapping and/or assault and/or rape. Even though South Africa signed the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children in 2004, the national government has been dragging its feet for years in finalising and passing legislation to prevent trafficking.

*Although human trafficking into South Africa as such is not a major problem, South Africa is used as a “stopover” for international syndicates. Human trafficking often forms part of larger crime syndicates. It is therefore important that we as the Provincial Legislature ensures that proposed national legislation considers other criminal activities that go together with it and address it.

In South Africa, as in other parts of the world, children remain some of the most vulnerable targets in human trafficking. Many girls are abducted by their own families and forced to marry older men. They are then misused and abused as slaves and for sex.

†Unfortunately the secrecy around human trafficking makes it difficult to prevent or to stop it. It is the role of legislatures to ensure that we implement laws to punish the guilty and prevent victimisation. It is up to communities to break the silence in this secret world and shout out to the authorities to stop it.

*Ms J A VAN ZYL (COPE):* Mr Speaker, the sale of Schulphoek in Hermanus to Rabca was a sore point and remains a sore point for the community of Mount Pleasant. The Hermanus Ratepayers wrote a letter to the Premier’s office last December, whereby two of the most important points were not answered.

Mr Speaker, is the hon Minister aware of the fact that the Municipal Manager of Hermanus ignored his order regarding the public consultation process because the contractor had already started operations on the site in question?
If one then considers the historical use of Schulphoek for recreation by the residents of Mount Pleasant, access to the nearest beach is now a thing of the past. The residents of Mount Pleasant have been relaxing there over New Year and Second New Year for many years. The municipality constructed ablution and barbecue facilities. All this is now dilapidated and in disuse. As a consolation prize for this community of Mount Pleasant, a swimming pool was built about 50m from a landfill. The users of this pool are greeted by flies, blowflies and bad smells on a daily basis. [Interjections.]

This 56 ha of prime sea view land was sold for a mere R5.3 million. How do the residents of Schulphoek and Zwelihle benefit from this? The owner could pocket about R100 million from the estimated profit from this transaction. [Interjections.]

*The SPEAKER: Order, members!

*Ms J A VAN ZYL: The municipality has furthermore taken out a loan of R160 million for maintenance of roads, sewage and electricity. This very same municipality pays R30.5 million for a private golf course. [Interjections.] Is this what transparency, openness, honesty and integrity looks like? Fortunately, only the voters can answer this question on 18 May 2011.

†Mr PC MCKENZIE (ANC): He says that I’m older than him … [Inaudible.] [Laughter.] [Interjections.] Wait first. Listen, this is an important statement. [Interjections.]

A flood of ID leaders and members have joined the ANC. [Laughter.] Do you know why? [Laughter.] Because they reject the DA and their Leader, Patricia de Lille, who turned her back on them to save her own political career by parachuting into DA positions. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members!

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: In a row of blows, the DA/ID coalition cannot deny the fact… [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, no running is commentary allowed. [Interjections.] Hon McKenzie, you may proceed.

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: The Mayor of George, Bazil Petrus, and Matzikama Speaker, David Jenner, left that sinking ID ship and the neo-liberal DA for a … [Interjections.] …

†The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order! [Interjections.] Please do not drown out the speaker on the floor. [Interjections.] You may heckle, but no running commentary, please. [Interjections.] Hon McKenzie, please proceed.
Mr P C MCKENZIE: ... better life under the ANC. [Interjections.] Others saw no future with Zille and the DA. Former MEC, Sakkie Jenner; ... [Interjections.] ... Oudtshoorn councillors, Gordon April and Jurie Harmse, with their constituencies; Bot River ward councillor, James Pfeiffer; and in Kraaifontein, Scottsdene, ID branch Chairperson, Caroline Hendricks, came with all her supporters. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr PC MCKENZIE: These are leaders. The people whom I’ve mentioned are leaders with a firm foundation in their communities, and the ANC welcomes their return. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Will the hon McKenzie please complete the sentence.

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: They took all my time. [Interjections.] More ID, Cope and DA supporters are returning to the ANC. [Interjections.] More people are realising that the DA is not a home for poor and ordinary people. [Interjections.] Okay. After De Lille’s abandonment of the PAC and then the ID, she still wants people to lend her their votes for the next election. In fact, ... [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order! Hon McKenzie, please conclude. Thank you.

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: Thank you, sir. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Please conclude.

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: She did that as if she is still going to be around to be judged. She abandoned her own offspring, the ID, moving from the far left to the very far right of the political spectrum. [Interjections.] Everybody is wondering what her political agenda is. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order, members! [Interjections.] Order, members! The statement of the ANC is concluded. We will now proceed.

†Mr MC WALTERS (DA): Mr Speaker, it is perhaps a good thing that one can see that the ANC really needs leaders. They’re very excited about these people coming over to them. [Applause.] [Laughter.]

*Mr Speaker, the National Department of Transport would once again like to bring the possibility of a high speed rail network to the table for discussion. Although it is a luxury that could certainly connect the country’s major urban centres, it is nothing more than the sign of a department that is out of touch with their ability and even more out of touch with the needs of the people.

When the Gautrain project was first discussed in 2003, the estimate for it was an astronomical amount of R7 billion. The latest estimate for completion of the project is R24 billion. Due to all the challenges with the routes between Gauteng and Durban, the cost for a similar luxury service could even amount to as much as R160 billion.
This is money that could be spent on much higher priority areas. Planning a high-speed rail service is of no help when the normal rail, cargo and passenger systems are not managed in a cost effective or functional manner. In the Western Cape, the DA government promotes access to safe, efficient and integrated transport as a strategic priority.

Rail transport in the Western Cape, with all the improvements that it continuously undergoes, is still lacking with respect to out-and-out reliability and especially access for all. The people on the West Coast do not have the same access to passenger rail transportation as do those of the Metro, Northern Suburbs, Boland and South Coast. The BRT system was rolled out along this route as a first phase precisely to ensure that everyone can share in the same open opportunity driven society of the Western Cape.[Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, the prioritisation of public transport by this government is to the benefit of all the people in the province. It is also in line with optimal use of the province’s scarce resources.

†The SPEAKER: Order! Would the hon Member please complete his speech?

*Mr M C WALTERS: An amount of R560 billion for a need that is not a vital need should be regarded as an unnecessary waste of funds and one that is to the detriment of the poor people of South Africa.

*Mr R B LENTIT (ID): Mr Speaker, I would like to make use of this opportunity to praise the national Minister of Local Government for his initiative to amend the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, because it is in line with the Western Cape Government’s “fit for purpose” agenda, for corruption free administration and to deliver services to all.

The long-awaited amendment bill that will be approved in the national Parliament on 12 April to avoid corruption demonstrates the negative effects of political deployment across the country, especially in poor municipalities. This new law requires the political will in municipalities where none exist, but the test will be to what extent it is implemented properly and correctly. It is clear that where political leaders allowed preferential appointments of municipal managers and senior managers, it led to our poor communities not receiving the services they deserve.

Mr Speaker, the closer local government is to the people, the better. It’s actually sad that the ANC woke up so late, to only realise now that a better life for our poor communities is not about the cadres you know, but the necessary knowledge and experience to deliver services to all.

†Ms A J DU TOIT MARAIS (DA): Mr Speaker, it is important to occasionally consider and evaluate the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) South Africa has undertaken to achieve by 2015. The sad truth is that South Africa seems unlikely to achieve some of the most important targets. It is noteworthy, however, that on a provincial level, the Western Cape is most likely the province to comply with the MDG targets.
One of the most critical goals is the reduction of child mortality rates. Although infant mortality has declined nationally to 43 deaths for every 1000 live births in South Africa, the Millennium Development Goals target is 18 deaths, and the Millennium Development Goals Country Report states that it is unlikely that South Africa will achieve this before 2015. The Western Cape, however, has shown the greatest improvement of all provinces. Since 1994, the province reduced infant mortality rates by 11%, to 24%. The target is within our reach. With the increased HIV/AIDS treatment protocol the provincial Department of Health has in place, along with additional facilities currently under construction, it seems more than likely we will be able to achieve our goal.

The mortality rates for children under 5 are also alarmingly high in South Africa. The MDG is to reduce the number of deaths to 20 for every 1000 live births. In 2009, the mortality rate for children under 5 was 68 in South Africa. The Western Cape was once again the province that reported the lowest number of deaths with 37 in 2009.

National government is failing. They are failing to reach some of the most important developmental goals. These statistics also indicate a lack of critical health services. The Western Cape is faring much better than the national average. Under the leadership of the DA, we will continue to prove to the rest of the country and the world that the DA is better at governing than the ANC.

†Mr M OZINSKY (ANC): Mr Speaker, in the House, on 24 February 2011, the hon Premier made an unprecedented attack on a member of staff of the provincial Legislature. In a reply to the debate on the State of the Province Address, the hon Premier blamed the previous Secretary of the Legislature and what she called the relevant official, who are not able to defend themselves from accusations, on a matter that raises serious questions about her and her party's role in a cover-up when she said, and I quote:

In terms of the PFMA, it is the responsibility of the accounting officer to ensure that goods and services are procured.

She went on to say:

I am further informed, Mr Speaker, that the relevant official in the Secretary’s Office responsible for travelling and accommodation arrangement for committee members failed to complete his work on a specific day. For some reason the accounting officer was not available to step in and manage this. The Speaker was away from Cape Town at a meeting at this time, but was contacted and told that the problem had been created.

For the record, Mr Speaker, you will remember that you were together with the then Secretary on that very day on parliamentary business. How the Speaker can say that he was not available, I don’t know. She went on to say that the official in the Speaker’s Office did as requested and erroneously awarded work to the lowest bidder, etc.

Let me tell you that she said that it is wrong to allege that the Speaker is personally at fault and that the suggestion that the services were procured from the people associated with the Speaker or the staff at his Office is without foundation.
I want to lay these emails before the House, and I’m considering whether to lay them before the Police and I will definitely be sending them to the Auditor-General, because one of the emails addressed to the Speaker, including to the hon Premier, from the service provider, dated 27 September – the service provider being Sunliner Tours – says:

It is now 27 days over your 7 to 10 days after invoicing – 37 days since you completed. Again I remind you to email me.

That is to the Speaker and to the hon Premier. [Interjections.] Maybe he is referring to the previous email in which he writes: “The same person...”

†The SPEAKER: Order! Could the hon Ozinsky please complete his sentence.

†Mr M OZNSKY: He writes:

Dear Salie

Speaker has approved your quotes. Please accept this email as confirmation. I think you now need to invoice me.

That email comes from Sanaa Peterson, Media Liaison Officer of the Western Cape, the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Further an email in reply to that says ... [Time expired.]

†Mr JJ VISSER (DA): Mr Speaker, to be effective... [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Please proceed, hon Visser.

†Mr JJ VISSER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, to be effective on how to govern you need to be inherently effective in what you do in general. To be in government you firstly need to derive from a political party and organism with strategy and structure.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: But you mustn’t be corrupt!

†Mr J J VISSER: You need to learn as you come through the ranks. You must experience how leaders act, how they portray leadership and how they project their character. It is like growing up with a family, with your father, mother and siblings as role models. Here, however, the role models are your peers and leaders within your political party.

If your role models are greedy, manipulative, untruthful and unworthy, that then is what you perceive how one should be and that is then what you become. You can see how this unbecoming behaviour is transformed over to other spheres of society, especially when an individual becomes part of government and a conglomeration of such individuals become the government. The vicious circle goes round and round, and this unbecoming behaviour becomes the norm, the way to do things, and people even start believing that this is the way to act.

When someone then starts to demonstrate differently, or try to stop this type of behaviour or belief, then there is resistance. Sometimes actually there is war.
This is probably then what happened on 22 March 2011 when ANC cadres attacked their own facilities, officials and leaders. This is the manifestation of this vicious circle the ANC created for themselves. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr J J VISSER: The evil pot they fed from all these years is boiling over, and cadres are turning on each other. It is significant that this behaviour does not only take place in the Western Cape but there was also an incident in the Free State, where Ace Magashule, the Premier of that Province, attacked his own people because they would not allow him to do cadre deployment in his own party.

†The SPEAKER: Order! Will the hon member please complete his speech?

†Mr J J VISSER: This protest within came about because the ANC leaders lie to their own people, manipulate them and use them unashamedly to further their own interest and careers.

WITHDRAWAL AND REDUCTION OF FUNDING

(Notice of motion)

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the fact that the Western Cape DA Government has unilaterally withdrawn from and reduced funding to advice offices in the province – one more public participation space for the poor that they have taken away.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]

CLOSING DOWN OF CIVIL SOCIETY INITIATIVES

(Notice of motion)

†Ms V HANI: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the prevailing trend in this province whereby civil society initiatives are closed down by the DA Western Cape Government, because they are seen to be anti-DA.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]

SERVICE DELIVERY PROBLEMS IN DA-RUN MUNICIPALITIES

(Notice of motion)

†Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the fact that DA-run municipalities have serious service delivery problems when it comes to poor areas and that a disproportional low amount in the budget is spent in areas most in need.

[Notice of motion as given by member.]
THANKS TO FIRE-FIGHTERS AND METRO RESCUE WORKERS

(Motion)

†Mr MGE WILEY: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) thanks the fire-fighters and Metro rescue workers who last night returned home after completing a rescue mission to the devastated regions of Japan;

(2) believes that their selfless and heroic actions are a lesson to us all; and

(3) wishes them well while they are recovering from this traumatic experience.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr M G E WILEY: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) extends its thanks and appreciation to the firefighters and members of the Metro rescue mission who have returned from their successful mission to the regions in Japan devastated by the earthquake and accompanying tsunamis;

(2) believes that their selfless and heroic actions are a lesson to all of us; and

(3) wishes them well while they are recovering from this traumatic experience.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ESPAFRIKA

(Motion)

†Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) congratulates espAFRIKA for hosting another successful Cape Town Jazz Festival, which provided entertainment to 34 000 music lovers; and

(2) applauds the organisers for once again ensuring that this province gains enormously from the festival, both economically and artistically, as many new young artists have had the privilege to receive exposure and gain experience through the festival.

[Motion as moved by member.]
Mr R B LENTIT: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) congratulates esp AFRIKA for hosting another very successful Cape Town Jazz Festival, which provided entertainment to 34 000 music lovers; and

(2) applauds the organisers for once again ensuring that the Western Cape gains enormously from this festival, both economically and artistically, as many new young artists have had the privilege to receive exposure and gain experience by taking part in and being part of this wonderful festival.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BAFANA BAFANA

(Motion)

†Mr ZC STALI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) congratulates Bafana Bafana on their victory against Egypt at the Ellis Park Stadium on Saturday, 26 March 2011; and

(2) conveys a special word of thanks to the Bafana striker, Katlego Mphela, who scored a goal in the last minute.

[Motion as moved by member.]
LATE LINGA MAFU
(Motion of condolence)

*Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House conveys its condolences to the family and loved ones of Linga Mafu, the 43-year-old head of the Ludwe Ngamlana Primary School in Khayelitsha, who was murdered in cold blood last Thursday at his home in Archer Street in Beacon Valley, Mitchell’s Plain.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Ms C LABUSCHAGNE: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House hereby wishes to convey its sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of Linga Mafu, the 43-year-old deputy principal of the Ludwe Ngamlana Primary School in Khayelitsha, who was murdered in cold blood in front of his house in Archer Street in Beacon Valley, Mitchells Plain, last Thursday, on 24 March 2011.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

THANKS TO MR THEUNS COETZEE
(Motion)

*Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) expresses its appreciation to Mr Theuns Coetzee of Robertson; and

(2) notes that final figures indicate that during the drought in Beaufort West, he arranged for five million litres of water to be delivered to Beaufort West from all over the country via tankers.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to Mr Theuns Coetzee of Bonnievale, who played an important role in organising the transportation of water from all parts of the country to the drought-stricken town of Beaufort-West while the inhabitants of this Karoo town have been suffering from the effects of the devastating drought; and

(2) notes with gratitude that, according to the final figures, five million litres of water reached Beaufort West in water tankers during that time because of the efforts of Mr Coetzee.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.
WISHING IKEYS SUPPORT AND STRENGTH
(Motion)

*Mr J J VISSER: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) promises its support to the rugby team of the University of Cape Town, this being the Ikeys, who is currently doing very well in the University Cup or, as it is now called, the “Varsity Cup”; and

(2) expresses the hope that they will keep the Western Cape flag flying high and win this cup.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr J J VISSER: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) lends its full support to the first rugby team of the University of Cape Town, the Ikeys, who are currently doing very well in the competition between the various South African universities, the “Varsity Cup”; and

(2) wishes the team of the Ikeys all of the best for the final in Pretoria on Monday, 11 April, and expresses the hope that they will keep the Western Cape flag flying high in this game against the Tuikies of Pretoria and will bring back the cup to Cape Town.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR JOHAN ELS AND ERIKA BEUKMAN
(Motion)

*Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House conveys its congratulations to the principal of Bonnievale High School, Mr Johan Els, and the editor of the school newspaper, Erika Beukman, whose paper was named the best online school newspaper in South Africa.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House conveys its congratulations to the principal of Bonnievale High School, Mr Johan Els, and to Erika Beukman, the editor of Voorwaarts, the school’s newspaper, which has been chosen as the best online school newspaper in the whole of South Africa.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.
CONGRATULATIONS TO SAFA
(Motion)

†Mr ZC STALI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) congratulates the South African Football Association on celebrating its 20th anniversary this year as a proud and dedicated association; and

(2) notes that there are a series of events lined up to commemorate the occasion.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr Z C STALI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) congratulates the South African Football Association (SAFA) on celebrating its 20th anniversary this year as a proud and dedicated association; and

(2) notes that there are a series of events lined up to commemorate this occasion in 2011.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

SALUTATION TO SMILE FOUNDATION
(Motion)

†Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) salutes the Smile Foundation, which has organised the 11-hour procedure to help an eight-year-old girl from Vredenburg;

(2) notes that the girl, who is a minor, has undergone facial surgery at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital; and

(3) conveys its thanks to the medical director and co-founder of the foundation, Prof George Psaras, who is said to be the only doctor in Africa performing the procedure known as free gracillis muscle transposition for facial reanimation.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:
That the House –

(1) salutes the Smile Foundation, which has organised the 11-hour chirurgical procedure to help an eight-year-old girl from Vredenburg;

(2) notes that the young girl has undergone facial surgery at the Red Cross Children’s Hospital in Cape Town; and

(3) conveys its gratitude and appreciation to the medical director and co-founder of the foundation, Professor George Psaras, who is said to be the only doctor in Africa performing the procedure known as free gracillis muscle transposition for facial reanimation.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]
Agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BENJAN BANTJIES

(Motion)

*Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the 18-year-old Benjan Bantjies of Happy Valley for receiving Springbok colours for angling for the second time.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the 18-year-old Benjan Bantjies of Happy Valley in Bonnievale on receiving Springbok colours for angling for the second time.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]
Agreed to.

