

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

QUESTION PAPER

WRITTEN REPLY

Note: * Indicates translated version.

FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

1. Prof N Mbombo to ask Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

Given anecdotal reports that Government Garage-branded (GG-branded) vehicles have increasingly been targeted in robberies, placing public servants and their families in danger, and considering that GG vehicles are managed by Government Motor Transport (GMT):

(a) What is the total cost to each department for the management and operation of GG vehicles, (b) how many incidents of robbery or related crimes involving GG-branded vehicles have been reported in each department over the past three years and (c) what measures has the Department put in place to (i) reduce the risk of such incidents and (ii) improve the safety of public servants who rely on GG vehicles?

(419)

2. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

With reference to his reply to question 16 of 26 June 2025:

- (1) What defects in the municipality's pleadings led to the litigation being unsuccessful;
- (2) whether the municipality failed to amend its pleadings within the 20-day period afforded by the court; if so, what explanation has been provided for this non-compliance;
- (3) whether the municipality's claims have prescribed; if so, (a) what is the total value of the prescribed claims and (b) who will be held accountable for the resultant financial loss to the municipality;

- (4) (a) what alternative intervention measures has the provincial government implemented or considered in terms of section 139 of the Constitution in the light of the municipality's failure to prosecute the claims effectively and (b) what is the total cost incurred by the Municipality on legal proceedings to date?

(420)

3. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

With reference to his reply to question 2 of 11 July 2025:

- (1) (a) What is the total budget allocated to informal settlement upgrades for each year of the MTEF and (b) what proportion of the total upgrading budget is spent on (i) planning, (ii) consultants, (iii) bulk infrastructure and (iv) housing delivery;
- (2) (a)(i) how was the target of 115 upgrade projects identified for the MTEF and (ii) what upgrades or services will be delivered in each of these projects and (b) of the 115 projects, how many (i) are designated as in-situ upgrading projects and (ii) involve the relocation of households;
- (3) (a) how many households are projected to be relocated to temporary relocation areas (TRAs) during the MTEF period and (b) what is the (i) average and (ii) longest period of stay for households in TRAs before access to permanent housing is provided;
- (4) (a) what is the total amount budgeted for the maintenance and management of TRAs in the current MTEF and (b) how does this compare to the budget allocated to the permanent upgrading of informal settlements;
- (5) with regard to the 26 TRAs that already exist, (a) when were they established, (b) what was the cause for their establishments and (c) where are they located?

(421)

4. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

With reference to his reply to question 7 of 22 May 2025:

- (1) Whether the intergovernmental dispute has been resolved; if not, what stage of the process is the dispute currently in; if so, what was the (a) outcome and (b) what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a) which projects have been impacted by cuts to the Human Settlements Development Grant (HSDG) and Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) and (b) how have the cuts from both the (i) HSDG and (ii) ISUPG impacted the baseline of the MTEF?

(422)

5. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr R D Mackenzie, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:

Whether the national government currently provides any direct or indirect funding specifically allocated to the development and promotion of women's rugby in the province, if so, (a) what are the details of the (i) nature, (ii) amount and (iii) duration of such funding and (b) how is the funding (i) distributed and (ii) monitored at the provincial level?

(423)

6. Mr T C R Walters to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

With regard to the Energy and Water Council:

(a) How does the work of the council feed into the planning of the different departments of the Western Cape Government and (b) what insights into water and energy resilience have been revealed through the work of the council?

(424)

7. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

In regard to the Western Cape SAPS Forensic Laboratory:

(a) What is the current SAPS backlog of DNA cases in the province, broken down by (i) GBV or rape, (ii) murder, (iii) property crime and (iv) missing persons, (b) what is the average turnaround time calculated from the submission of samples to the laboratory to the delivery of test results, (c)(i) how many cases are at risk of being removed from court rolls or being withdrawn because the forensic evidence has been delayed and (ii) how many cases have already been removed or withdrawn, (d)(i) what is the current staff complement at the SAPS Forensic Science Laboratory and (ii) how does this compare to the required or ideal staffing level and (e) how many SAPS forensic laboratories are in the province?