SALUTATION TO SHOUT FOUNDATION

(Motion)

†Ms BG MBALO: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) salutes the Shout Foundation for donating R150 000 to two local charities at the KFM celebration in Franschhoek; and

(2) notes that the Saartjie Baartman Centre received R50 000 and the Sultan Bahu Drug Rehabilitation Centre R100 000.

[Motion as moved by member.]
Ms B G MBALO: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) salutes the Shout Foundation for donating R150 000 to two local charities at the K Day celebrations of KFM in Franschhoek; and

(2) notes with gratitude that the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children in Athlone received R50 000 and the Sultan Bahu Drug Rehabilitation Centre R100 000.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR JOHN KOSTER

(Motion)

*Ms A ROSSOUW: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House—

(1) congratulates Mr John Koster of the farm Klawervlei for being honoured as a breeder by the Horse Breeders Association; and

(2) notes that his yearling horse, One Sunday Morning, fetched the highest price at the recent Paarl Yearling auction.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Ms A ROSSOUW: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House –

(1) congratulates Mr John Koster of the farm Klawervlei in the district of Bonnievale on being honoured as a breeder by the Thoroughbred Breeders Association in South Africa; and

(2) notes that his one-year-old horse, One Sunday Morning, achieved the highest price in the recent national yearling sale.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.
CONGRATULATIONS TO PIERRE ALBERTYN, JOHAN BROODRYK AND HANSIE WOLFAARDT

(Motion)

*Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House conveys its congratulations to skipper Pierre Albertyn and to Johan Broodryk and Hansie Wolfaardt of Bonnievale, who came first in the catamaran division in the Cape to Rio yacht race.

[Motion as moved by member.]

Mr E H ELOFF: Mr Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House conveys its congratulations to skipper Pierre Albertyn and to Johan Broodryk and Hansie Wolfaardt, all hailing from Bonnievale, who came first in the catamaran division in the recent Cape to Rio Yacht Race.

[Motion as printed in Minutes.]

Agreed to.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B3—2011]

(Debate on Vote 9 — Environmental Affairs and Development Planning)

†The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Mr Speaker, provincial Cabinet colleagues, Members of the Provincial Legislature, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome and thank you for affording me the opportunity to address you in my capacity as your MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. [Interjections.]

Stephen Covey inspired my delivery this afternoon when he said:

We simply assume that the way we see things is the way they really are or the way they should be. And our attitudes and behaviours grow out of these assumptions.

Mr Speaker, during her Address Premier Helen Zille spoke of this province as the Western Cape of our dreams. This dream can only be realised through the advent of safety, individual opportunity and a growing economy that paves the way to prosperity. I believe that every individual, in wanting this dream to shape his or her own destiny by living a life truly valued, needs to be empowered by the promise of this administration.

Each individual contributes to the tapestry of our diverse communities. The dreams we have for ourselves today will be no different to those aspired to by our future generations and children. The Western Cape needs to be that context within which these dreams are fulfilled. As this administration progresses to a vision of an open opportunity society for all, it is my responsibility to ensure that the environment within which this promise must grow needs to be protected,
preserved and sustainably managed so as to allow the dreams of our future generations to become a reality.

A living environment where each child can feel safe, has access to basic health services and has the opportunity to be educated must not be an assumption of an ideal world; it needs to be an everyday reality that we see and experience. This is when we can expect our citizens to share in our Western Cape of dreams.

Mr Speaker, afford me the opportunity to engage your thoughts on a progressive recap. During my 2010 Budget Address I spoke of various deliverables that will come to pass under my leadership for the environmental portfolio.

Against a background of the advancement of service delivery for all the citizens of the Western Cape, this department has the stated objective of:

Mainstreaming Sustainability and Optimising Resource-use Efficiency (SO7)

The purpose of this strategic objective is to ensure that the provincial government integrates sustainability and resource-use efficiency into the activities and sphere of influence of all departments. Our vision is to advance the building of our province into dignified places which reflect energetic towns and settlements brimming with potential and realized shared economic growth.

Air Quality Management

The Western Cape Air Quality Management Plan was developed and is currently being implemented. I am proud to announce that the three working groups responsible for the implementation of this plan were established and that an Air Quality Officer’s Forum is held on a quarterly basis. Specific cases such as air quality management at saw mills and fish meal factories are closely monitored.

Ambient air quality is currently being monitored and reported on in Maitland, George, Malmesbury and Worcester, where ambient air quality monitoring stations are operational. Two additional fully equipped monitoring and research stations have now been procured enabling the expansion of the monitoring network to Oudtshoorn, Vissershok, Danabaai, Stellenbosch and St Helena Bay and we plan to have 13 such stations in the network by 2015.

The 1st State of Air Quality Management Report for the Western Cape was produced during the 2010-11 financial year. This is not only a first for the province, but was also a first for the country. This report provides an account of the State of Air Quality Management within the Western Cape and reports on the progress made with regards to implementing of the National Air Quality Act within the province during the period 2008 to 2010. This report will provide the public with a snap shot of progress made in managing and improving air quality within the province. A report on the State of Air Quality Management in the province will be published annually.

The 2010-11 financial year brought on a new era for atmospheric emissions licensing in the country and province, with municipalities and province becoming the licensing authorities.
This has not come without its challenges, and during the 2010-11 financial year, my department provided further training and support to municipalities in terms of implementing the Atmospheric Emissions Licensing (AEL) function. This relationship will continue in the 2011-12 financial year, with further training planned for municipalities to take on this task with enthusiasm and competence.

Waste Management

Mr Speaker, it is a statutory requirement for provinces and municipalities to develop integrated waste management plans. Such a plan is being finalised for the province. All great plans also need to be assessed and will be submitted to the national Minister for approval. A monitoring and evaluation tool was formulated and tested during pilot implementation with 10 municipalities. This tool is now managed to monitor and evaluate the integrated waste management plans for all 30 municipalities.

I also alluded to the need and urgency that immediate solutions must be found before waste management reaches a turning point in the province. We do take note of the municipalities who strive to make the necessary effort to elevate waste management within its jurisdictions.

Land-based Pollution Management

Mr Speaker, the Provincial Programme of Action is the first of its kind in South Africa towards managing pollution impacts at provincial level in order to achieve acceptable marine water quality through effective integrated government coordination, monitoring and rehabilitation programmes, guidelines and best management practices. Activities as identified in the Action Plan will be implemented during the 2011-12 financial year.

The mercury inventory which is to be finalised during the 2011-12 financial year will strengthen the information base required for developing and monitoring implementation of the Mercury Risk Management Plan. This will place the Western Cape at the forefront of managing mercury, and will be in line with any legally binding instrument to be developed at the global level.

Mr Speaker, I also addressed the House on the matter of the Atlantis Landfill site. Succeeding a High Court decision on 11 May 2010, this matter was referred to my office for reconsideration. I have requested that the City of Cape Town appoint an independent environmental assessment practitioner to compile a supplementary environmental impact report. This report will then be subject to a public participation process, after which time this matter can be afforded the necessary attention.

Renewable Energy

Mr Speaker, the White Paper on Sustainable Energy for the Western Cape Province was approved by provincial Cabinet during 2010 and promulgated in the Provincial Gazette on 20 September 2010. My department has subsequently drafted a draft Western Cape Sustainable Energy Bill which is in the final stages of development.
This Bill will outline a more sustainable energy mix for the Western Cape that will help address energy security, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, make the economy more competitive through energy efficiency and the promotion of the green energy economy and advance marginalised communities’ access to energy.

My department developed a Regional Environmental Assessment for the placement of wind farms in the Western Cape. The national Department of Environmental Affairs is currently undertaking a similar study and the two are in the process of being aligned. At present, according to the national Department of Environmental Affairs, they are assessing in excess of 70 wind farm applications and 60 PV applications. With the National Energy Regulator of South Africa still needing to provide clarity on the energy mix allocation for energy generated from renewable and with clarity still required on the national feed-in tariffs, there are likely to be significant delays for EIA approvals from the national Department of Environmental Affairs.

We continue to pursue the roll-out of solar water heaters in close association with local government bodies. We are actively working with partners to develop a financing model and payback scheme for the mass roll-out of solar water heaters to medium and high income homes and will continue to support municipalities in rolling out free solar water heaters to impoverished communities.

Last year the department installed 540 solar water heaters in a low income community of Darling. The residents who received these solar water heaters were, for the first time, experiencing the comfort of having warm water for various household activities. The project was implemented with financial assistance from international donors – the Danish Royal Government. Through the Darling installation, 15 new artisans were skilled and the new trainees participated in installing the 540 solar water heaters. Out of the 15, the service provider concluded a two-year contact with one of the trainees to maintain/service the solar water heaters.

Energy Efficiency

During the 2011-12 financial year, we will be creating a database to track and monitor the implementation of energy saving and efficiency programmes across the province. We are also in the process of developing a tool to help local governments understand their energy usage and potential ways in which they will be able to save energy or use renewable energy sources.

Sustainable living training was provided to the hospitality industry in 2010 – linked to the World Cup – through workshops, which were attended by approximately 500 people. We are actively working with other provincial departments to support improved energy efficiency in their functions.

Cape Nature

Mr Speaker, this public entity generates an estimated R15 million in tourism income. It is a catalyst and medium that provides access to the citizenry of the Western Cape, South Africa and indeed the world to enjoy the protected areas for leisure and outdoor activities while at the same time stimulating the local economy.
Mr Speaker, Cape Nature is the custodian of the water catchment areas in the province, and this team has the responsibility to maintain the sustainable integrity of the ecosystem services offered by these areas. Cape Nature recently received the national President’s Award from Wildlife Ranching SA for the newly established translocation policy. This translocation policy was the result of extensive negotiations between Cape Nature, farmers and agribusiness and is an example of government and business working together to find a common solution to introduce new species in the region which is known for its biodiversity and sensitive habitats but without placing more risk on the existing indigenous species.

Mr Speaker, a society defined by opportunity is a society in which its citizens enjoy employment opportunities. The implementation of Cape Nature operations stimulates employment opportunity and encourages skill development. An estimated 26 758 ha of alien vegetation have been cleared. These clearing operations increase the skills and equity of the local communities to render higher levels of service to agricultural and commercial levels. In concluding the third quarter 128 257 person days of work had been created.

Mr Speaker, I have provided you a glimpse of significant progress and milestones achieved under my leadership since assuming office. This progress would at all not have been possible without the dedication, commitment and determination of the very officials who join me in the House today. Permit me to also extend my sincere gratitude to the individuals who are an extension of these leaders. The progress to make the Western Cape of dreams a reality is because of you.

I have always maintained that the environmental and planning portfolio is a challenge. If anything, may I ask that from this delivery you take with you the following: It is imperative that we find the right balance between the environment and economic growth. This is the balance between food on the table and the inheritance of our children.

Mr Speaker, I spoke earlier of how we simply allow our assumptions to blind us to the reality of what should be as opposed to questioning that which can be. Prosperous people are people who are educated, healthy and safe, but most importantly to me people who live in a healthy environment within which these elements exist.

Mr Speaker, the department received an allocation of R351,2 million for the 2011-12 financial year, which is an increase of 16.53% on the revised estimate for the 2010-11 financial year. This amount is made up as follows: Equitable share, approximately R339,9 million; own revenue, R318 000; conditional grants, R6 million; and financing Cape Nature, R5 million. Included in the allocations of R351,2 million are earmarked priority allocations. Firstly, for the Built Environment Support Programme R8,5 million was allocated and, secondly, for Cape Nature an amount R28,9 million was allocated, which is made up as follows: Infrastructure upgrades amount to R25,9 million and policy priority IT governance, R2,985 million. If one subtracts the amounts of R192,2 million for Cape Nature from the total allocation which amounts to R351,2 million, the discretionary amount for the department is R159,06 million.
Mr Speaker, to summarise the allocations in terms of the economic classifications, the amounts are as follows: R121,2 million for compensation of employees, R34 million for goods and services, R850 000 for transfers and subsidies and R2,8 million for payments for capital assets. The budget for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning is aligned to the National Outcome 10, protect and enhance our environment assets and nature resources, as well as the Provincial Strategic Objective 7, mainstreaming, sustainability and optimised resource use efficiency.

Mr Speaker, it is an honour to serve the people of the Western Cape, but with this responsibility comes the task of decision-making. It is also no secret that I have received a wide range of critique regarding my decisions, and I have assured myself that this is only the beginning. This precarious situation has prompted me to ask the following of myself: What does it mean to do the right thing? It means measuring everything you do to justness, reasonableness and honesty. If your actions fulfil these expectations, then you're doing the right thing.

Environmental Crimes

Mr Speaker, our environment is under threat. The flattened sand dunes, illegal dumping of chemicals in rivers and on secluded land, the illegal storage and dumping of medical waste as well as the evidence that there is an increase in the number of illegal structures being erected, bear testament to this threat I speak of.

We administer legislation to protect the environment for an estimated 5,3 million people. In the 2009-10 financial year, the teams conducted 27 joint investigations in the Cape Town area and 8 in the George area.

In light of this, I am excited to announce that the first quarterly meeting for the Western Cape Environmental Crime Forum was held on 14 March 2011.

Contextual Planning

It is the aim of my department to produce constitutionally-based planning legislation – legislation that promotes economic growth while ensuring that past injustices are redressed and that our future generations are the recipients of a preserved environment. Legislation in its true sense can only be appreciated by our people when the efficacy of implementation by all relevant stakeholders have the same understanding of what outcome the legislation needs to bring about.

The legislation will bear testament to the ability and commitment of this administration to prioritise the policy matters that will build a Western Cape within which the socio-economic factors that influence growth are balanced with the imperative to protect and preserve our environment. Planning must be a well-informed process.

Climate Change Considerations and Planning

Mr Deputy Speaker, the impacts of rising sea levels and extreme events have potentially devastating implications for the planning and development of the coastal regions. This is exacerbated by the increased intensity and frequency of flooding and wind-generated storm surges, which must be proactively planned for.
Mr Deputy Speaker, these are the realities that cannot be ignored if we want to sustain our livelihoods. With due consideration to protect coastal public property, private property and public safety my department has commenced a project to develop coastal set-back lines for the shoreline of the Overberg District Municipality.

Effective Planning Challenged

Mr Deputy Speaker, planning the right way, in the interest of our people, essentially means that we must plan with due regard that communities need to have access to basic services. Cooperative governance must be underpinned by a consensual understanding of how to use legislation and the relevant tools to achieve just this.

My department’s DFU is committed to providing development facilitation services in order to mainstream sustainability development in municipalities and other organs of state. The team have committed to facilitating 24 internal and external capacity-building workshops during this financial year to address the human agency challenge in the different spheres of government.

I applaud the Spatial Planning Directorate and the Development Facilitation Unit in my department for their involvement in the Built Environment Support Programme (BESP) which was specifically launched, in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements, to strengthen the Spatial Development Frameworks (SDFs) and the Integrated Human Settlements Plans (IHSPs) as a crucial component of municipal IDPs.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the programme is now at the point where Round 3, involving an additional eight municipalities, needs to be initiated. I have instructed my department to obtain approval in this coming year to employ the open bidding process for the implementation of the Third Round of the BESP, while similarly addressing the remaining tasks identified in the Round 2 gap analysis. The intention is to align the Human Settlement Plans (HSPs) and SDFs with the third generation IDPs which are currently in preparation.

The municipalities involved in the Third Round – gap analysis – of the BESP are: Oudtshoorn, Beaufort West, Kannaland, Langeberg, Swellendam, Matzikama, Cederberg and Swartland.

Provincial Spatial Development Framework

During the new financial year the department will initiate the review of the PSDF in order to align the document with new policy developments in the national sphere.

The department commenced with the drafting of a provincial spatial plan as the first project to be embarked upon after approval of the PSD in 2009. The Spatial Plan will:

(a) build on the composite plan as contained in the PSDF;

(b) be of a more detailed scale in order to spatially reflect the biodiversity elements;
(c) spatially indicate capital investment of the other provincial departments as well as those national departments with regional offices in the Western Cape; and

(d) be an instrument for the Provincial Government of the Western Cape to ensure coordinated and sustainable investment in the province.

Growth Potential Study of Towns

Mr Deputy Speaker, the initial results of the review and update of the Growth Potential Study of Towns 2004, which commenced in early 2010, did not reveal any unexpected results. The study is not completed yet due to the request from Cabinet to go ahead with a second phase in order to identify the cross-boundary geographical relationships between settlements and how it would impact on development potential and social needs and look at: What types of interventions are needed to stimulate growth and reduce social needs; what are the potential roles of government sectors in implementing interventions and what is the potential role of the private sector and civil society in implementing interventions.

Biosphere Reserve Programme

During this financial year, the department as well as the Western Cape have reached two milestones. The Western Cape Biosphere Reserves Bill was introduced in the Provincial Parliament on 9 March 2011. When it becomes legislation, the Western Cape and South Africa would become the first country in the world to have adopted specific legislation in terms of which biosphere reserves would be regulated.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the second milestone which was reached was the submission on 15 March 2011 of the Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve application to UNESCO, via the Department of Environmental Affairs, for designation as a biosphere reserve in terms of the Man and Biosphere Programme. If all goes well with this nomination process the Western Cape could, by the end of 2011, welcome the fourth biosphere reserve, after the Kogelberg, Cape West Coast and the Cape Winelands, in its midst.

Legislative Progress – Waste Management

Mr Deputy Speaker, on the acceptance of new legislation it is inevitable that cascading responsibilities will be allocated to provincial administrations. On 6 December 2010, the Premier assented to the Western Cape Health Care Waste Management Amendment Act. This legislative framework has been a progressive project managed by my department. During this financial year, the team leading this milestone will finalise and obtain approval of the draft healthcare waste regulations.

Water Resource Management

Mr Deputy Speaker, our socio-economic activities continue to exacerbate the effects of climate change. My primary concern is the urgent need for us to adapt the manner in which we conduct our day-to-day business. What we do today will have significant implications for the environment within which we want future generations to enjoy the Western Cape of dreams. Water is a basic human right but, more importantly, it is also a responsibility.
The need for joint provincial and national action towards managing the province’s water resources has led to the kick-off of the development of an Integrated Water Resource Management Action Plan for the Western Cape which will be fully functional during this financial year. During the 2010-11 financial year, the status quo on water resource management in the province was identified. The next phase, due in the 2011-12 financial year, will culminate in the Integrated Water Resource Management Action Plan for this province. This plan will pave the way for guiding activities towards meeting the growth and development needs of the region, as well as to protect water resources from environmental degradation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, finally, I have something that I have been wanting to look at very seriously, and that is how are we going to start moving our efforts away from the so-called red tape to red carpet in terms of a wide range of approvals issued by government. We are at a crossroads where we must ask ourselves how we as Government reclaim the high ground in this process. Have we not reached the stage where applications for certain approvals become “time tested”? This quite simply put means that if certain decisions are not made within a prescribed time frame the approval is automatic. We as government have a contributory role to play in all spheres, and let’s commit ourselves to reducing unnecessary time wasting delays.

In closing, may I express my sincere thanks and appreciation towards the Head of Department, Marius du Randt, and his team for their ongoing support and services which is quite invaluable. To the Acting Head of Department, Mr Theo Gildenhuys, and his team of dedicated and focused officials, … [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Order, hon McKenzie! Order!

†The MINISTER: Everything went well till McKenzie came back. [Interjections.]

Mr Deputy Speaker, to the Acting Head of Department, Mr Theo Gildenhuys, and his team of dedicated and focused officials also a very big thank you for their sterling efforts in serving the people of our province.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are all custodians of our natural and built environment and it’s a role we should be proud of and cherish. We need to understand and realise that we are all endeavouring to reach the same dream in the Western Cape. We are very privileged to live in a region with such wonderful people and such natural beauty, and the time for joining hands in the pursuit of this dream is now. I would like to issue a challenge here today to all to take ownership of this dream, and let’s do it together. [Applause.]

†Ms PW CUPIDO: Mr Deputy Speaker, the ACDP welcomes the increase of R50 million from the previous to the current financial year in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development planning.

The Western Cape, as several other provinces, is still suffering the consequences of climate change. This Government needs to plan proactively to conditions of floods, droughts and energy and other environmental challenges. This budget needs to take into consideration the environmental history of disasters of this province.
The ACDP supports Vote 9 and trusts that the Minister and his department’s objectives and target-setting will ensure that the trauma of disasters and energy be minimised as far as possible.

†Mr MC WALTERS: Mr Deputy Speaker, it is with pleasure that I wish to comment on the Vote 9 submission as presented by the department in the Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure. I also wish to congratulate the Minister on his comprehensive introduction to this debate and the setting out of the objectives and aims of the department into the future.

This department, with a limited budget of only R152,924 million after the subtraction of the budget of Cape Nature of R198,338 million, carries a huge responsibility. It is necessary to critically examine its functions and responsibilities, which encompass complex processes which have many interfaces with both the local and national spheres of government. While the standing committee was satisfied with the planned deployment of their budget in accordance with their annual performance plan, there remains the impression that constraints of staffing and budget are limiting the scope and impact of their interventions.

The Western Cape is an extremely sensitive environment, housing very precious natural resources of biodiversity, scenic beauty and valuable heritage offerings. This environment is exposed to many threats and challenges involving development which, if not guided, could lead to inappropriate siting, deleterious environmental impacts, and landscape impacts affecting tourism and vulnerability to fires, landslides and flooding.

The plethora of legislation from national through to local level which pertains to planning needs to be rationalised as the mixed lines of authority and the involvement of different spheres of government from local to national often lead to drawn-out processes which do not reach a satisfactory conclusion. For example, the Department of Environmental Affairs at national level, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning at provincial level, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and Forestry at national level, our local Department of Agriculture in the province and municipalities all interact within the same space.

Communities and individuals are faced with major problems of dune movement and coastal erosion which threaten houses and businesses, often the major investments the owners will make during their lifetimes. Dune envelopment of houses at Pringle Bay and Betty’s Bay and coastal erosion at Struis Bay are among the problems for which solutions have not yet been found. Solutions found locally will certainly find application along the full length of the South African coastline.

Attempts to protect one’s property inevitably contravene one or other clauses of national, provincial or even municipal legislation. Officials at various levels will not commit themselves to offering solutions, and it has become increasingly clear that there is a very urgent need for an intersectoral one-shop stop where property owners who developed their properties under previous legislation and suffer from the environmental consequences thereof are prevented from protecting their properties by subsequent legislation.
Owners of houses subject to dune envelopment are prevented from moving the sand to other areas or back to the beaches from which it emanated by being confronted with legislative barriers or the requirement for time-consuming and expensive EIAs. It appears essential for these and related problems to be addressed by clear guidelines established by the authorities and entities concerned in collaboration with each other, and which will allow homeowners to protect their properties without individual recourse to EIAs being demanded of them.

Solutions for coastal erosion problems are certainly not available, and it appears essential that the department commission a study by a competent oceanographer to study sand movement along beaches and identify factors or structures such as harbour walls which can be responsible for disruption of natural coast replenishment processes. Without viable programmes for coastal stabilisation exponential expansion of existing problems and proliferation of new occurrences will occur.

Another coastal process which does not seem to show progress and requires intersphere negotiation is the maintenance and even the expansion of marine protection areas which appear to be essential to the protection of marine biodiversity and their role as refugia in which sought-after species can breed freely and replenish other areas where fish stocks are seriously threatened.

The standing committee is also concerned at the increasing threat that invasive alien plant species pose to the unique biodiversity of the Western Cape. While containing these dense infestations over many thousands of hectares does provide job opportunities in clearing projects, indigenous biodiversity recovers extremely slowly while elsewhere the spread continues. While the introduction of biological control agents from the home environments of invasive plants has constrained the spread of major alien species, new additions to the list of alien species, now confined to sometimes very small areas where they can be eradicated, are set to spread far wider and undo the good work that is being done with other invasives. It is imperative that the department’s entity, Cape Nature, creates a specialist team dedicated to eradicating incipient invasive species while it is still possible. At present, such species are flourishing under the lack of attention they currently receive. Budget availability is the reason, but inaction now will lead to immense costs in future when large areas are occupied.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the budget for Cape Nature in terms of the allocation from the department, although effectively deployed, is inadequate to cover all the demands of managing and conserving the unique biodiversity of the Western Cape. The strategy of extending this conservation reach by recruiting private landowners to the conservation cause – and the Minister has referred to that – has been successful and a credit to both Cape Nature and those private landowners.

The recruiting of external income through the marketing of the reserves as destinations for ecotourism and the creation of top class tourism facilities through public/private partnerships is to be commended, as well as the expansion thereof. The Board of Cape Nature consists of members equipped with the necessary biodiversity knowledge, business and management skills to expand this programme and further augment the funds of this key entity.
Their youth-focused programmes – and I think Minister Meyer can also take cognisance of that – could find advantageous interaction with the related programmes of departments such as Community Safety and of Culture and Sport, and this should be sought. Linkages to the new Economic Development entity could also prove advantageous and should be developed.

We are satisfied that the department and Cape Nature are pursuing their respective mandates assiduously. Through the guiding of local governments in marrying their planning programmes to the environmental dictates of sustainability through renewable energy initiatives, spatial development frameworks and targeted training they fulfill a crucial role. In articulating the sometimes confusing complexity of environmental laws they must expand their role in advising communities and municipalities on how they can satisfy their needs and solve their problems while remaining within the law.

While appreciative of the contribution of the department and Cape Nature in executing their mandates, we were concerned at the delays in filling vacancies at management level due to funding constraints and similar constraints delaying the full roll-out of the Air Quality Monitoring Station Network. The Minister has expanded on that comprehensively. It is trusted that these shortcomings will be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

The Department and Cape Nature are custodians of one of the most unique environments on the face of the earth. We live in the Western Cape and this sometimes escapes us. A unique heritage of human settlement dating back thousands of years must be preserved, while the patterns and nature of new developments must be compatible with that which is valuable in the old. These, in turn, must not impact in a negative way on the unique concentration of endangered biodiversity which distinguishes the Western Cape from every other region on earth. Unesco has underlined this special status in the granting of biosphere status to local centres of biodiversity. This has led to the formulation of biosphere legislation, a world first for the Western Cape. This department and Cape Nature thus not only have an administrative obligation but also a moral obligation to ensure that this heritage can be enjoyed by future generations and that its resources can also play a role globally.

The Minister and his dedicated staff deserve our continued and increased support. Once the resources they are mandated to protect are gone, they are gone forever. The budget is to be recommended.

*Ms J A VAN ZYL: Mr Deputy Speaker, the three disasters that hit Japan recently has caused the whole world to view alternative power sources in a new light. I have repeatedly in this council chamber enunciated Cope’s position that we should look at other energy sources, such as solar power, wind power and energy from waves along our long coastline.

We need a summit so that the Western Cape’s universities and other experts with international funds can unlock wave power economically. Other provinces could follow and thereby bring relief to the existing power networks.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Koeberg nuclear power station is built on a fault line and several mild earthquakes have occurred in the greater Cape Town area since the 1700s.
In an article in *Die Burger*, the chances of implosions such as those that occurred in Fukushima were watered down quite substantially, but the fact remains that it can happen – with catastrophic consequences. In the full knowledge of what dangers nuclear explosions or radiation pose to life on Earth, plans to construct a nuclear power plant on Bantamsklip have been approved. Bantamsklip is located 5 km from Pearly Beach and 3 km from Buffelsjags Bay.

This is indeed a national project, but did the hon Minister record his objection against its construction, viewed in light of cheaper renewable green energy that is available in the Western Cape and thereby endorse his own plan for sustainable and green energy – a plan that is underway? Nobody can predict the date and time of a natural disaster, but humanscan limit the consequences.

Water is a vital necessity for people and animals. The Western Cape’s water resources are not well managed. Raw sewage, chemical waste, household waste, dead animals, tyres etc are dumped in our rivers on a daily basis and this is not purposefully addressed. A vicious cycle then ensues – unemployed, hungry people pick up the dead fish in polluted rivers and eat it, ending up in overcrowded clinics and hospitals. The budget does indeed address the water crisis, but only effective application and stricter legislation will ensure that future generations will still have clean drinking water.

Staff shortages are indeed addressed and it is encouraging to see that vacancies are being filled, but it is still worrying that there still remain critical key positions to be filled.

Then we just want to say thank you to the Minister for these nice packages that landed on our tables and their contents. We see that the Minister definitely supports green and we hope it’s green energy.

Cope supports this Budget.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Deputy Speaker, thanks to the department and Cape Nature for the work they’re doing. Let me also again send my regards to the HOD. I hope that he gets better and joins us soon. I also thank the acting HOD for the work that’s being done in the department. [Interjections.] I must say you’re right, because there has been a bit of a change in attitude about information, and that really helps in the process.

Welcome to the guests of the hon MEC. You weren’t here – I think we started earlier – when he started his speech, so he wasn’t able to welcome you. On his behalf I welcome you. [Interjections.] Oh, I can’t see those ones, I’m sorry. I don’t play to the gallery, as you know. [Interjections.]

Let me first deal with some issues that have come up in the House about environment, which need a response. For instance, the hon Wiley made a scathing and completely unjustified attack on the South African National Parks on the issue of pine trees last week. Let me start off by saying that I was surprised. I asked the hon Wiley what he’s got against fynbos, because it comes down to that.
The law which governs the national parks, the Protected Areas Act, which also, by the way, governs our parks, starts off by saying that the aim of the Act is to provide for the protection and conservation of ecologically viable areas, representative of South Africa’s biological diversity – note South Africa’s biological diversity – and its natural landscapes and seascapes. That is the role of National Parks, and by no...

... part of the biological diversity of Canada, the US, Switzerland, Norway, Finland and Russia, and many other countries. Of course, those are the countries that the hon Wiley seems to pay allegiance to, and not South Africa, whereas our government is obliged to look after our biological diversity. However, the hon Wiley is even more disingenuous, because those pine trees weren’t planted for picnic spots. They weren’t planted for shade. Those pine trees were planted as part of a commercial plantation to make money for the people who planted it.

All those pine trees are part of commercial plantations, and they have been growing there for 30 to 40 years and they are now mature. It is now the time that those who invested in those pine trees should chop them down and realise the investment that they made on the pine trees. Once they are chopped down, they are gone and they would’ve gone, no matter who was in charge of National Parks, including the Table Mountain National Park.

Of course, they cannot be replaced by new pine trees, because it goes against the law. The law says that we must conserve South Africa’s biodiversity, which means that we must plant yellow-wood, red els and stamper-wood. [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

†Mr M OZINSKY: They won’t cut down yellow-wood, and if you have proof ...

[Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Hon Wiley, can you stop the running commentary, please?

†Mr M OZINSKY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. If you have proof, then I would suggest that you table the proof that the yellow-wood are chopped down, because it is illegal to chop down yellow-wood without permission. That would be committing an act, and I don’t think, hon Wiley, that you can seriously say that the South African National Parks is consciously committing acts against the law of this country.

Of course, we continue to raise the question: Where does your mind stay? Is it in Finland, Canada and the US, or is it in Cape Town, because we live in Cape Town? Here your ancestors and my ancestors chopped down the natural biodiversity. [Interjections.] It might take 100 years. In fact, you and I know it will take 400, 500 years before those forests are restored to where they should be, but we are prepared to wait 400, 500 years to see those beautiful trees – not just one tree, but various varieties of trees – growing together with a carpet of vegetation living under them, because we value what is South African, not what is Finish, Swedish, Swiss and US. [Interjections.] That is the most important point that you’ve disappointed us on. [Interjections.]
Now we come to the Budget Speech, as the hon member has said. Let me say, Mr Deputy Speaker, that I’m shocked that the report of the committee is not even tabled here today. It’s not on the Table, as is parliamentary, because we actually should be discussing the report of the committee. I’m struggling to find the report of that committee, because I know that the draft report was changed. I thank the members for listening to the points we raised, and changing the report, but we don’t have the final report. I must say that that creates a slight problem with regard to what we’ve been discussing.

Let me also say that I welcome the change in attitude from the department and the hon MEC. Hon MEC, we had a fight last year. You know that I felt it was wrong of you to personally attack me in that fight, and I will finally finish that issue in public, but I think we must leave the personal attacks aside. I think we both know what the problems in planning are. We’ve both been raising that. Other members of the House have been raising those matters also for years and years. The thing is that there’s been consensus in the House on those matters.

To be honest, the problem has been in government, both the ANC government and the DA government, because they didn’t do what the House said should be done 12 years ago. When I raised those issues I was trying to correct you, and I didn’t expect a personal attack. I’m not going to respond here on the personal issues, but let me say that I welcome the presentation that Prof De Visser made a few weeks ago to the committee because it showed a completely different attitude. It directly addressed the issues that the committee and I have been raising and, let me say, the issues that have been raised in the House since I first came here in 1999 with the hon Winde, who also raised the same issues about the problems with LUPO and the need to move urgently to implement the legislation that was passed by the House but has not been implemented since it was passed in 1999, which is 12 years ago.

Let me say that, in terms of the content that is being raised about the constitutional issues, the divisions between the province and the municipalities, where Prof De Visser and the department seem to be taking us is in the right direction, but those happened to be the same things that were raised in 2001. I really regret the length of time.

Let me thank you, hon MEC, for telling the committee that you’re giving the department two months to resolve the draft legislation, even though they wanted three months. They wanted three months and you said you would only give them two months. Let me say that we support that urgency and we look very forward to getting the legislation and engaging with the public on that legislation, given the very, very severe issues we’re facing with regard to planning in the province. It really does seem that we’re facing issues from all sides – the sea, the sand dunes, the mountains, the fires and the rivers.

In this morning’s newspaper there’s a picture of a house which unfortunately was built right next to a river at, I must say, one of the most unspoilt spots in this province – a surprisingly unspoilt spot, because it’s one of the few river mouths where you don’t have hundreds of massive houses looking out on the river mouth, where you can still walk for kilometres and kilometres on the mud flats and see the way it is, etc. I’m very glad that that action has been taken, and I hope that more action will be taken.
I hope that not only action will be taken, but that you will advertise what you have done as a warning to others that they might spend R5 million on a house, but the danger is that they might have to dismantle that R5 million house because it’s illegal. I want to say that we agree with the urgency of the need for this legislation, and we’re looking forward to engaging on that and obviously hearing from the municipalities on this matter.

Let me also say that there were some other issues that came up in the discussion of the Budget with the department. One of the issues that was raised by the department – and I think this affects all departments – was the modernisation programme and the effect of the modernisation programme on the department. The department did report that with regard to risk management they’re getting a better service from the Premier’s Office, and we’re glad to hear that. It’s about time. However, they also reported that there were still problems with HR. I think that while this is not a matter that is only found in this department, it is a matter that the House needs to be seized with and continue to discuss.

Let me say also that a large change in the budget comes from the OSD and the implementation of the OSD, and we welcome that. We hope that the department will also be able to sort things out. If there are any problems with categories of staff members with special skills who are not covered by the OSD, they will find a way to ensure that they’re all covered because the intention is to maintain all skills, not only in specific areas. If the way that it has been planned for implementation is not what’s required, then I’m sure that the national ANC government would be open to listen to those issues about other areas that need to be covered.

Let me also raise the issue of fines and the department’s income. I think this is also a general problem in the whole government and it’s something that needs to be looked at. We can’t only rely on the money that comes from National. We’ve never said that this is ANC money. What we are saying is that it’s an ANC government which could decide to send that money in all kinds of directions, decide to send it to this province, and we must be eternally grateful for that because other governments might not do that. They would not do that. It does say something about the party that’s in power nationally when such things are done. [Interjections.] No, it’s not only a constitutional issue because, firstly, I remind you that at times our party has a majority that allows it to change the Constitution and the decision that we don’t change the Constitution.

Let me remind you that the way in which the equitable share was worked out this year was changed, and that’s also a policy decision. It’s not just a legal decision; it’s a policy decision implemented by a political party which has to take the national interest into account, not only the Secretariat and provincial interest, which the ruling party in the House takes into account.

When we talk about national interests, I think that I must raise my concern on the issue of Cape Nature and, in particular, what is happening to, what seems to me, a conscious strategy of ‘whitetifying’ Cape Nature and its board. The board of Cape Nature is meant to consist of 12 members. Currently, there are only nine members. Let me say that of those nine members, only two are women and four are black. In other words, a minority of them are black, and by black I mean what was previously defined as coloured, African and Indian. [Interjections.]
No appointment has been made yet legally, and when it does come, you will be insisting on a debate on that matter and we will expose what I’m raising here. Even though only two of the nine are women and four of the nine are black, the next appointment that the DA wants to make is of another white male. [Interjections.] That’s even though the committee has previously discussed appointments to the Cape Nature board and agreed that the next appointment should not be a white male and that we need to look at the issues of women and black people. When the DA was requested not to make an appointment because of the effect of what I’m raising here, then they consciously went ahead and overruled the hon Prins and myself and made the suggestion. I note, because I follow the ATC, that that has not been brought to the House yet.