(425)

8. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

- (1) (a) Which foreign countries are identified as major sources of smuggled firearms into the province, (a) what is the current estimated number of illegal firearms in circulation in the province and (c) how many of these firearms are believed to have been smuggled in from outside South Africa;
- (2) (a) how many firearm smuggling syndicates – specifically targeting the province – have been identified in the past three years, (b) how many arrests have been made, (c) how many offenders have been charged and (d) how many successful convictions resulted;
- (3) how many illegal firearms have been confiscated by SAPS in the province in (a) 2023, (b) 2024 and (c) 2025 to date?

(426)

9. Mr M Booysen to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

(a) What are the main factors contributing to the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the province and (b) what strategies can be implemented to effectively reduce this rate?

(427)

10. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander to ask Mr J J Londt, Minister of Social Development:

What are the details of cases reported by social workers of the following different forms of child abuse in the province: (a) sexual abuse, (b) physical abuse, (c) emotional abuse, (d) neglect and (e) abandonment in the (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and (iii) 2024/25 financial year?

(428)

11. Mr P Johnson to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With reference to the Back on Track Programme:

(a) What is the projected cost for the 2025/26 financial year, (b)(i) how many teachers are currently involved in implementing the programme and (ii) how are they allocated across districts, (c) how many learners are currently enrolled in the programme broken down by grade, (d)(i) which grades have been prioritised for support through the programme and (ii) what was the rationale for choosing these grades, (e)(i) how many schools per district are currently participating in the programme and (ii) what criteria were used to determine school selection, (f) what measurable outcomes have been achieved by the programme and (g) how many learners in no-fee schools compared to learners in fee-paying schools are benefitting from the programme?

(429)

12. Mr P Johnson to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With reference to the reductions in the education budget:

(a) What is the estimated impact on the delivery of essential services in schools for the last three financial years and (b) what measures have been put in place to mitigate these effects, specifically in respect of (i) the number of educator posts required versus what the budget can accommodate, (ii) the budgeted versus the actual expenditure on learner support material (LSM), (iii) the grades and subjects most affected by LSM shortages, (iv) the budgeted versus the actual expenditure on the School Nutrition Programme, (v) the budgeted versus the actual expenditure on the School Transport Programme, (vi) the planned versus the actual expenditure on school infrastructure maintenance and upgrades and (vii) the additional funding required each year to restore services?

(430)

13. Mr P Johnson to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

With reference to the issue of so-called “ghost teachers” in the education system:

- (1) (a) How many cases of ghost teachers have been identified in (i) 2022/23, (ii) 2023/24 and (iii) 2024/25 to date, broken down by education district, (b) what was the total estimated cost to the provincial fiscus of these ghost teacher salaries for the same period as in (a) above, (c) what internal control and verification systems are currently in place to (i) detect and (ii) prevent ghost teachers being paid, (d) how many investigations into cases of ghost teachers are currently ongoing and (e) what measures are being taken to ensure disciplinary action or criminal prosecution where fraud is found;
- (2) (a) what is the impact of cases of ghost teachers on the availability of funded educator posts in the province, (b) how has this affected classroom delivery, specifically with respect to learner–teacher ratios in high-pressure districts, (c) how many of the cases of ghost teacher involved collusion by school management or district officials and (d) what remedial measures have been instituted to prevent any recurrence;
- (3) whether his Department has any plans to make use of digital biometric attendance, centralised HR or payroll auditing or collaboration with the Auditor-General and the Provincial Treasury to strengthen oversight and to reduce the risk of ghost teachers remaining undetected; if so, what are the timelines for implementation?

(431)

14. Prof N Mbombo to ask Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

- (1) (a)(i) What is the current status of the N2 Express Pilot Integration Project and (ii) what key milestones have been achieved to date, (b)(i) which routes or areas are currently included in the N2 Express Pilot and (ii) how were they selected and (c) what measurable outcomes or indicators are being used to assess the success of the pilot project;
- (2) whether there are plans to expand the N2 Express integration model to other corridors or regions in the province; if so, which areas are being considered;
- (3) what lessons have been learned from the pilot project that will inform future public transport integration strategies in the province and (b) what (i) budget and (ii) resources have been allocated for the continuation or expansion of the N2 Express integration initiative in the last three financial years?