I hope, Chief Whip of the Opposition, that we will debate this issue when that recommendation is brought to the House. I am sure that in the election campaign I will be raising this issue as much as I can, especially in those areas bordering on Cape Nature reserves, because I think it is completely the wrong message that we are sending out. I hope, MEC, that you will look carefully at this issue and go and discuss it in your party caucus and really raise the concern that people in this province must have where you have a white dominated board, a male dominated board and you make it more white dominated and more male dominated. [Interjections.]

Let me say that I’m frightened, hon colleague. Hon McKenzie, what I’m frightened about is that we have seen now what the appointments are that have been made to the board over the last year and the appointment that is being forced through now. I think there is a danger, because the CEO of Cape Nature, who has done so much to transform Cape Nature from what it was when she was appointed and has conducted herself in an exemplary manner—and I want to thank you for the work that you’ve done—is leaving in a few months’ time. Then the danger bells start ringing, because who will be appointed to replace her? Are we again looking at another white male to complete the whitification process that started in the standing committee? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M OZINSKY: Let me also remind hon members, and the hon MEC in particular, that unfortunately in the press in the last while there was an attack on black senior staff members of Cape Nature management and that the MEC and the department have been absolutely silent on these attacks. [Interjections.] And the DA has been silent on these attacks.

I want to remind the House and the citizens of the province that unfortunately also when the ANC was in charge there was a case when I think, if I’m right, three, four or five senior white managers in Cape Nature were accused of abusing their credit cards to the value each of close to R100 000. The total amount was a few hundred thousand rands. They all happened to be white, and they were all taken to a disciplinary hearing. Because I’ve spoken to people who were involved in that process, I have many doubts about that process. Unfortunately, it took place under an ANC MEC. They were found not guilty, and the very people who have been involved in Cape Nature just before that are now raising this issue, attacking black staff members in a way which seems to me that there is a vendetta that is being played out. We need to be very careful of this issue in Cape Nature. I don’t want to recognise these issues. [Time expired.]
*Mr J J VISSER: Mr Deputy Speaker, …[Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Please proceed, hon Visser.

*Mr J J VISSER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. According to Dr Jo Barnes of the Department of Community Health at the University of Stellenbosch, we are using rivers for sewer lines. We don't have pathways of infection – we have super highways of infection.

A serious warning is that the capacity of 80% of sewage works in South Africa is overloaded. This arose after many Capetonians complained about the bad smell from the Athlone sewage works a few months ago, where problems were being experienced with rotting sewage in the nearby Black River.

Dr Barnes said no differentiation is being made between sewage, storm water and solid waste. Everything is contaminated with sewage and everything is part of what ends up in the storm water drains. The lowest point to which the contaminated water flows are rivers. The Eerste River is already polluted when it arrives at Cape Town's boundaries, but the city's polluted rivers are largely in the urban areas. The biggest source of sewage into the river system is the sewage system itself, not just the sewage works, but sewers and drains that are chronically overflowing. If a drain overflows, the sewage flows into the storm water drains and out to the river.

Mr Deputy Speaker, we, the community, are the biggest polluters of all. Everyone contributes to pollution through the use of detergents and softeners with high phosphate counts. In South Africa there is no limit to the phosphorus content of detergents. It is no good we try and clean the rivers afterwards. Every drop of chemical detergent that a household uses is a heavy burden on sewage works.

According to the Cape Town City Council's latest environmental report that was published in September 2010, the largest source of pollution of the City's freshwater systems is waste water that is not adequately treated, sewage systems and pump stations that overflow and contaminated storm water. Human waste that lands in rivers in informal settlements and also polluted effluent contribute to the poor condition of the rivers. In developed areas, oil, petrol and diesel end up in the storm water from roads and paved areas. Fertilizer from gardens, sports fields and golf courses, general dirt and waste from pets also land in it.

Barnes pointed out that an audit on 449 of the 852 municipal water treatment plants showed that only 8% meet the minimum legal requirements. The reason why 40% of sewage works are almost non-functional is because almost no maintenance work has been done over the past 15 years. Sewage works have not been extended for a growing population, and there are people who simply have no knowledge of water treatment working at sewage works.

†Human beings can only be healthy in a healthy environment. We cannot isolate ourselves from the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the dwellings and landscapes we inhabit. Environmental damage almost always hits those living in poverty the hardest. The overwhelming majority of those who die from air and water pollution are poor people living in underdeveloped areas, the so-called settlements, or in developing countries. [Interjections.]
The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JJ VISser: All over the world poor people generally live nearest to dirty factories, busy roads and waste dumps. When this downward spiral becomes extreme, poor people are forced into marginal land and fragile ecosystems in ever-increasing numbers. Thus it is important for decision-makers to realise that the time to act to alleviate environmental damage is now, before it is too late.

Increased environmental degradation brings with it an increase in vulnerability, not only for water and sanitation systems, but also for the physical environment in general. Both at the local level where soil erosion or deforestation of slopes increases the frequency of landslides and at the global level where climate change causes more frequent and more severe floods, hurricanes and drought, environmental degradation increases the vulnerability of water and sanitation systems exposed to an ever-increasing number of hazards.[Interjections.] Am I speaking too loftily for you?

*Mr P C MCKENZIE: Yes …[Inaudible.]

†Mr J J VISser: In light of the expected dry conditions accompanying climate change, this becomes even more serious. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! You should also stop the running commentary, please.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: But he asked me a question, Mr Deputy Speaker.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, you are not allowed to answer questions. [Laughter.] You may proceed, hon Visser.

†Mr JJ VISser: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This pollution originates from two major sources – informal settlements with inadequate sanitation services and the ageing and rundown infrastructure and poor maintenance in most towns resulting in leaking sewers and overflowing sewage treatment works. All this pollution spreads disease in an already unhealthy population.

Mr Deputy Speaker, let us address the problems associated with greywater re-use. If large amounts of household greywater are used for garden irrigation, then much less water will flow out of those properties via the municipal sewerage system. Such diminished flows can result in insufficient sewer flows to carry waste to the sewerage treatment plant.

Another concern is that with increased use of greywater, less effluent water will be available for treatment, resulting in less reclaimed water for municipal uses and often water uses downstream along the river receiving the treated effluent. For example, in summer – the main irrigation season in the Boland – the flow in the Eerste River downstream of the Stellenbosch sewage treatment works consists of almost 85% treated effluent. If this flow is greatly diminished, downstream users have far less water for their crops and the river has too little for its own ecological survival.

Irrigation by means of wastewater pose especially large risks in the case of foodstuffs that are consumed raw or lightly cooked such as salad ingredients, lettuce, carrots, etc. as well as fruit eaten fresh.
If such foodstuffs come into contact with contaminated water the burden of disease-causing organisms will be highest. It is recommended that greywater is used only in irrigation methods under the soil surface or delivered under a mulch cover. Even so, the soil can become contaminated and the contamination can spread to the crop via dust or via gardeners’ hands, especially worm eggs ten to lodge under fingernails. Workers in such gardens need to be meticulous in their personal hygiene, hand washing, etc. and wear protective gloves, if possible.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Are we getting a lecture?

*Mr J J VISSER: You would not know, because you don’t have a garden in which to work.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Are we getting a lecture?

†Mr J J VISSER: There is an urgent need for research into the actual wastewater quality produced by various types of urban communities in South Africa and the risks posed by such water. This includes potential pathogens and other compounds impacting on health. The regular monitoring of such disease-causing constituents in wastewater runoff is very infrequent and present, except in a few cases, in large cities. This means that opinions expressed about the sustainability of greywater re-use do not rest on actual assessments of real risk.

The short-term benefits of using treated effluent water for irrigation of edibles and fodder crops should be carefully weighed up against the potential high health and environmental costs of such use. It can safely be said that in the present situation of uncertainty regarding exactly what greywater originating from various types of communities contain most re-use projects should not include irrigation of fruits and vegetables eaten with minimal processing or fodder crops consumed by animals for slaughter.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is no untreated or minimally treated greywater that is risk free. All such sources of water contain harmful disease-causing organisms and have the potential to make people ill. It is only the concentration of such organisms that varies for different sources of such water. The risk of using such waste when there is a serious drought should be weighed up against the crisis of poor hygiene and hunger. In informal settlements the wastewater is particularly contaminated across the different waste streams, while the inhabitants in such communities suffer the most from malnutrition and contaminant infections that weaken the immune system, for example, TB and HIV/AIDS.

The burden of disease caused by contaminated water has been seriously under-investigated and thus underestimated in South Africa. The connection between the source of the outbreak and the eventual sufferers are almost never investigated. The health services are bearing a disproportionate burden in coping with the cases of illness and death.

*Mr Deputy Speaker, the Eerste River at Stellenbosch is in a terrible state, but something is nevertheless being done about it. Councillor Cyril Jooste, Executive Mayor of Stellenbosch Municipality, recently said the following at a municipal council meeting. He admitted that he is unhappy with the state of in particular the Eerste, Krom and Plankenburg Rivers. He made it clear that the municipality must commit to cleaning the rivers.
Keeping the rivers clean has long been a problem, because the proposed plans are not feasible or sustainable. The problem has been looked at more intensively over the past three years and plans have been drawn up to ensure that cleaning of the rivers can be carried out on a sustainable basis.

The Adopt-a-River programme is one such project and was recently discussed at a mayoral meeting. This program involves different stakeholders who work together to better manage the rivers. Participants are divided into five project schemes, consisting of monitoring and evaluation, awareness, educational projects, security and finance. This ensured that all aspects concerning the rivers are constantly kept in mind.

An operational team will also regularly give feedback to a council consisting of members from the Departments of Water Affairs, Forestry and Environmental Affairs. Cleaning work has already started on certain parts of the Eerste River. Factors such as homelss people, sewage works and industry have a major effect on the pollution of the town’s rivers. Cleaning a river comprises removing all litter in the water and on the river banks. Mess left behind by homeless people is cleaned up and trees are also being felled to make the environment safer.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a great responsibility rests on each of us. We cannot simply ignore contamination of rivers or say it is the responsibility of the municipality or of Water Affairs. We all need to get involved and make sure that we combat our pollution at all levels. Organising cleaning actions as groups from the community is only a starting point.

†The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order![Interjections.]Order![Interjections.]Order, hon members! You are also wasting time now.[Interjections.]You are wasting time, because I'm waiting. I want to allow the hon Minister to reply. Over to you, hon Minister Bredell.

*The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Mr Deputy Speaker, the hon Cupid is not here, so I don’t think there is any sense in trying to answer her.

To the hon Walters, thank you. Thank you to the chairperson of the standing committee. I also want to thank the standing committee for their cooperation. These are sensitive issues that we are raising and we are still going to bump our heads many more times, but thank you that we always have this open debate and that we can talk. I know the dunes, the coastal erosion etc is of great importance to them.

One of the first debates was on climate change, almost two years ago now. The hon Ozinsky stated at the time that many of these climate change issues don’t concern climate change, but rather poor planning. We can reflect upon that, and I agree one hundred per cent with you that many of these problems that we are sitting with today are due to poor planning, not that I'm saying there is poor planning. I know the whole climate change issue is a big debate, but we have to acknowledge that many of these problems could have been prevented if there had been better planning.

Regarding coastal erosion, we are engaged in discussions with the municipalities, especially those who are affected, but it remains a municipal function.
Much of this problem originated in an era when we did not yet have the science to prove to us what poor planning was and what its consequences would be. It’s almost pre-1961, which is why we are sitting with the problems we are trying to rectify today, but we are paying attention to it.

In my speech I touched on invasive plants. You can see the work Cape Nature is doing, the areas we have cleaned and the number of man hours that we have created. You are entirely correct, but it is a continuous process. It is a process that will never stop, and we must just never give up hope.

I support youth programmes and I know the current CEO of Cape Nature is passionate about the youth. We are aware of the role the youth will play in the future and of the value of marketing. We need to market nature to the youth. I know there are people who do not fully agree with us and share in our passion, but I think that each department should have its own youth development, because every department has the responsibility... [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon Minister! Members, please switch off your cell phones. Over to you, hon Minister.

*The MINISTER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I think every department is nevertheless responsible for sharing the area they represent with the youth and to create that passion for the future.

To the hon Van Zyl, regarding what you quoted, we are looking at amending the zoning schemes and making provision for the whole wind and solar energy item, but we must therefore also be fair towards each other. This has been debated so many times in this House, and the main problem is the “tap and tariffs” and the "power purchase agreement". We have been discussing this for a very long time, in a debate, and we are participating in national programmes; and just a week and a half or two weeks ago they suddenly hit us with the reduction of the purchase price for “renewable” energy. This is going to be catastrophic for the industry, because major industries will simply withdraw. The Western Cape is ready. We have the wind. We have the sun. Our processes are in place and we have a GIS with which we can show you where wind placement should be. We are just waiting for legislation to change, and that is why I quoted it in my speech and did not create any expectations, by honestly telling you that there can still be many long delays because national is not ready. It’s a passion we share with you, and it is something we should not discuss in a political arena, but should place in the field because I think it’s important for the future. It is the oil of the future. I think there is tremendous job creation in it for our province.

As for disasters, disasters can occur in any area. I think the best way to make provision for something like that is planning and putting energy into it, buying the right equipment in good time and training people. These days it is a profession and it must be a professional service. In the Western Cape, the greatest danger is that we will be struck by either fire or by water. Those are the two disasters that will probably hit us. We’ll just have to put the necessary energy into that.

As for the fact that water is not managed well, I don’t agree with you. There are enormous challenges, but that’s why I spoke of different projects. I will also get to the hon Visser in a short while to address the water issue in greater detail, or perhaps we might as well do it now.
We need only look at the Green Drop Report and the Blue Drop Report that were called into being for the sole purpose of directing the attention to water. We’re looking at the sewage treatment plants of the municipalities. We are busy with the Integrated Water Resource Management Action Plan in the budget, of which I told you earlier. Its purpose is for planning water in the future. We realise its importance. We as a department also realise that it’s a national responsibility and we have very good relationships with the Department of Water Affairs. Because it also falls to Local Government to a large extent, I invited Mr Rashid Khan and I have also thanked him personally for their role in strengthening our hand to help with the disasters. I think we have built up very good relationships and we strengthen each other. I think the intergovernmental relationships are in order.

I should mention that air pollution and all these issues are being addressed.

To the hon Ozinsky, thank you for your input. I appreciate it, also the way you put it. Thank you for keeping the hon Wiley busy for the first nine minutes. I got off a little lighter. [Laughter.] I appreciate your knowledge – and I don’t say this lightly. I appreciate it that you are always well prepared, and I think there is no corruption in you. I appreciate it, because those are principles by which I also live. Where we are going to differ is democracy, and that is nice and we can have a nice lively debate about these things. I am the first to admit if I have made a mistake. I promise you that we can keep these things out of the personal arena. We’ll focus on the matter on the table. I am going to need your help with the planning legislation. I am also completely honest when I say this to you. I was sitting with the department this morning regarding the time schedule and last week I started calling national, because my concern is that we promulgate or proclaim legislation and we should be in line with national.

Due to the court case in Gauteng, the court actually gave national two years’ time, of which six months have passed. I’m sitting here with the problem that Minister Shiceka is ill. You know that he is booked off for, I think, six months. I then also spoke with his head, Africa, and with Seitisho, and told them that we need help. We must work together more closely, because national must be one step ahead of us. That is how I see it. I might need your help in getting national to make this process move faster for us. That is also why we made use of Prof Jaap de Visser, because he also works very closely together with national. Otherwise we are going find ourselves in a bottleneck, where we make announcements and then we are not in line with national, and then we have back away. That will not be good. I think even if it takes a day or two, or a week longer, but it is very important. I will also lay this on the table at Thursday’s Minmec meeting of Local Government, because it is managed there.

Perhaps you have some advice for us; maybe we should go and speak to Minister Trevor Manuel about this. I don’t know, but we will have to make this appointment at a high level, because I really think national should take the lead here so that we can walk with them. I therefore agree one hundred per cent.

That discipline must be enforced is absolutely right. I am a big proponent of this. That is why we looked at the breakdown of the House. It was not meant to punish anybody, it was wrong to operate in that way. We are sitting with enormous littering problems in our Green Scorpions section, and large firms acting illegally. We’ll have to take a hard line. We’ll have to pull together and we’ll have to help them.
I am not going to say too much about the modernising component. It has its positive aspects. It has its aspects that are very risky and pose many challenges for us, such as, as you have mentioned, the HR leg. I think we have advanced a fair amount in the past month since we saw you at the standing committee. We have managed to appoint a few people.

As for the OSD, all my life I have been a very big proponent of paying one’s officials their due. You pay them market-related salaries. The national Minister was in the Cape a week ago and I put it to him that we should solve our problems with the OSD. Let’s solve it. We provide security, and that we are in a position that when we lose an official at PL 11, we can offer the new person a PL 11 salary too, otherwise you start – I don’t want to put it like that – becoming a training school for other institutions where we want to retain our expertise. It is seen in a very good spirit.

Regarding Cape Nature and the whole white, brown or black component of it, I’m very sensitive about this. I will not go into a debate about it at this time, but the people at Cape Nature know my heart. They know where my heart lies. They know I am aware of the sensitivity. I also have to thank the standing committee, because I think it’s the standing committee who helped us to get a certain amount of expertise on the council, and that the standing committee also helped us remove politics from the council. You know there was a time when there was a lot of politics in the council. I think it was the first time that the CEO, Lucille, was seriously confronted with the politics in the council. We really should never end up in a situation where we politicise the council again. And now we’ve talked a little politics about the council. We will just work hard to keep politics out of the council and keep expertise there.

To the hon Visser, I then talked about the whole water issue. We have to look after the rivers. The rivers are very important because there is also tremendous job creation involved in them – the Eerste River, Berg River and the Breede River. Thousands of people will lose their jobs once the European Union realises that the water is not of the right quality.

Were you speaking of Dr Barnes? [Interjections.] Prof Jo Barnes. I just don’t want to refer to Tony Barnes. We should be very careful whom we quote and when we quote and make sure that we only quote verified information. I find there are many people who just paint the bad side of a picture, but they actually have a solution to the good side.

There are problems in our rivers, but we are busy with research. We are busy with a large-scale infrastructure study. We are busy with a water plan. Each district already has its own water plan that includes a short-term, medium-term and long-term solution. There are three major pollutants, and that is sewage farms that are not properly managed, it is informal areas that do not have the proper sanitation and it is agriculture itself, which we have not mentioned here today. We have to look Agriculture in the eyes and tell them: you are busy making a mess. Fix your mess. We have a responsibility to look at municipalities and the informal settlements. The whole large-scale infrastructure study will show us that we are behind by more or less R16 billion to R18 billion, but we should not let that figure bother us.

We have to sit down with each individual municipality and we are going to have to change our priorities, and then the money will be enough. I am sure of that.
A great advantage with these studies we have done is that we are ready for implementation. I think that it puts the Western Cape in a very good position to hitch on to the millions that the President is going to make available for this kind of infrastructure, as he has just announced in his speech.

In conclusion, let me thank Rudi Ellis and wish him all the best. Forgive me, department, I have thanked you all, but I think I owe Rudi Ellis a big thank you too. We wish him and his family all the best with their very difficult situation. Thank you, hon Ozinsky, that you also referred to it. I appreciate it.

To Lucille – I do not want to look up – thank you for your input. I am looking at Lucille. Lucille and I know each other. You don’t have to worry about that, hon Ozinsky. Lucille, thank you very much. It was a wonderful experience to work with you. I hope we can rely on your expertise and knowledge in the future too. You have a lovely personality. Thank you very much for what you did for Cape Nature, but also for the province. We really appreciate it and we are going to miss you. Thank you very much.

Mr Deputy Speaker, lastly, there is something I’ve left out and which I think is very important information, and I think it will be nice for the members of the standing committee in the House to realise it. The total EIA and development applications approved from May 2010 to March 2011 – so there is still one month short to the year – are 2,575. It is very important. Then I’ll continue, because I can give it to the standing committee later. I think what is important for the standing committee and for the House is that we have cut into the environmental side in the, let’s call it backlog, or whatever we want to call it. We have cut into the current applications or the backlog by up to 628. We have 628 fewer applications than what we started with last year and we have another month to go.

Congratulations and thank you very much, department. You made a great effort to achieve this. On the planning’s, on the LUPA applications we fared less well. It was 35, with one month to go, but we are moving in the right direction. I want to thank the department and all of you for your support. [Applause.]

Debate concluded.

The House adjourned at 17:48.
INTERPELLATIONS,

QUESTIONS AND REPLIES
*Questions and replies as received from departments.*

QUESTIONS

For written reply: 

*Donations received*

*1. Mr P Uys to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:*

(1) Whether his department received any donations, direct or indirect, in the past year; if so, in respect of each donation received, (a) from whom, (b) what was the reason for the donation, (c) for what it was used, (d) what was the monetary value of the donation and (e) what was the benefit to the community;

(2) whether any *quid pro quo* was asked in return from his department for any of the donations; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

1. (1) (a) The department through its Provincial Disaster Management Centre was awarded by the national Department of Water Affairs with a “Women in Water Award”.

(b) The award was for the co-ordination, management and facilitation of the declared provincial drought disaster in Eden and Central Karoo Districts.

(c) The monetary award was in turn allocated to the Eden and Central Karoo District Municipalities for the utilisation of an awareness campaign to sensitise the affected municipalities on the water scarcity in these municipal areas as well as to alert and inform them on the importance of water demand management.

(d) An amount of R50 000 was awarded to the Provincial Disaster Management Centre. An amount of R20 000 was allocated to Eden District Municipality and the remaining R30 000 was allocated to Central Karoo District Municipality for an awareness campaign.

(e) The funds were used to inform and make the communities of Dysselsdorp and De Rust (Eden District Municipality) and Laingsburg and Beaufort West (Central Karoo District Municipality) aware of the water shortages facing their respective municipal areas. The awareness resulted in significant cut in water consumption which stretched the available water.

(2) No *quid pro quo* was asked by the department for the donation.
**2. Mr P Uys to ask Mr A R Winde, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:**

Whether there is any guidance that his department is giving or intends giving to municipalities to increase their income generation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM:

2. The Provincial Treasury monitors the monthly financial performance of municipalities in terms of section 71 of the MFMA. In this regard variances identified between what municipalities projected to collect and what they are actually collecting on a monthly basis is followed up. In addition, quarterly site visitation to municipalities are also undertaken.

Through the visitations as well as LG MTEC 3 engagements, Provincial Treasury provides support and information to municipalities. A financial health assessment is done as part of the annual budget assessment process which include revenue management analysis to assess the adequacy of municipal own revenue.

Policy recommendations concerning the impact of the prevailing economic conditions on service delivery are also discussed during the LG MTEC3 engagements before budgets were approved for the next financial year. Recommendations concerning the municipalities’ ability to counter and minimise recessionary impacts on service delivery forms part of the consultation processes related to planning and budgeting.

Arriving at an appropriate set of tariffs for trading services is a complex matter. Municipalities are encouraged to set tariffs for utility services that reflect their cost and scarcity value in order to encourage more efficient use of these services while simultaneously generating the required revenue to fund the maintenance, renewal and expansion of the infrastructure necessary to provide the services.

The Provincial Treasury is in the process of liaising with selected municipalities in developing a project proposal and methodology in order to best assist municipalities regarding tariff policy formulation. The project is specifically focused on engaging municipalities regarding the credibility and sustainability of their tariffs. The tariff database forms an important part of this work.

The Provincial Treasury also established a debt management task team in 2006 with a particular focus to facilitate a process of dealing, in a structured way, with outstanding government debt owed to the City of Cape Town by national and provincial departments. In this regard, good progress has been made and the provincial Departments of Community Safety, Housing and Health currently reflect relatively low outstanding balances in proportion to the total outstanding provincial government debt.
At the end of March 2011, the Education Department paid R54,32 million or 50% of the debt owed in respect of service charges for schools. The same process will be followed with the rest of the non-metro municipalities in the province.

The Provincial Treasury also does joint work with the Department of Local Government in assisting municipalities with recovering latent revenue where neither the capacity nor skills is available to enable municipalities to do such on their own.

In addition, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism does not assist municipalities to increase their income generation. However, it provides assistance to municipalities in becoming competent and capacitated role-players in the local economic development of their regions, where the focus is on the creation of favourable enabling conditions that allow the private sector to thrive.

The key intervention areas are:

- Building government capacity
- Strengthening Local/Regional Private Sector Institutions
- Building Organisational and Entrepreneurial Capacity in Poor Communities [ED]
- Strengthening RLED Intermediary Institutions

To improve municipal capacity to support an enabling environment for LED, the Municipal Capacity Support Programme (MCSP), within the context of existing, new or revised Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), provides hands-on expertise, assistance and support to boost local government’s capacity to promote LED.

The specific intervention geared towards for municipalities include:

(a) Capacity-building interventions that will look to develop and empower local government officials and local economic role-players by addressing training gaps. This will increase their technical skill requirements; decrease the quantity of consultant-driven services; increase their ability to access information; increase their ability to project manage and monitor implementation; and improve their ability to engage with the private sector and others, on the direction of LED efforts in a region, etc.

(b) Well-functioning LED Forums at district level, and one at provincial level, will also be supported to ensure: that sound local Government LED strategies and implementation plans are pursued which are sustainable and responsive to local level priorities; that reliable economic information/data is established and maintained to promote economic development in localities; support for effective government coordination of support services and interventions; implementation of awareness initiatives to improve coordination, alignment and effectiveness of government policies and programmes; it addresses challenges and facilitates the creation of an environment conducive to economic growth; and dissemination of good practice in LED.
*3. Mr P Uys to ask Mr A R Winde, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

(a) What progress and contribution does his department make to put in place capacity, policy and legislation of municipalities with regard to procurement and immovable assets management and (b) what is the progress in each municipality in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM:

3. (a) The Provincial Treasury has a programme in place, driven by its Annual Performance Plan, to build capacity, assist and guide municipalities in terms of policy and legislative requirements for Supply Chain Management (SCM).

The Provincial Treasury in the past assessed SCM compliance through SCM compliance assessments. A revised assessment methodology referred to as the SCM Virtuous Cycle Assessment has been implemented, which process speaks to an assessment model that assesses the full cycle of SCM capacity; capability and compliance. This assessment method was piloted at four municipalities in the 2010-11 financial year. The findings and recommendations are designed to build and fast-track SCM capacity; compliance and competence within municipalities with an overall action plan to improve governance. A follow-up process is in place to monitor the implementation of recommendations made to municipalities.

An SCM policy review process is in place which is structured to assist municipalities to align its SCM policy and procedures with the National Treasury requirements; as SCM policy and legislation is a national competency and not a provincial one.

The Provincial Treasury has further established a municipal SCM Helpdesk to facilitate and advise municipalities on SCM-related issues. The helpdesk information is also utilised as a mechanism to identify and define possible interventions within municipalities to develop and enhance SCM capacity. SCM Forums are convened with municipalities to communicate all the latest SCM developments and encourage sharing of information and best practices within SCM.

The department had various supplier development programmes in the municipal sphere to facilitate supplier development initiatives that eventually impacts service delivery and good governance.

Further, the Provincial Treasury presented the Infrastructure Delivery Improvement Programme (IDIP) benefits to the three selected municipalities (Bergrivier, Langeberg and Witzenberg) as a pilot for a phased roll-out of the programme.

The buy-in was obtained from the Executive Management of the three municipalities and PT consulted with the technical teams of the three municipalities in order to draft IDIP tender specification inclusive of each municipality’s specific needs. A draft version of the tender document was compiled.
The IDIP process was also presented to all the municipalities within the Western Cape during the 2010 LG MTEC 3 process. After consultation between PT and the Department of Local Government (LG) it was agreed that in order to cut out possible duplication of efforts by the two institutions, it was agreed that LG should rather attend to assisting municipalities with immoveable asset management, while PT needs to focus its endeavours on provincial departments involved in infrastructure planning and delivery.

(b) Progress within each municipality is at various stages of development which is largely dependent on actual skills, competency and capacity. The Provincial Treasury’s SCM programme has been well received by municipalities and the progress has been positive.

Members of Cape Nature Board

4. Mr M Ozinsky to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(a) Who are the current members of the Cape Nature Board and (b) in respect of each member, (i) when was he/she appointed, (ii) when will his/her term of office expire and (iii) what is his/her (aa) race, (bb) gender and (cc) expertise?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

4. (a)

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<tr>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>Aubrey</td>
<td>Redlinghuis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Colin</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Board Vice-Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Hoosain</td>
<td>Kagee</td>
<td>Board member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>Nomtha</td>
<td>Dilima</td>
<td>Board member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr</td>
<td>Johan</td>
<td>van der Merwe</td>
<td>Board member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Francina</td>
<td>du Bruyn</td>
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<td>Edmund</td>
<td>February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr</td>
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<td>Board member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr</td>
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<td>Kok</td>
<td>Board member</td>
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(b) (i)

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<td>*Environmental Management</td>
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</table>
5. **Mr M Ozinsky to ask Mr D A C Grant, Minister of Education:**

What is the estimated number of children of school going age in each district in the province?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

5. In terms of the SA Schools Act, 86 of 1996, the schoolgoing ages of learners are, aged 7 (Grade 1) to 15 (Grade 9) – excerpt from the SA Schools Act:

**CHAPTER 2 (LEARNERS)**

*Compulsory attendance*

3.(1) Subject to this Act and any applicable provincial law, every parent must cause every learner for whom he or she is responsible to attend a school from the first school day of the year in which such learner reaches the age of seven years until the last school day of the year in which such learner reaches the age of fifteen years or the ninth grade, whichever occurs first.
Below are the learner number estimates per district according to the 2011, Snap Survey for Public Ordinary Schools (including schools for Learners with Special Education Needs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education District</th>
<th>Cape Winelands</th>
<th>Eden &amp; Central Karoo</th>
<th>Metro Central</th>
<th>Metro East</th>
<th>Metro North</th>
<th>Metro South</th>
<th>Overberg</th>
<th>West Coast</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grades 1 to 9</td>
<td>108 680</td>
<td>92 433</td>
<td>99 092</td>
<td>113 894</td>
<td>134 411</td>
<td>123 559</td>
<td>32 109</td>
<td>47 771</td>
<td>751 949</td>
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Cars used by Premier and Ministers

6. Mr M Skwatsha to ask Mr R V Carlisle, Minister of Transport and Public Works:

(a) With regard to each car being used by the Premier and each Minister, (i) what is the, (aa) make (bb) model (cc) year and (dd) date of purchase, (ii) who it was purchased from, (iii) what was the purchased price and (iv) how is the car financed and (b) what is the maximum value of a car which can be bought by the office-bearer in terms of the applicable ministerial handbook?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS:

6. (a) AGRICULTURE

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
   (bb) ML350
   (cc) 2008
   (dd) 5 May 2008

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd
(iii) R530 702
(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) COMMUNITY SAFETY

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
   (bb) E200
   (cc) 2008

   (dd) The Ministry uses a privately hired vehicle while awaiting the delivery of a new replacement vehicle from GMT. The latter will be delivered shortly.

(ii) Not applicable.

(iii) Not applicable.

(iv) Not applicable.
(b) R596 000

(a) CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
(bb) ML350
(cc) 2008
(dd) 28 August 2008

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R548 201

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) EDUCATION

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
(bb) E280
(cc) 2007
(dd) 28 February 2007

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R425 650

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

(i) (aa) Toyota
(bb) Fortuner
(cc) 2010
(dd) 18 February 2010

(ii) Toyota (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R316 047

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) HEALTH

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
(bb) S350
(cc) 2007
(dd) 29 September 2006
(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R755 750

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

(i) (aa) Audi
    (bb) Q5
    (cc) 2010
    (dd) 28 May 2010

(ii) Volkswagen (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R452 983

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
    (bb) E250 CDI
    (cc) 2010
    (dd) 11 June 2010

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R495 620

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) PREMIER

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
    (bb) E320
    (cc) 2003
    (dd) 11 October 2002

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R432 250
(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R681 856

(a) SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
      (bb) C300
      (cc) 2010
      (dd) 5 November 2009

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R408 486

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

(a) TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

(i) (aa) Mercedes Benz
      (bb) C300
      (cc) 2010
      (dd) 23 February 2010

(ii) Daimler Chrysler (SA) (Pty) Ltd

(iii) R394 785

(iv) Paid by Government Motor Transport Trading Entity from their capital account.

(b) R596 000

Appointment of consultants

7. The Leader of the Opposition to ask Mr A R Winde, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

With reference to the answer furnished to question 1 of 13 August 2010, which states that the (a) Department of Economic Development and Tourism spent R11,8 million and (b) Provincial Treasury spent R12,4 million on consultants, in respect of each consultant, what (i) is his/her name, (ii) was the cost involved, (iii) was the reason for his/her appointment and (iv) was the process followed to procure his/her services?
The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM:

7. Further to Question 1 of 13 August 2010 posed to the Premier, herewith find a breakdown on the consultancy expenditure for the Western Cape Provincial Treasury and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

It must be borne in mind that the enclosed information has been provided in accordance with the National Treasury Practice Note on the “Appointment of Consultants” which states: “For the purposes of this practice note, the term consultant includes, among others, consulting firms, engineering firms, construction managers, management firms, procurement agents, inspection agents, auditors, other multinational organisations, investment and merchant banks, universities, research agencies, government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs), and individuals. Accounting officers/authorities may use these organisations as consultants to assist in a wide range of activities such as policy advice, accounting officer’s/authority’s reform management, engineering services, construction supervision, financial services, procurement services, social and environmental studies and identification, preparation, and implementation of projects to complement accounting officer’s/authorities’ capabilities in these areas.”

Successes achieved on farms with share schemes

*8. Ms E Prins to ask Mr H G van Rensburg, Minister of Agriculture:

(a) What criteria are used to measure the successes achieved on farms with share schemes for groups of farm workers, (b) what are the (i) names and (ii) districts of the farms, (c) how farm workers share in the dividends of the farms returns, (d) how are the rights of shareholders protected and (e) what are the reasons why farms do not achieve success or do not survive?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

8. (a) Success of equity schemes was investigated through previous studies by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, as well as through face value analysis done the previous year by the Department of Agriculture. The study did not necessarily follow a scientific methodology; however, a few indicators were selected to be able to get an indication of progress and/or lack of progress on equity schemes. These include ownership/structure, working and living conditions, capacity building/education and financial/dividends/compensation. Thereafter, all relevant stakeholders were invited to discussion session. Based on face value observations it was therefore deduced that positive progress has been made in almost all 20 schemes assessed.

(b) Recent data from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform indicates a total 83 Farm Equity Schemes in the Western Cape, of which the majority of these are in the Cape Winelands district (57%). The distribution to the other districts is as follows: West Coast (25.3%), Eden (8.4%) and Overberg (8.4%). List of equity schemes are attached as an addendum.
(c) On the analysis conducted on 20 randomly selected schemes in the province, 90% of them indicated that a dividend was paid, in cash, to the shareholders. These dividends are paid to the trust and the trustees then decide what to do with the dividends based on the conditions of the agreement.

(d) There is a formal agreement between the shareholders. From time to time the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform monitors the implementation of the agreement. In addition, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, through the Farm Worker Development sub programme, conduct capacity building on soft skills which include awareness on farm worker rights. The department is also planning to capacitate trustees and directors of equity schemes on their roles and responsibilities.

(e) Previous assessments and engagements with shareholders of these schemes show that areas that need particular attention include lack of trust, lack of business management knowledge and experience of beneficiaries. Nevertheless, almost all the reports and engagements on equity schemes acknowledge that management of expectations of all shareholders is critical as it takes years to accumulate experience and for a business to make a profit.

*Teenage pregnancy prevention programmes or projects*

**9. Ms C Labuschagne to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:**

Whether her department has any teenage pregnancy prevention programmes or projects; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the relevant details with regard to (i) each district and (ii) figures reached in the last two years, (b) what does her department want to achieve in 2011-12 and (c) what in terms of monitoring and evaluation is the impact of these programmes or projects?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

9. The department did not have any specific programmes or projects on teenage pregnancy prevention in 2009-10. Historically, programmes of this nature were managed by the Department of Health.

More recently, the prevention of teenage pregnancy has come to be regarded as an interdepartmental activity. During the 2010-11 financial year, the Department of Social Development implemented a pregnancy prevention programme.

(a) (i) The programme has initially been implemented in the West Coast and Eden and Karoo Districts.

(ii) No figures are available for 2009-10. The programme reached 170 young people in the Eden and Karoo districts in 2010-11, with a further 1400 young people attending an interdepartmental teenage pregnancy regional expo in George for the Eden and Karoo districts. A total of 360 young people in the West Coast area were reached during 2010-11.
(b) It is planned to reach 2000 young people across all six Departmental Regions during the 2011-12 financial year and 120 social workers will be trained to implement the programme.

(c) The impact of the programme will be assessed by the Department Of Social Development’s Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate.
INTERPELLATIONS

Patients turned back: dialysis too expensive

†1. Ms TN Bevu to ask Mr TL Botha, Minister of Health:

What is being done to address the issue of turning back patients who suffer from renal failure because dialysis is too expensive for public hospitals?

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Speaker, the reality is that the current demand far outstrips available resources or capacity in the department. I notice that the member is not here. There are currently about 750 patients on renal dialysis in the Western Cape, of which 80% are treated at our state facilities. It costs state hospitals approximately R100 000 per annum per patient. This cost excludes the cost of the medication. Approximately 100 patients successfully receive transplants annually, and the mortality rate of dialyzed patients is approximately 10%. Dialysis would be given to a person who is due for transplant when a donor kidney becomes available. That is another challenge – to get enough donors.