(432)

15. Mr D J Wessels to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

- (a) What is the current number of informal settlements in the province, broken down by (i) district and (ii) municipality, (b) how many informal settlements are targeted for formal upgrading over the next three financial years, (c) what budget has been allocated for the upgrading of informal settlements in the last three financial years, (d) how much has been allocated to the Province by the National Treasury from the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant (ISUPG) for (i) 2023/24, (ii) 2024/25 and (iii) 2025/26, (e) how much is needed to build housing units and upgrade service infrastructure, (f) how many housing units are expected to be delivered through these upgrading projects, (g)(i) how many residents have been relocated from informal settlements over the past three years and (ii) what were the primary reasons for their relocation and (h) what mechanisms exist for residents to raise concerns or provide input on informal settlement upgrading projects?

(433)

16. Mr M K Sayed to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

With regard to the Social Housing Regulatory Authority:

- (1) Whether the Social Housing Regulatory Authority (SHRA) has received, considered or approved any applications from Communicare NPC (or its subsidiary Goodfind Properties (Pty) Ltd) relating to the transfer, disposal or vesting of housing stock in Ruyterwacht (formerly Eppingtuin), Goodwood; if so, what was the outcome of such applications;
- (2) whether copies can be made available of any vesting certificates, *Government Gazette* notices or other official authorisations evidencing the lawful transfer of the Ruyterwacht properties from the State or the Goodwood Municipality to Communicare NPC;
- (3) whether SHRA granted approval in terms of sections 11 and 12 of the Social Housing Act, 2008 (Act 16 of 2008), for the disposal of any Ruyterwacht housing stock by Communicare NPC or Goodfind Properties (Pty) Ltd; if not, what enforcement action has SHRA taken to ensure compliance; if so, (a) what conditions were imposed and (b) were the conditions complied with?

(434)

17. Ms N D Nkondlo to ask Ms D M Baartman, Minister of Finance:

With regard to the Competition Commission's Cost of Living Report (August 2025):

- (1) Whether her Department has engaged with the findings of the Competition Commission's Cost of Living Report (August 2025) regarding the disproportionate impact of rising food, transport, housing and utility costs on low-income households in Cape Town; if so, what measures are being implemented to provide relief to vulnerable residents in the province;
- (2) in the light of evidence of "price stickiness" in staple foods (such as bread, maize meal, chicken, eggs and sunflower oil) where producer cost reductions are not passed on to consumers, what steps is her Department taking to address anti-competitive behaviour in food retail markets, particularly in urban centres such as Cape Town;
- (3) given that electricity tariffs have increased by 68% and water by 50% over the past five years, with Cape Town residents facing compounded municipal tariff hikes, what interventions are being considered by her Department to curb the burden of administered prices on households, especially in informal settlements and low-income communities?

(435)

18. Ms A P Bans to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

Regarding the meeting of the Western Cape Provincial Safety Council:

- (1) What concrete (a) steps and (b) timelines have been agreed upon by the Safety Council to address violent crime, gangsterism and organised crime in high-risk communities across the province;
- (2) how will the Western Cape Government, through the new Safety Plan and the Violence Prevention Unit, balance short-term law enforcement interventions with long-term violence prevention strategies to tackle the root causes of crime?

(436)

19. Ms A P Bans to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

- (a) What is the total amount that has been spent on litigation in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date, (b) what is the (i) detailed breakdown of the litigation expenditure per government department and public entity and (ii) distinction between matters in which the State acted as the litigant and those in which it was the defendant or respondent and (c) what is the detailed cost breakdown of each litigation matter, indicating the (i) nature of the case, (ii) amount incurred and (iii) stage or outcome of the matter (settled, withdrawn, ongoing or finalised)?

(437)

20. Mr F Kamfer to ask Mr J J Londt, Minister of Social Development:

Regarding the GBV Ambassadors Programme:

- (1) (a) What mechanisms are in place to (i) monitor and (ii) evaluate the impact of the GBV Ambassador Programme in areas such as Retreat, Philippi, Mitchells Plain, Guguletu, Wynberg and Metro East, particularly in terms of the (i) number of cases referred, (ii) awareness raised and (iii) survivor support outcomes;

- (2) whether his Department has allocated specific budgetary resources to sustain the expanded GBV Ambassador Programme, including stipends, transport support and ongoing training for volunteers; if not, how will the programme be sustainably supported; if so, what is the total allocation for the 2025/26 financial year?