This life-saving service is considered relatively inexpensive in medical circles and is provided in a cost-effective manner by the Department of Health. As with many other services, however, due to limited resources and capacity for this treatment and services, it is not possible at present to accommodate all who require dialysis treatment. It is for these reasons why a provincial policy and accompanying guidelines had to be devised. The provincial policy is a guideline for an equitable and uniform priority setting approach in the selection of patients with end-stage kidney failure for renal replacement treatment and was approved in February 2010.

In terms of this, patients are prioritized in three categories. Patients in Category 1 must be offered treatment. Those in Category 2 would be treated only if budgetary resources are allowed. All patients in these two categories must be suitable for transplants. Category 3 patients would only be offered conservative treatment. The patients would be categorized based on a combination of social but actually predominantly medical factors.

The ethical principle of utilitarianism was invoked and the selection criteria based mainly on the evidence and social factors, but also then on the experience of senior clinicians working in our department. The mechanics of our selection process and communication with the patient/family are detailed in this policy and protocol. An appeals mechanism is also available and an audit process is in place.

†The SPEAKER: Order! The hon Minister must please complete his speech.

†The MINISTER: Thank you.

†Ms TN BEVU: Mr Speaker, let me first thank the Minister for the response. Minister, is it true that a lot of people who die because they are not helped by the public hospitals are people who come from the poorer areas?

*Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Speaker, the question for the Minister is as follows. I heard the Minister talking about the three categories, but what stands out here is that he mentions in the second category that some of these patients cannot be treated because of the financial aspect of it. Are these people sent home to die?
This is the question that the Minister and the department should answer honestly. When and how is this decision to send a patient home taken, in the knowledge that without the essential medical care, the patient will die?

Mr Speaker, we read about these types of patients in the province too often. The conclusion that the layman at grass-roots level can make is that this department is not really willing to walk the extra mile with those who are already dying. When you are dying, you get some measure of comfort within the four walls of a hospital. If, however, you are sent home to people who don’t even understand your condition and who don’t know how to treat you, and you yourself don’t understand your body, it is something terrible.

I hear what the Minister is saying, and his answer to the question scares me, because 750 people are on dialysis, on this vital machine. Eighty per cent of these people are treated in our hospitals. Twenty per cent can clearly afford it in private institutions. This is cause for concern, and the Minister should know that the people will not stop writing about it. Nobody wants to deal with a person in their house who is daily deteriorating little by little in front of their eyes.

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Speaker, firstly, let me complete the social factors which would exclude a candidate. Those are conviction of serious criminal offences, poor social network/support and geographical accessibility to a dialysis unit.

Mr Speaker, the question was asked whether most of the people are poor. It is a strange question, because the Department of Health provides to those who do not have medical assurance. Of the 5,3 million in our province, 4,6 million of them are dependent on our services and are our patients. Obviously, they are at the lower end of the income stream. It is one of those questions that you cannot deny. Yes, they are poor, but that does not exclude people with as much money as they can have in the world. They cannot be kept alive if they cannot have a transplant. That is a reality that we’ve got to face.

It is difficult to deal with these things, and we must be very careful that it doesn’t become a popular topic because it is very popular to make a big fuss and a big row about someone whom you send home today. However, you must also remember that the decision is taken in terms of a policy and protocol, specialists, appeal processes and order processes, but you’ve got to decide whether you can help someone who is a young mother of a family or whether you should keep a machine open for someone who is 76 years old and let the young person die. These are difficult things, but there are factors to be taken into account.

*Mr Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we don’t turn away anyone who is able to undergo a transplant and who could be helped by the treatment. We are in the wonderfully privileged position of being able to offer transplants to everybody for whom we can obtain an organ.

*Ms A J DU TOIT MARAIS: Mr Speaker, I just want to mention that 80% of people who apply for state subsidized dialysis are turned away in the Western Cape each year. Annually, about 300 people apply for dialysis. This treatment costs R200 000 per patient per year, which differs from what Minister Botha has just said. You could just correct me there.

There are about 100 transplants performed every year. There therefore exists a great need that is not being addressed.
There are currently 80 to 90 people waiting for transplants in the Western Cape. Transplants are limited to the number of existing donors. Some criteria that a candidate must meet to be considered are, for example, that you should not be a drug user, you should have access to running water, toilets and electricity, you must be under the age of 60 and you should not have an unhealthy body mass index, known as your BMI. In other words, you should not be overweight. If you are a diabetic, you must be a South African citizen and you must be under the age of 50. You should not be HIV positive and you should also not have any other illness that limits life expectancy, such as cancer.

With only one or two specialists being trained annually at Groote Schuur Hospital, the other need that exists is training of personnel. It takes up to 14 years to train as a nephrologist. I just want to mention something I’ve read in a news article. It’s an entire article about a person who did in fact have a kidney transplant. One person said:

There is no safety net for people who are rejected and cannot receive transplants. As the Cape Kidney Association, we are trying to set up a committee to find the financial means to help these patients. One of the Groote Schuur doctors is also very keen on us doing this.

I would like to conclude. The International Nephrology Conference that will bring 5 000 kidney specialists to the province is planned to be hosted at the CTICC later this year. Not only will it have an economic impact of R65 million, but an opportunity exists for conducting critical research on our doorstep. The opportunity to absorb specialist knowledge in our province should not be overlooked.

†The SPEAKER: Order! Will the hon member please complete her speech.

*Ms A J DU TOIT MARAIS: I just want to say that it remains a highly sensitive, ethical dilemma.

†Ms TN BEVU: Mr Speaker, I have asked the Minister this question purposely. The reason why I asked this is that I wanted him to confirm that a lot of people are poor people, people who have nothing. As we know, public hospitals are known for that. I wanted it to come from the Minister, because he must then realize that there is a need to really come up with a plan as a lot of people are in dire need of getting help in terms of this disease.

His department must really make an effort in making sure that they really assist these people, take care of them and make sure that at least something is being done. If maybe not all the hospitals in the Western Cape are dealing with this issue, he must make sure that he’ll at least try to get resources and make sure that these people get help because it is a need.

*The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Speaker, just to add to what the hon Marais said, the cost is between R100 000 and R200 000 per patient per year, but cost is not our problem. We have enough money to treat the patients.

†The problem in this disease is – and this is the problem that the hon Bevu must understand – that it does not distinguish between poor and rich. If you are not a candidate for a transplant, you are taking the place on a machine that can save a life. We are therefore not going to keep you there. That is a reality in the private sector.
It is a reality in Japan, China, the USA or wherever. That is a reality of this world we live in. You’ve got to be a candidate to get a trans plant then we will keep you on the dialysis.

We are now also busy with an exercise in the private sector. We have granted many licenses in the private sector. We are now busy with a study in the private sector to look at their utilisation to see whether there is some more space on their machines. We will then enter into private transactions with them so that we can at least ensure that all machines in the Western Cape are running on full capacity.

Mr Speaker, the other thing that I wanted to mention is that there is a guideline with the policy. I want to make it available to everyone in the House. [Interjections.] It deals with illegal transplants as well. Do you have a deal for us, or what? [Interjections.] I can’t tell you how many there were, but that’s a new question. I would gladly answer that, because there is some very interesting information available about that.

Mr Speaker, the other thing that we need to place much more emphasis on is that early detection and prevention is actually more important than the treatment. The fact of the matter is that a human being can survive with 10% function of one kidney. There are many, many ways to prevent the disease, and early detection is the issue. We really need to take personal responsibility and let people take responsibility, because many of these very unhappy issues can be prevented if people have the knowledge. We really need to invest in that.

Pelican Park housing project: beneficiaries

†2. Mr M Ozinsky to ask Mr BS Madikizela, Minister of Human Settlements:

Whether the province will have the final say over the beneficiaries of the Pelican Park housing project; if so, (a) what criteria will be used to identify beneficiaries and (b) how far is the process of identifying beneficiaries?

†The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Mr Speaker, Pelican Park is a City of Cape Town project. The province will therefore not have the final say over the beneficiaries, apart from the administrative process of verifying their eligibility for subsidies. The housing subsidy eligibility criteria will apply. For example, you must be a South African citizen, you must be over 18, you must have dependents, you must not have previously owned property or received a housing subsidy and you must earn less than R3 500 per month. The source areas have been identified and the process of identifying the beneficiaries is currently underway.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Thank you, hon MEC. I note the brevity of your response. Perhaps it has to do with what Die Burger wrote about this morning, ... [Interjections.] ...that you are going to be removed as the MEC for Housing. Maybe you don’t want to commit the Government because you might not be here next month. [Interjections.] What’s more interesting is that you are going to be replacing the Speaker.

What is not explained is why the Speaker should be replaced. [Interjections.] Tell us why the Speaker should be replaced. There must be a reason for that. [Interjections.] There must be a reason. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! [Interjections.]
†The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: There is an interpellation on the Question Paper. This issue has nothing to do with the subject matter. [Interjections.] This person must shut up. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Order, members! [Interjections.] Order, members! [Interjections.] Hon Ozinsky, would you address the issue please? Please proceed.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I must say that I didn’t appreciate the last words that I should shut up but, of course, that is to be expected from someone who is very angry that they were removed from their position and wants to take it out on the Opposition, who pointed out his faults at the time. It has relevance, Mr Speaker, because it says in Die Burger that the hon Plato, the Mayor, who is also being removed …[Laughter.]… is going to replace the hon Madikizela as the MEC for Housing. That has relevance, because in the Housing Committee of the City of Cape Town…[Interjections.] Mr Speaker, could you please protect me from this interruption?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M OZINSKY: The hon Plato in the City of Cape Town moved a resolution, hon MEC, which says the opposite of what you’ve answered today. It resolves that the compilation of the initial list of beneficiaries, for referral to the Provincial Government of the Western Cape, for the Pelican Park Housing Project in proportion of 60% to persons on the consolidated database who qualify for subsidies and reside within Sub council 18, and 40% to persons on the consolidated database who qualify for subsidies and reside beyond the boundaries of Sub council 18, be approved.

The City – which is you, sir, who is running the project – says your department will have the final say in this matter. It will be referred to the Province. That was the proposal of the hon Plato, who Die Burger says will be taking over from this hon MEC. This matter all ties up very carefully. [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Mr Speaker, thank you very much to hon member Ozinsky. Hon member Ozinsky, I think what the current Mayor was referring to when he was talking about the referral … [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Would the hon Ozinsky please complete his speech.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Hon MEC, what I want to ask you is: will you come to Pelican Park, Phumlani, Riemvasmaak, Zilleraine and the people who are on the housing list and live in Sub council 18 and talk to them about the procedures that will be followed in this regard, in particular how your department will oversee this process as mentioned in the resolution?

†The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Mr Speaker, thank you very much to hon member Ozinsky. Hon member Ozinsky, I think what the current Mayor was referring to when he was talking about the referral … [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members! Order! The speaker on the floor must be audible.

†The MINISTER: In terms of the responsibilities that we have as the Province and the City, the City compiled a housing demand database, or a waiting-list. For any allocation to be made in any project the list has to be sent to us, so that we can check it against our Housing Subsidy System (HSS) to see who qualifies in terms of that list that is sent to us. We then send the list back to the City, because they then take over the responsibility of making an allocation, based on information that we give to them regarding that.
That is why I’m saying that we will not have the final say. We will play our role as the Province, in terms of checking whether those individuals quality, and then the City will then make allocations, based on information they will get from us.

†Mr JJ VISSER: Mr Speaker, here we are again – the hon Ozinsky asking the hon Minister how he will deal with the mess the ANC government initially caused.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: That’s not what he asked.

†Mr J J VISSER: Why is it that the ANC always want the DA to clean up the mess they’ve caused? Is it because they believe so strongly in the abilities of the DA that they have no other choice? [Laughter.] This mess already started in 2003 when the then ANC government allowed a private individual, Ms Lottering, the so-called Mama Africa, to take initiative around the project and take the process directly from people. [Interjections.] Why did the then Department of Housing allow this, and why did they not deal with this problem when it was still in a phase when it could be sorted out?

†Mr M OZINSKY: You attack people who ... [Inaudible.]

†Mr J J VISSER: The question is, hon Ozinsky, who are the real beneficiaries – the people who were crooked out of their money or those on the new list that’s apparently now available?

We know that the availability of land is a key factor to the success of delivering houses. Again I want to pose a question to the ANC. Were you aware that you need land to be able to build houses? If the ANC were not aware of this fact, then this was a very stupid decision of them not to buy land, as stupid as most decisions they make, or the ANC are smarter than we think they are and they deliberately made sure they leave a mess for the DA to sort out.

I have no doubt that the DA, and particularly the hon Minister of Human Settlements, will be able to deal with this problem in an appropriate and efficient manner. We therefore would also urge the hon Minister to give priority to Pelican Park and move forward as fast as possible. The hon Minister should leave no stone unturned to deal with all the relevant issues around Pelican Park and deliver houses to the people who, for so long now, have been waiting for suitable housing.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Mr Speaker, thanks to the hon Visser for acknowledging that there is a serious problem and that the Minister needs to deal with it, because every time I raise the issue the Minister tries to wash his hands of the matter, even though it’s clear what the City is saying about the process. [Interjections.]

Let me say to the hon Visser that this issue is a scandal of the DA, because the Minutes refer to resolutions the City took, under the DA, in 2006 and we sit in 2011, five years later, and not one house is built. That is a scandal, not caused by the ANC, because when the ANC left the City the land was already identified. The project was already in process. What happened is that the DA came and took over what the ANC had laid the basis for, and that’s what they haven’t even been able to do for five years. Now they expect to go to voters. Do you know how they are going to voters to get them to vote for the hon De Lille? The DA in the Southern Suburbs has forms to ask people to fill in from the City to see whether they are on the housing waiting-list, and the DA councilors are doing that. [Interjections.]
Having observed this process by the DA councilors, I've started the same process, hon MEC. That's why I want you to come there, because I'm finding many people who qualify for the criteria, and the City is not listening to them. The City councilors of the DA are doing their own process to get the hon De Lille elected so that the whole shuffling of the pack can take place, because the shuffling of the pack obviously depends on the election of the hon De Lille. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr M OZINSKY: That's why those councilors are doing it and I'm doing it, and I'm asking you, hon MEC, like I asked you in my last turn to speak, whether you will come there and reassure the people that they will not be manipulated by DA councilors.

†The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Mr Speaker, I would very much like to take up the invitation by hon Ozinsky to go to Pelican Park, as I have done several times before, to go and explain the process of how the people are going to benefit. As I explained, the process is very clear. The City compile the Housing Demand Database, they send it to us in terms of the projects and then we approve the list, we send it back to them and they make the allocation. I think it's a normal process that we follow in all the projects.

I also want to comment on what hon Member Ozinsky is saying. To identify a project does not necessarily mean that the work has been done. [Interjections.] Can I respond? [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Hon Ozinsky, order!

†The MINISTER: I think, Mr Speaker, it's also important to point out here that when the ANC was campaigning for the 2009 elections they made a number of promises to the people... [Interjections.] ... and they identified a number of projects and made promises. However, when they came in, we realised that there was a lot of work that still needed to be done before those projects could be implemented. They did the same thing with the N2 and a number of other projects. It's not something new, that you just identify projects, make promises and then leave afterwards. [Interjections.]

I just want to make this very clear. I think, as we have done before, that we are dealing here with a number of planning processes. For example, the Pelican Park Project... [Interjections.] No, it has nothing to do with our failures but everything to do with the planning processes. If I can just say to you that for that particular project, for example, we went through a planning process in terms of the IA. The IA lapsed and we had to do it again.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Whose fault was that ... [Inaudible.]

†The MINISTER: That was way before this government came into power in this province. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, please complete your speech.

The MINISTER: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.
QUESTIONS

Questions standing over from Tuesday, 22 March 2011, as agreed to by the House:

Outcome of 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children

*3. Ms A J du Toit Marais to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

What was the outcome of the 16 days of no violence against women and children campaign with regard to maintenance grants?

*The MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES: Mr Speaker, the answer to the hon Marais is as follows:

3. During the campaign of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, a total of 71 maintenance defaulters and a total of 210 maintenance recipients, who were owed a total of R173 511,80, were traced.

From 25 November last year to the end of January 2011, the Child Support Helpline, which is still in use, handled a total of 2287 calls, including complaints against court officials, tracing defaulters and enquiries as to how to gain access to child support.

During the campaign, 42 community briefings were held by the community development workers of the Department of Local Government; these were aimed at promoting awareness regarding child support issues and reached at least 1933 people. The keynote speakers at this session also came from the national Department of Justice.

The Department of Social Development facilitated five dialogues in Oudtshoorn, Beaufort West, Delft, Vredenburg and Atlantis that focused on men and child support. A total of 346 community members participated in these dialogues, which were aimed at promoting awareness of parental responsibilities and rights in relation to child support.

Drugs and alcohol awareness campaign

*8. Ms JL Hartnick to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

Whether her department has any plans to launch a comprehensive awareness campaign to make the broader public and in particular the vulnerable communities aware of the dangers and consequences of the use of drugs and alcohol; if not, why not; if so, when will it be launched?

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the reply to this question is quite long, and I will give the full script to hon Hartnick. I just want to highlight some of it if it is it okay with you. Should I read the two pages?

†The SPEAKER: The answer is the property of the House, hon Minister, and therefore we will then distribute it, if the House agrees, to all members and the relevant points will then be raised by the hon Minister. Is that in order, members? Thank you very much. You may proceed, hon Minister.
8. Drug Education and Awareness are included under the Sub programme: Substance Abuse in the department’s Annual Performance Plan of 2011/12. An awareness campaign is also listed as one of the performance indicators in the same plan.

The department’s awareness plan has the following components: There is a comprehensive directory on drug and alcohol treatment and related services. This directory gives area-by-area information, including maps, and it also contains specialized information for professionals, such as legal procedures for committals. During this financial year, we will distribute 30000 hardcopies of this document to key individuals in communities across the Western Cape, including school principals, doctors, nurses, religious leaders, social workers, the police, prosecutors and magistrates.

We also have the Cape Gate website link with similar information available to the general public.

Drug and alcohol-related education are the mandate of the Education Department, and are administered as part of the Life Orientation curriculum in all three education phases, as per the National Curriculum Statement. The Department of Social Development has established a partnership with the Department of Education to work directly with them and partnership with some of the schools. This year, we are piloting new materials for teachers in 100 schools. They will be trained to use this material to the maximum. The intention is to extend this material to all schools across the province in the years ahead by including it into a new Life Orientation textbook that will go to all the relevant teachers.

The Department of Social Development will also be working with the Department of Health and the Department of Economic Development on education and awareness programmes relating to the implementation of the new Western Cape Liquor Act. The department is in talks with potential partners in the NGO sector regarding the execution of intensive engagement and awareness programmes in communities with high rates of alcohol-related harm. We will run all these programmes during the course of this year. Awareness around the new Liquor Act also includes arranging a TV documentary series on alcohol-related harms. That is being formulated by the Department of Health and will be broadcast on public television. The distribution of a DVD version of the documentary will go to key institutions and communities across the province.

The department has also just approved a contract for training 58 social work and related professionals in drug and alcohol education and prevention methods, who will work directly with members of their community. This training will start at the end of March.

Human Resources unit move to Office of the Premier

†16. Ms NP Magwaza to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

What is the reason why the human resources in her department were moved to the Office of the Premier?
†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I see the hon Magwaza is not here, but I’ll give her the answer. It reads as follows:

16. The Department of Social Development’s human resources were not moved to the Office of the Premier. The Human Resources Unit was rather moved to the Department of the Premier. Human resources in all provincial departments, excluding Health and Education, were moved to the Department of the Premier as part of the corporatization process in order to achieve uniformity regarding human resources throughout the Province. The Department of Social Development now has a new Corporate Service Relations Management Unit in the office of the HOD.

Policy on Self-Reliant, Resilient Families

†17. Ms NP Magwaza to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

When will the policy on Self-Reliant, Resilient Families be completed?

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the reply is as follows:

17. Based on research on the Situation of Families in the Western Cape that was commissioned by the provincial Department of Social Development and conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council, the department has developed, with the support of a reference team, the first draft of a Family Policy that seeks to build resilient families in the province. This first draft has been completed, and we now have to consult with the standing committee and also other relevant stakeholders. We will complete the policy by the end June 2011.

New questions:

Identification of talented youth

*1. Ms A J du Toit Marais to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:

Whether there is a process to identify talented youth to be developed by way of cultural festivals and other programmes; if not, why not; if so, what are the (a) process and (b) criteria?

*The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORTS: Mr Speaker, I thank the hon Marais for the question. The reply is as follows:

1. (a) The youth is identified through the genre development programs. To better structure this identification process of the youth, the department is busy establishing a framework for identifying and nurturing talent. This document will focus on our strategic goals, namely nurturing, talent development, access to the arts and the formation of partnerships with stakeholders.

Through means of genre development programmes, initiatives such as the Arts Week are used as a tool for identifying new talent. Collaboration with the young musicians – recipients of the University of Stellenbosch certified programme training – served as the basis to facilitate the Arts Week music programmes.
Talented youths were identified for the drama genre and received further training. Their final production was produced and performed at the Suidoosterfees. The visual arts genre training in videography was so successful that one of the recipients of the certificate landed a part-time job at a professional company.

Apart from the above, youths showing strong organisational skills are also placed at festivals such as the Suidooster, in order to expand their skills in arts management and festival management. Youths who were exposed to this training interval assisted in the successful organisation of the Snoek- and Patatfees on the West Coast this financial year. I know the hon Rossouw will appreciate this.

(b) The specialist offering the training programmes in every genre determines the criteria within the specific art form, and this includes: identifying talent, identifying needs within organisations, physical participation as well as interns for transferring the skills they had acquired to the arts sector in their respective communities.

†Ms C F BEERWINKEL: Mr Speaker, I thank MEC Meyer. May I just ask the following: In the criteria that you’ve just explained now is there any process where your department approaches churches to identify talent, because a lot of the kids start out singing and practicing their art and drama in church but after that they lose out because they are not ever identified anywhere else? I personally also brought something to your department in that regard.

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, with regard to the programme of youth development but also specifically arts development, our department also has a programme in respect of the so-called Christmas Choir as well as the section of the Malay Choir. Many of the churches form part of these Christmas Choir programmes and share in this source that supplies the respective Malay Choir and the Christmas Choir. The basis is usually part of the infrastructure of the churches. The answer is therefore yes.

Abandoned babies: details of workshop

2. Ms AJ du Toit Marais to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

Whether there has been a result or outcome from the workshops held with regard to abandoned babies; if so, what are the relevant details?

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the reply is as follows:

2. The outcomes of the summit on abandoned babies are as follows: Areas which are hotspots for child abandonment have been identified and prioritised. These include Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Delft, Lavender Hill, Manenberg and Beaufort West.

The department is working to increase awareness about the responsibilities of fathers, mothers, extended families and communities through the introduction of programmes and workshops within the communities at risk.
Projects which are currently working well, such as the programmes for young mothers, are to be expanded along with new programmes such as adolescent pregnancy prevention programmes and programmes for young fathers, which encourage them to be supportive of their partners.

A 24-hour child protection service is offered in all six departmental regions. These services are linked to a 24-hour hotline, ensuring that mothers contemplating abandoning their children have access to support. Information and assistance is also available through the Angel network on MXit.

The department is in the process of producing a pamphlet on services to young mothers in crisis. This will be completed by the end of April and will be available at all healthcare, education and social development facilities, as well as from our NGO partners. This will also be linked to a media campaign on radio and in the press.

The department works together with other departments and NGO partners to identify children at risk early on and render appropriate services to the parents. During this financial year, collaboration with the Department of Education will be expanded to provide services for children at risk.

Through collaboration with the Department of the Community Safety and the SAPS, volunteers and SAPS staff will be trained and capacitated to provide enhanced services for dealing with the issue of child abandonment.

The Department of Health will contribute by providing teenage-friendly facilities, expanding services in clinics in respect of postpartum depression and setting up referral systems to ensure timeous services to mothers who feel overwhelmed.

*Ms J WITBOOI: Mr Speaker, I want to ask the Minister whether she is satisfied with the outcome of the projects that have been launched and whether there are any challenges concerning these projects with which her department is still grappling?

*The MINISTER: Hon Witbooi, this is a long-term project. It is only by making education and information available to the mothers before they make that decision to throw the baby away, by saying that help is available. We will therefore have to reach out to all our communities. We have started in the areas where the need is very great, and as the project progresses, we will from time to time see where we can improve and how far we can expand it, but the beauty of this programme is that it does not only involve the Department of Social Development. We work together with the Departments of Health, Education and Community Safety. We are all involved in… [Inaudible.] … this crisis.

Disappearance of person transferred from Swellendam to Worcester Hospital

*3. Ms E Prins to ask Mr TL Botha, Minister of Health:

Whether it has been brought to his attention that a certain person, whose name has been furnished to his department for the purpose of his reply, was transferred from Swellendam on 19 February 2011 to the Worcester Hospital, but disappeared from the hospital before an ambulance could bring him back on 23 February 2011; if so, what are the relevant details?
The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Mr Speaker, the reply is as follows:

3. Mr Jafta was at the Swellendam Hospital and then transferred to the Worcester Hospital on 19 February 2011. According to the patient’s history, he presented with a decreased consciousness after an anti-depressant overdose and excessive alcohol intake. He also had a history of previous pulmonary TB.

At the Worcester Hospital, Mr Jafta was admitted to the High Care Unit and ventilated for one day when he developed a collapsed left lung. This was resolved and he was transferred to the general medical ward on 21 February 2011.

He was reviewed by the psychiatric department for a serious suicide attempt. He was in a stable condition but was still treated for alcohol withdrawal symptoms. His situation was discussed with Dr Myburgh of the Swellendam Hospital for transfer back as soon as transport could be arranged. On 22 February he was moved to the Emergency Unit 24-hours overnight ward due to severe bed pressures and more acutely ill patients in the Emergency Unit requiring beds.

On 23 February at 11:00 the nursing staff noticed that the patient was not in his bed. The Operational Unit Manager was then informed and the premises searched. At 16:00 the SAPS in Worcester and Swellendam were contacted to inform them of the situation. The abscondment was also reported as an adverse event.

On 24 February the patient’s family was informed about the situation. At 17:50, after repeated calls between the Worcester Hospital and the Swellendam and Worcester SAPS, the family was asked to lodge a missing person’s report with Const Arendse at the Swellendam Police Station. The Worcester Police assured the department that they are also working on this case, and by the latest information this morning, this person is still missing.

Ms B G MBALO: Mr Speaker, I just want to ask the MEC if he respects the doctor/patient confidentiality and if he has permission to give us the information that he has just given about the patient.

†Ms B G MBALO: Mr Speaker, I just want to ask if the Minister can tell us what the Minister and the department are doing at this stage. The person is missing and naturally his family or these people are worried. What exactly are you doing to locate him? That is my question.

The MINISTER: Just to answer this question, at the moment we are not doing anything about it. We have reported the matter to the police. Our hospitals are not a prison. Patients come and go in and out of hospitals. You cannot mind a grown-up permanently unless he is already in a psychiatric institution or an institution of custody – it is impossible. It is one of those unfortunate things that happen. This patient was given very good care while he was in our care and we regret the incident that has occurred.
We took great pains to look for him ourselves and got in touch with the family and we are constantly in touch with the police. In fact, I did it again this morning before I came here. But what can we do? We cannot do anything more.

_Death of learner: details_

†4. Ms CF Beerwinkel to ask Mr DAC Grant, Minister of Education:

(1) Whether his department assisted a certain family, whose name has been furnished to his department for the purpose of his reply, regarding answers for the cause of their son’s death; if so, (a) why did the family have to tell their story to the press before they got any reaction, (b) what steps have been taken to call officials in his office to order about irresponsible assumptions in their statements to the press and (c) who from his office visited the family;

(2) whether the statement by the mother on the insensitive way she was treated by the school and the principal was verified; if not, why not; if so, (a) what was the reason and (b) how was the issue resolved?

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Mr Speaker, the question is in two parts. It reads as follows:

4. (1) This remains a police matter. Both the school and the district have offered support to the family concerned.

(a) The family received support from the outset. Subsequent to this, the press approached the family directly.

(b) No official from my office has made any statements of this kind. A district official however was asked about this matter by the press and, to my knowledge, answered that this was a police matter and there would be no speculation as to the cause of death.

(c) No one from my office visited the family. However, an official from the district office visited the family to render support. In addition, after hearing about this incident, I personally phoned the principal of the school to offer my support and asked him to convey my condolences to the family during that difficult time.

(2) No, the statement was not verified, because the principal of the school denies that he was in any way insensitive towards the family. In fact, he rendered support, including, for example, offering the mother of the learner a lift to the hospital.

†Ms CF BEERWINKEL: Mr Speaker, it’s actually sad that this question is on the Question Paper only now, so long after this very tragic event. MEC, thank you for your response, but let me first ask you in whose office or department does Mr Atwell work.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, Paddy Atwell is the Head of our Communications in the Western Cape Education Department, and not part of my Ministry.
†Ms CF BEERWINKEL: MEC, do you agree, understand or accede that communities who do not sit here and listen to you and me asking and answering questions of each other only see and believe what is in the newspaper when they read that?

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, with the greatest respect to the hon Beerwinkel, I am in no position to wonder what is in the minds of the community.

†Ms CF BEERWINKEL: I am going to repeat my question, Mr Speaker. The public out there is not here to listen to the answers and questions that we put. The only access that the community out there has is what they read in a newspaper. My question to the MEC is: Does he agree that that is the only access that the community out there would have to issues that are raised or printed? [Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, ...[Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order! Order, members! [Interjections.] Order, members! The hon Minister is on his feet.

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, there is actually no need for the community to rely on a newspaper, because the community is quite free, if they wish to, to approach the school directly. I must say that I’m informed by the relevant district officials that the police found that in this case the learner died of natural causes and that there was no finding at all which linked the learner’s death to the alleged incident at the school – I repeat, the alleged incident.

†The SPEAKER: This is your final question.

†Ms CF BEERWINKEL: Thank you, Mr Speaker. MEC, the latter part of your response doesn’t have anything to do with the question that I’ve just asked. The point I’m trying to get at is when people read issues in the newspaper that is all that they know. When this mother says that the principal acted in an irresponsible and insensitive manner by …

†The SPEAKER: Please put the question.

†Ms CF BEERWINKEL: … speaking to her on the pavement, that is what the community sees. My question to you again, MEC, is: Why did you not personally visit or speak to the family, though you made an effort to phone the principal and the department and asked someone to go there? Why didn’t you personally make an effort to go and see the family?
†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, what I do normally in very, very tragic circumstances like this is that I first talk to the school and I find out from the school, who is in close collaboration with the family, what the situation is on the ground, as I did after the Deputy Principal of Ludwe Ngamlana High School, for example, was shot last Thursday night. I discussed the matter with the principal the next morning and then over the weekend I was in touch with the family, once they’ve got over their bereavement.

There’s no formula in terms of dealing with human tragedy. One has to be advised by your people on the ground how best to deal with these very difficult matters. There is no formula. I’m not informed by newspapers. If members of the community or parents need to know what’s happening, then they need to speak to the school. Obviously, I was informed and the principal in this case did convey my condolences to the family.
It was a tragic case and, in our opinion, it had nothing to do with any incident at the school.

There are children who die – and we have approximately one million children in our school – and there are natural tragedies that occur that are not linked to school.

†Mr MGE WILEY: Does the hon Minister agree that it is the role of parliamentarians to ensure that the community is properly informed as well?[Interjections.] It’s a rhetorical question. The Minister does not have to answer it.

†The MINISTER: It’s a rhetorical question, Mr Wiley. [Interjections.] Are we aware of our obligation to inform the community? My answer to that is that we certainly will inform all role-players in education, and not necessarily the community at large.[Interjections.]

†Mr MGE WILEY: May I repeat my question, Mr Speaker? Does the hon Minister believe that Members of Parliament, like the hon Carol Beerwinkel, is duty-bound to keep her community and constituency informed of the facts? [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members!

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, can I just say that, as far as I’m informed, the … [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: Order, members!

†The MINISTER: … particular school involved is not part of the hon Beerwinkel’s constituency. I’m well aware of that.

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr P C MCKENZIE: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon McKenzie! The question has been answered. We move onto the next question.

Social relief distress grants granted in Khayelitsha

†5. Ms NP Magwaza to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

(a) How many people were granted social relief distress grants in the Khayelitsha district from December 2010 to date and (b) what criteria were used to disburse these grants?

†The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the reply is as follows:

5. (a) The people from Khayelitsha formed part of the special project of social relief granted to poor households benefiting from an amount of R1080 per household per month for a total of two months. A total of 189 households from Khayelitsha were approved to be paid. Payment through SASSA and ALLPAY is set to take place in April 2011.

(b) The criteria used were:
Applicants must be unemployed;

applicants must not receive a monthly income of more than R1 000;

applicants must not be in receipt of an adult grant, eg disability or old-age pension;

families where there are children in receipt of child support grants or foster care grants could still qualify; and

all applications must have a social workers’ assessment report recommending the payment.

†Ms BG MBALO: Mr Speaker, I want to ask the MEC what criteria are used to identify those. How do they get to the stage of the social worker assessment?

†The MINISTER: Before the Department of Social Development waited to go twice a year to identify people through our provincial and local offices. We now do it on a monthly basis. Every month as the social workers are working in the field they identify people who are in need. The assessment is done by the social worker, it’s signed off by the social worker manager, it’s signed off by the local office manager, and once we are all happy that they comply with the criteria, it’s sent to SASSA for payment. It’s an ongoing process on a daily basis.

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: What do you think of ... [Inaudible.]

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Is there any follow-up question? Hon McKenzie, do you have a follow-up question?

†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Yes, sir.

†The SPEAKER: Please proceed.

†Mr PC MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. [Interjections.] Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I really appreciate your presence in that Chair, sir. [Interjections.] Can I ask the hon Minister how she feels about the hon Fritz taking over from her when she’s left? [Laughter.]

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon McKenzie. The question has been put.

†The MINISTER: It’s unrelated to the question on the Question Paper. [Interjections.]

†The SPEAKER: That’s a new question. Good try, hon McKenzie. Thank you very much. We proceed to the next question.

Reasons why Gauteng Province achieved higher matric pass rate

†6. Ms TN Bevu to ask Mr DAC Grant, Minister of Education:

What are the reasons why Gauteng Province achieved a higher matric pass rate than the Western Cape in 2010?
The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Mr Speaker, thank you to the hon Bevu for the question. The reply is as follows:

6. We have said from the outset that we are determined to ensure that as many learners as possible have the opportunity to pass the National Senior Certificate, and in so doing, substantially improve their life chances.

In the Western Cape, we focus primarily on numbers passing, as opposed to the pass rate, as the true indicator of success. In this context, it is worth noting that the Western Cape and Limpopo were the only two provinces that saw an increase in the number of full-time candidates who enrolled for the exams.

While Gauteng saw an increase in the number of passes, the number of full-time candidates dropped by 6627, which meant that the pass rate is based on lower numbers. If Gauteng had kept the same number of full-time learners in the system, then the pass rate in 2010 would have been 73,5%, compared to the 76,8% in the Western Cape.

I am confident that the Western Cape’s considerably improved performance last year is both credible and sustainable. We want to avoid a situation which has developed in some provinces of a yo-yo effect, and would rather strive to achieve continuous systematic improvement.

Finally, let me remind the hon member that we should be proud of this province, as we managed to reverse a six-year decline in the matric pass rate.

Reactive measures like disaster management to deal with floods

Mr M Ncedana to ask Ms P de Lille, Minister of Social Development:

What are the reasons why her department relies on reactive measures like disaster management to deal with floods that occur every winter in the Western Cape, instead of proactive ways to mitigate the situation beforehand?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, the reply is as follows:

7. The Department of Social Development works in close collaboration with other provincial departments and municipalities in order to respond appropriately to disasters. Once the disaster has occurred the Municipal Disaster Management Centres (MDMCs) register all calls and responses in their Call Centres. These Call Centres notify all relevant stakeholders – notably the Departments of Human Settlements, Health, Local Government, Social Development, Rescue Services, etc – and request that each department responds appropriately pertaining to their line functions.

On our part, the Department of Social Development delivers a standard support package – including the provision of food; blankets; baby packs; clothing; counseling, if needed; and an additional cash amount in cases of fires – through our service providers and officials at local office level.

As the Western Cape is normally ravaged by cold and wet winters, readiness plans are put in place by all relevant stakeholders at the onset of the winter season.
Municipalities are challenged in certain informal settlements where structures are built in low-laying areas, below the flood lines. These challenges are managed at intergovernmental relations levels.

In regard to preventative measures, it is advised that MPL Ncedana addresses his question to the Departments of Human Settlements and Local Government as they are tasked with this.

_Cape Winelands District Municipality: disaster management centre_

*8. Mr E H Eloff to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

Whether the Cape Winelands District Municipality has a disaster management centre; if not, why not; if so, (a) where and (b) when was it set up?