(438)

21. Mr M B Ngqentsu to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

- (1) (a) What is the number of firearms that have been smuggled into the province from (i) Namibia and (ii) other SADC countries over the past five years and (b) what steps has her Department taken, in collaboration with SAPS and national security agencies, to close the loopholes that allow the smuggling of firearms across our borders;
- (2) whether she can provide an update to the joint investigations between the SAPS and the Namibian Police Force (Nampol) into the smuggling of Namibian state-owned firearms; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether her Department has a dedicated strategy to disrupt the flow of automatic rifles, such as AK-47s, smuggled along Namibian routes; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what is the impact of these firearms on gang violence in communities such as Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and the broader Cape Flats?

(439)

22. Ms B N Stoffel to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

- (1) (a) What was the rationale behind invoking section 139(1)(c) of the Constitution to dissolve the Knysna Municipal Council instead of applying for support in terms of section 154 of the Constitution or intervening in terms of section 139(1)(b) of the Constitution, (b) what specific factors justified dissolution rather than alternative interventions, (c) what other forms of intervention were considered prior to dissolution and (d) why were those alternatives deemed inadequate;
- (2) whether any other municipalities in the province are currently under consideration for intervention by his Department; if so, which municipalities are being assessed;
- (3) whether any of the municipalities in (2) above are being considered for potential dissolution in terms of section 139(1)(c) of the Constitution; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) why were those support efforts provided to the municipality insufficient to restore functionality;
- (5) whether any weaknesses were identified in the provincial support model; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (6) (a) how will the appointment of an Administrator address the systemic governance failures in the municipality and (b) what measures are in place to ensure that the Administrator acts impartially;
- (7) (a) what lessons has his Department drawn from the Knysna intervention and (b) how will these be applied to improve support for other struggling municipalities across the province?

(440)

23. Ms N D Nkondlo to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

Statistics SA reports show that more than 360 000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in the Western Cape are currently not in employment, education or training (NEET):

- (1) (a) What is the total number of young people between the ages of 15 and 35 in the province who fall into the NEET category, (b) what is the breakdown per age cohort (i) 15–24 and (ii) 25–35, and per (aa) race, (bb) gender and (cc) municipality and (c) what is the provincial government's response to this crisis of youth exclusion from the economy, education and training opportunities;
- (2) what are the details of all the (a) programmes and (b) interventions implemented by the Western Cape Government to address the NEET challenge over the past five years, including the (i) departments responsible for these programmes, (ii) annual budget allocations, (iii) actual expenditure on each programme and (iv) number of young people reached or benefitting in (aa) 2019, (bb) 2020, (cc) 2021, (dd) 2022, (ee) 2023, (ff) 2024 and (gg) 2025 to date?

(441)

24. Ms R Windvogel to ask Ms M M Wenger, Minister of Health and Wellness:

With regard to HIV infections in the province:

- Withdrawn**
- (1) What is the total number of new infections recorded in the province in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021, (iv) 2022, (v) 2023, (vi) 2024 and (vii) 2025 to date and (b) what is the breakdown according to (i) age, (ii) municipality, (iii) health district, (iv) race and (v) gender;
 - (2) (a) what is the number of young people between (i) 1 and 14, (ii) 15 and 24 and (iii) 25 and 35 who are living with HIV in the province, (b) what is the breakdown according to (i) race, (ii) gender, (iii) municipality and (iv) health district and (c) how many of these are new infections recorded between January and September 2025;
 - (3) in respect of the police precincts in the top 30 murder stations nationally, (a) what is the prevalence of HIV and (b) how many new infections were recorded in the current year?

(442)

25. Mr F C Christians to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

Regarding retention of learners from Grade 1 to Grade 12:

- (a) What is the cohort retention rate in the province and (b) what steps are being taken to improve the throughput rate of learners from Grade 1 to Grade 12?

(443)

26. Mr F C Christians to ask Mr I M Sileku, Minister of Mobility:

With regard to the Shayela Smart Programme of his Department:

- (a) What is the current rollout status of the programme and (b) what challenges have been encountered with regard to developing the capacity to deal with conflict resolution in the taxi industry?

(444)

PLEASE NOTE: The replies to the questions in this Question Paper are due on 6 October 2025. Should the replies not be submitted before or on the deadline, the Members have the right to have the questions transferred to the Question Paper for oral reply in accordance with Rule 206.