*The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Mr Speaker, I thank the hon Eloff for the question. The reply is as follows:

8. The Cape Winelands District is the only district municipality in the Western Cape without a disaster management centre. The district does, however, have disaster managers tasked with co-ordinating planning and with responding during disasters or major incidents.

In my capacity as Minister of Local Government, I intervened politically by discussing this matter with the mayor of the district. The Provincial Disaster Management Centre has also held discussions with the district and will in future provide the necessary support by considering the various alternatives regarding establishing the centre.

*Mr E H ELOFF: In other words, it cannot be said with certainty that a disaster management centre will in fact at this stage be established on this side or that side of the mountain in the Winelands district?

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the issue is clearly a sensitive one. I respect the question, and it is of the utmost importance that we succeed in doing this. A decision by the council determined that they wanted to build the centre on the Cape Town side of the mountain, either in Stellenbosch or to the Drakenstein side. It’s also about political boundaries, so there are no politics in this. I’ve also debated this with Salga. The deputy mayor also asked for my help.

We debated about it for a long time, and it is only a logical conclusion that on this side of the mountain we have the Unicity, and we have Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, which have the capacity to be of reasonable assistance and help if any disasters should occur. Our great need is on the other side of the mountain. It will be useless to build the disaster management centre on this side, especially if a situation arises where the tunnel is closed and you cannot get through – then you have no capacity on the other side.

We are busy with these negotiations. There are certain budgets available. The centre must be built – I think we are all of the opinion that the issue is just where it should be built, and the feeling among the stakeholders is that it should be on the other side of the mountain.
*Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, may I ask the hon Minister what the Provincial Government’s contribution to the disaster management centre is?

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, at this stage I have not looked at the figures. It is a budget that usually comes out of the district. We are busy with the negotiations and to help them and to see where we can assist them, because there will be a shortfall. We are well aware of the need. The serious debate at this stage is to decide where it will be built. As soon as we have that out of the way, the stakeholders will meet.

*Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, has a disaster management centre not already been started in Worcester, adjacent to the Worcester Hospital?

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I think that was an upgrade of a very restricted space. They need a better facility, and this is all part of the discussion now. The site is too small to be merely extended to full disaster management function, but there are sites available. It was an internal decision to build it on this side of the mountain, and that has brought it to quite an abrupt standstill because everyone realised that it will not serve the needs. We can think for ourselves that we indeed have capacity on this side of the mountain. The big question is: what happens if the tunnel is blocked? Then we'll have too little capacity on the other side.

*Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, to what extent does it increase the risk with regard to disaster management and the application and elimination thereof in the Cape Winelands?

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we have disaster managers there. We are regularly in contact with them, should anything happen. There was a big fire there a few months ago. From the provincial side, we help where we can. The neighboring municipalities are all willing to help. There is therefore no crisis at this stage. The reason we want to build is because it is necessary that we have a centre in each district. The other district centres work quite well. This helps a lot. It especially helps in reducing the time frame to reach a disaster.

It helps with certain expertise that we have there to perform the function. At this point it is about the shortfalls, and we will address this as soon as possible.

\emph{Farms declared as nature reserves}

\textbf{9. Mr M C Walters to ask Mr HG van Rensburg, Minister of Agriculture:}

\begin{enumerate}
  \item Whether his department is consulted when farms are declared nature reserves; if so, what is the extent of agricultural land that is annual withdrawn from production by this process;
  \item whether it is advisable that his department is consulted in this process to keep up with the loss of productive resources; if not, why not; if so, why?
\end{enumerate}

†The SPEAKER: Order! I recognise the hon Minister Meyer, who will respond on behalf of hon Minister Van Rensburg. [Interjections.] Members, can we proceed to the next question and come back to this one? Then we don’t have to wait. We can just come back, please. Thank you very much.
Awarding of permits to undertake mining exploration: details

*10. Mr MC Walters to ask Mr AR Winde, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

Whether his department is involved with the awarding of permits to undertake mining exploration in the Western Cape; if not, which Western Cape departments are consulted by the Department of Mineral Resources before permits are awarded; if so, (a) how many permits have been awarded and (b) when were they issued?

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, the answer is as follows:

10. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is not consulted or involved in the awarding of mining exploration permits by the Department of Mineral Resources. It is brought to my attention that Minister Bredell’s department is asked, but only for comment.

†Mr MC WALTERS: Mr Speaker, mining, if economically viable, could be a major contributor to economic development. It is inconceivable that the Department of Mineral Resources should be enabled to ride roughshod over the provincial departments involved and other departments committed to management of our unique biological and scenic resources. What approach could be taken in order to ensure that the wishes of the province and its people take precedence in cases such as the granting of permits to prospect for tungsten mining in the headwaters of the unique Verloren Vallei? Should the department not be kept aware of where and how many permits have been granted and for which minerals are being prospected?[Interjections.]

†The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I thank the hon member for that follow-up question, but I think it’s difficult for me to answer to that now. However, I do believe that we should have some insight.

I also believe that at local government level, as part of the IDP process, they should also understand what the future is when any kind of mining activity is due to take place. I think there needs to be a relook at that process of how this action actually does take place, because it has a huge impact ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER: If the hon Ozinsky will cast his mind back to the request in the Durbanville Hills for mining activity to take place a few years ago, it was a major problem and the national Department was just going ahead and giving permission for exploration and so on. There was no consultation with Economic Development, Tourism, or with Local Government in that process.

Mr M OZINSKY: [Inaudible.]

†The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Interjections.] Order! Order, hon Ozinsky! Is there any further follow-up question? There is no further follow-up question. I then grant an opportunity to hon Minister Meyer.
Farms declared as nature reserves

*9. Mr M C Walters to ask Mr H G van Rensburg, Minister of Agriculture:

(1) Whether his department is consulted when farms are declared nature reserves; if so, what is the extent of agricultural land that is annual withdrawn from production by this process;

(2) whether it is advisable that his department is consulted in this process to keep up with the loss of productive resources; if not, why not; if so, why?

†The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT (On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture): Mr Speaker ... [Interjections.]

†Mr M OZINSKY: [Inaudible.] ... cross the line.
†The SPEAKER: Hon Minister Carlisle ...

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]
†Mr M OZINSKY: He’s running away. [Interjections.]
†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

†Mr M OZINSKY: Would you command the Police to arrest that MEC for disregarding the House?
†The SPEAKER: No, it’s fine. The Chief Whip will address the issue. It’s fine.[Interjections.] Thank you very much. [Interjections.]Thank you very much, members. [Interjections.]I’ve asked the Chief Whip to address the matter with the Minister.

†Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, what’s your ruling on it?It’s good to ask the Chief Whip to run behind him ...
†The SPEAKER: No, it’s definitely crossing the line. Once I’ve asked the Minister to stand, it was crossing the line.

†Mr P UYS: But he must actually come back, Mr Speaker. He’s ignoring you. He was just waving at you.
†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.]Thank you. Hon Minister Carlisle, would you address the Chair?

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: I understand I’ve given great offence, Mr Speaker, ...[Interjections.] ... and that I’ve gone well beyond the bounds. For this I want to apologise humbly, unreservedly and unconditionally. I will not do it again, sir.[Interjections.]
†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Carlisle.
†Mr P C MCKENZIE: Mr Speaker, on a ...
†The SPEAKER:No further comment. Thank you very much.
†Mr PC MCKENZIE: No, Mr Speaker, on a further point of order: I am glad that he has apologized for what he did there.

†The SPEAKER: That’s not a point of order, hon McKenzie. Thank you very much.[Interjections.]

†The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT (On behalf of the Minister of Agriculture): Hon member Carlisle ... [Laughter.][Interjections.]On a point of order, Minister.

*Mr Speaker and hon Ozinsky, I have received a request from the hon Minister van Rensburg after he consulted with the person who asked the question. The answer to this question is that no incidences of these diseases that spread have been reported to SPCA facilities during the past five years.

*Mr P UYS: Which question is this?[Interjections.]

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, it is the question that the hon Ozinsky asked the hon...

*The SPEAKER: No, it should be the question that the hon Walters asked Minister Van Rensburg.[Interjections.]It is Question 9. [Interjections.]It is Question 17. [Interjections.]

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, in the spirit of the hon Carlisle, I apologize. The reply is as follows:

9. (1) The change in land use when agricultural land is converted to a nature reserve requires rezoning, and the hon Minister’s department has to comment on the proposed rezoning from Agricultural to Open Space 3. For this purpose, the hon Minister’s department developed an inter-departmental approach with other stakeholders, under which the applications are evaluated and comments are made. An application will only be supported if it meets the following requirements:

- The area should form part of an area of interest for critical biodiversity and form part of ecological corridors.

- The proposed change to a nature reserve should be supported by Cape Nature and a signed guardianship agreement between Cape Nature and the landowner must be in place.

- An environmental management plan for the area should already have been drafted.

- The area to be converted must not be currently or in the past have been used for production of agricultural crops.

- If the application to convert a portion of the farm to a nature reserve is approved, the remainder of the farm must remain a sustainable farming unit.

The agricultural land that is converted to reserves annually varies from year to year, but over the past five years it was in the region of 4000 ha per year.
(2) It is thus recommended that his department should be involved in the process of conversion of agricultural land into nature reserves, in order to ensure compliance with the criteria of the interdepartmental approach outlined above.

*Mr J J VISSE: Mr Speaker, I want to know if the Minister can tell us whether game farming can be classified as commercial livestock farming.

*The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, this question gives me a stomach ache and I request that it be held over for the hon Minister of Agriculture. I have arranged this with him.

_Outstanding liquor licence applications_

†11. Mr EJ von Brandis to ask Mr AR Winde, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

(a) How many outstanding liquor licence applications are currently on the Western Cape Liquor Board’s database and (b) when does he or his department plan to address this backlog?

†The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, the reply is as follows:

11. (a) Currently, there are approximately 1 100 liquor licence applications pending.

   (b) The backlog must be understood in the context of this being a transition period between the current legislation and the implementation of the new legislation.

   The following measures are in place:

   • The frequency and duration of the board sittings has been increased substantially. The meetings are extensive in terms of time, and up to 50 applications are considered in a single sitting.

   • Given the huge number of applications received, a mechanism is in place to identify those applications that have not been objected to in order to maximise the number that can be considered in a single sitting.

   • The board will be implementing a new liquor licence administration system in the 2011-12 financial year with improved tracking and reporting capabilities that will enhance the effectiveness of the service delivered by the board.

*Mr P UYS: Mr Speaker, can I ask the Minister when the backlog will be cleared?

*The MINISTER: We are working on it. We received 2135 applications at the beginning of the year. As I’ve just said, here are about 1100 that must still be seen. We have already worked through about 50%, but I’ve asked the council to sit on Saturdays too. They are sitting on Saturdays again to work through it. What happened is that many of the unlicensed liquor markets did not submit applications during the period when we brought in the new legislation. We are trying to process it as fast as possible, but it is not very easy.
If there are objections, we have to hold public hearings. I can therefore not say that it could be by the end of the year, but we are working on it.

†Mr M SKWATSHA: Excuse me, but I hope that I will not be asking the same question. The backlog stretches from when, if you understand my question?

†The MINISTER: Just over a year and a half ago the backlog was 1 900 and then six months ago it was about 1 600. We are slowly whittling away at that backlog. Some of those applications have been there for, let me say, probably three or four years. We are slowly whittling away at them, and it is very difficult to deal with, because in many cases some of the objectors and even some of the applicants are no longer there. However, we have to deal with every single one. The board has to then clear it off, advertise if they can’t find the people and then dispose of it.

†The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Is the Liquor Board in a crisis?

†The MINISTER: No, it is not. As I said in the initial stage of answering the question, it is in a transition phase, firstly, and I think with the new liquor law coming in specifically a lot of the big liquor outlets really rallied a lot of people together and made sure that there were a lot more applications in before the new law comes in. Obviously, the numbers went up substantially. We obviously have to work through them, and that is why we’re working extra hours and on weekends.

†The SPEAKER: A final question, hon Skwatsha?

Mnu M SKWATSHA: Ingaba likhona ithuba lokubhena ukuba ilayisenisi leyo ithe ayavunywa?

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[Mr M SKWATSHA: Is there any opportunity to appeal if the licence is rejected?]?

†The SPEAKER: Hon Skwatsha, could you kindly repeat that? I think the Minister is ready for you.

Mnu M SKWATSHA: Ingaba likhona na ithuba lokubhena ukuba ibhodi le ithe ayayamkela, ayamnika umntu ilayisenisi? Ukhuba likhona ithuba lokubhena, umntu ubhenela phi, kwakwibhodi okanye kwisigqeba esiphezulu?

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[Mr M SKWATSHA: Is there any opportunity to appeal if the board rejected and not give the licence to the applicant? If there is, where does the person do it, to the board or the executive?]?

†The MINISTER: If you applied for your license and the board has turned you down after the process, then you can appeal through me, but that’s the only recourse.

†The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That concludes the question time. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.
* Questions and replies as received from departments.

QUESTIONS

Oral questions for written reply:

_Western Cape Liquor Act: public participation_

*12. Mr E J von Brandis to ask Mr A R Winde, Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism:

(1) (a) How many institutions did he visit to encourage public participation regarding the Western Cape Liquor Act, 2008 (Act No 4 of 2008), (b) where are these institutions situated and (c) what was the feedback;

(2) whether this action was successful; if not, why not; if so, why?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM:

12. (1) (a) and (b) The Minister convened a meeting with liquor traders and applicants in Mitchells Plain and did walkabouts to outlets in Mitchells Plain and Long Street Cape Town for which full media was arranged. He also conducted a number of radio talks to encourage participation, and announce an extension of the period for comment on the draft regulations.

(c) Very positive. The public, liquor industry and NGO welcomed the extension and the public awareness that resulted from the Minister’s aforementioned actions.

(2) Yes. This created greater awareness of the draft regulations that had been published for comment, and increased the number of comments received from 11 by the closing date to 34 by the extended closing date.

_Remuneration for police reservists suspended_

*13. Ms J L Hartnick to ask Mr A T Fritz, Minister of Community Safety:

Whether it has been brought to his attention that the remuneration for police reservists has been suspended; if so, (a) why, (b) when was it suspended and (c) what is the possibility to address this?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

13. (a)–(c) The remuneration for the South African Reserve Police Service has not been suspended. The policy in respect of the former is however under review.
Mossel Bay Municipality: control of erection of “to let/for sale” signs

*14. Mr P Uys to ask Mr A W Bredell Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(1) To what extent does the Mossel Bay Municipality have the competency to announce bylaws to control the erection of “to let/for sale” signs on private property;

(2) whether where such bylaws exist it may stipulate that the owner can only put up one “to let/for sale” sign; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

14. (1) Municipalities, according to Schedule 5B of the Constitution, have the authority to regulate advertising and signage in public places. In terms of section 156(5) of the Constitution a municipality has the right to exercise any power concerning a matter reasonably necessary for, or incidental to, the effective performance of its functions. This should be read with section 11(3)(m) of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000, which states that a municipality exercises its legislative or executive authority by passing bylaws and taking decisions on any of the matters which it must administer.

It can therefore be said that regulating advertising and signage on private land is incidental to a municipality’s authority to regulate advertising and signage on private land.

It can therefore be said that Mossel Bay Municipality has the competency to make bylaws to control the erection of to let/for sale signs on private property.

(2) Yes. The Bylaw relating to Outdoor Advertising and Signage published in Provincial Gazette 6688, dated 18 January 2010, does stipulate in section 13(4)(a) that only one for sale or to let sign may be displayed. In this regard, it should be noted that the Mossel Bay Municipality has confirmed that all public comment procedures were correctly followed leading up to the development of the bylaw.

Bitou Municipality: councillor’s violation of Code of Conduct for Councillors

*15. Mr P Uys to ask Mr A W Bredell Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(1) To what extent did a certain councillor of the Bitou Municipality, whose name has been furnished to his department for the purpose of his reply, violate the Code of Conduct for Councillors when he made himself guilty of riotous behaviour on 15 March 2011;

(2) whether he is planning any action against the councillor; if not, why not; if so, what action?
The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

15. (1) The Acting Municipal Manager of the Bitou Municipality replied that the opinion is held that the councillor, during the Oversight Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2011, violated Item 2 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors as contained in Schedule 1 of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000, to the extent that his conduct seriously compromised the credibility and integrity of the Bitou Local Municipality.

(2) At this stage I do not contemplate taking any action against the councillor as I must first allow the law to take its course as set out in the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Merge of Zeekoeivlei Senior Secondary School and Pelican Park High School

16. Mr M Ozinsky to ask Mr D A C Grant, Minister of Education:

(a) Why was the decision taken to merge the Zeekoeivlei Senior Secondary School and the Pelican Park High School, (b) how was the decision made, (c) what process of consultation has been followed, (d) what alternatives have been considered and (e) what are the costs of the merger?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

17. No such decision has been taken. Therefore, the other questions fall away.

Animal sickness spreading from SPCA facilities

17. Mr M Ozinsky to ask Mr H G van Rensburg, Minister of Agriculture

Whether there have been any cases of animal sickness spreading from SPCA facilities in the past five years; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE:

17. No animal sicknesses have been reported spreading from SPCA facilities in the past five years.

Oudtshoorn Municipality: appointment of more officials

*18. Mr J J Visser to ask Mr A W Bredell Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

(1) Whether it has been brought to his attention that the Oudtshoorn Municipality decided to appoint more officials; if so, (a) how many officials will be appointed and (b) at what cost; if not,

(2) whether he will investigate the issue; if not, why not?
The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

18. (1) (a) and (b) During the 2010-11 financial year, no appointments were made outside of the approved organogram and allocated budget. The municipality will however budget for the filling of critical vacancies in line with the newly revised micro and macro structure during the 2011-12 financial year.

(2) The matter will not be investigated as no appointments outside the approved micro and macro structure and the 2010/11 approved budget were made.

Closed Paarl East Police Station

*19. Mr J J Visser to ask Mr A T Fritz, Minister of Community Safety:

(1) Whether it has been brought to his attention that the Paarl East Police Station has been closed; if so, (a) why (i) has it been closed and (ii) is it no longer available for residents and (b) what will happen to the building; if not;

(2) whether he will investigate the matter; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

19. (1) and (2) Paarl East South African Police Services has not closed. The station relocated to a newly-built facility in the Paarl East area during November 2008.

The previous building was a leasehold with the Drakenstein Municipality which was subsequently cancelled and the building handed back to the municipality.

Programme to fight crime: funds received from private sector

20. Mr P C McKenzie to ask Mr A T Fritz, Minister of Community Safety:

Whether he or his department received funds from the private sector to assist in the programme to fight crime; if so, since taking office, (a) how much money was received, (b) which organisations contributed, (c) who manages these funds; (d) into which bank account were the funds paid and (e) for what projects were the funds used?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

20. No, the department did not receive any funding from the private sector.
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