

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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FRIDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2017

1. The House met at 10:30.
2. The Speaker took the Chair and requested Mr Braam Zeilinga to render the National Anthem.
3. The Speaker read the prayer.
4. [10:35] The Premier delivered her State of the Province Address as follows:

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Hon members of the Provincial Cabinet; the hon the Mayor of Cape Town, whose birthday it is today. Happy birthday Madam Mayor. [Applause.] I always love the fact that you are three weeks older than me. [Laughter.]

The PREMIER: Hon Leader of the Opposition; members of the Diplomatic Corps [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Hon leaders of political parties; members of the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces; hon members of the Provincial Legislature and I say that without irony; Director-General of the Western Cape; the heads of the Provincial Departments; the leaders of Local Government; religious leaders; community leaders; colleagues and friends and most important the citizens of the Western Cape.

I hope many of you in the days ahead will avail yourselves of the opportunity of going to the thoroughfare in the foyer and seeing the exquisite exhibition that our colleagues in this Government have set up to demonstrate, in visible form, the content of my speech today. Thank you very much. Ideally it would have been good to have been able to deliver the speech in the concourse so that the visual demonstrations were there, but it is tradition to deliver the speech in this House and I am very pleased to be able to do so after the substantial refurbishments. So we are in this House again after a long break.

Madam Speaker, this is my 10th State of the Province address, and the launch of the Provincial Legislature's annual calendar. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

It requires that I, on behalf of the Provincial Government, account to the residents of the Western Cape for the progress we have made and the challenges we face.

All of us on this side of the House are profoundly aware of the responsibilities we have to the citizens of the Western Cape. They have conferred this responsibility on us. We take this duty very seriously indeed. For any government, at any level, to create conditions for sustained progress towards prosperity for all requires three pre-conditions: the rule of law.

The PREMIER: The rule of just law, and you are going to hear it very often from me until you actually implement it. The rule of law, and maybe somebody could tell your President that. [Interjections.] A culture of accountability, in which all members of society... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ...take their responsibilities seriously... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ...and a capable State that undertakes its duties efficiently, honestly, and cost-effectively. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Yes, a developmental State is a capable State. You cannot have a developmental State... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...hon member Mr Dugmore, unless it is a capable State. We are halfway through our second term in office. Today I will give a progress report of our work thus far... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ...work that I hope will continue when I am no longer in this position. [Interjection.] Our team is building unstoppable momentum towards a highly skilled, innovation driven, resource efficient, connected, high opportunity society for all. Last year I dedicated this Government's second term to the young people of this province. I made it clear that our overriding goal is the economic inclusion of all. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Mastering skills, getting a job, earning a salary, and climbing a career ladder through hard work and life-long learning... [Interjections.] ...is the only recipe for sustainable economic liberation for all.. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Putting our young people on this path must be our number one objective in South Africa, and yours too. [Interjections.] It certainly is in this province. [Interjections.] Individuals have as much responsibility as families and families... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ... which are the core unit of a functional society... [Interjections.]

Thank you, Madam Speaker. Individuals have as many responsibilities as families, and families, which are the core unit of a functional society, must fulfil their responsibilities just as much as the Government must. We can only achieve our goals if we work together. Since we took office in 2009, we have put this Province firmly on the road to the future, and today we assess where we are on that journey. [Interjections.] Good governance starts a domino effect. After years of effort, by many partners in the Western Cape, we are beginning to reap the rewards.

The PREMIER: Let me begin by thanking my Cabinet colleagues and the professionals in this administration, under the leadership of the Director General, Brent Gerber, for their contributions every day towards fulfilling the voters' mandate. We understand the meaning of that mandate and the role of a professional civil service.

The PREMIER: This is an opportunity for me to express our gratitude on behalf of everyone in this province. Not only have we achieved a full set of financially unqualified audits, and 11 out of 12 clean departmental audits... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ... we have also been top of the Presidency's Monitoring and Evaluation Unit's ratings for five years running for service delivery.

The PREMIER: Good governance helps us create a context for the most important priority of all - job creation, which is driven primarily by private sector investment, which is attracted by good governance and public confidence in the future. [Interjections.] As I said, it is a domino effect, Madam Speaker.

Our unemployment rate is the lowest in South Africa, on the broad definition... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...which is, I believe, the measure that should be used because it includes unemployed people who have given up looking for work.

Our broad unemployment rate is a full 8.2 percentage points lower than Gauteng's ...

The PREMIER: ... and a full 13.8 points lower than the national figure.

The PREMIER: The latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey figures for the fourth quarter of 2016 show this province has gained 490 000 new jobs since the fourth quarter of 2009, which was the year we took office. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The Western Cape also has the lowest rural unemployment rate in the country, at just 14%, which is the lowest recorded since this measure was instituted. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: This is a significant statistic for us because it shows that our focused economic growth plan, Project Khulisa, is starting to make an impact.

The PREMIER: We made our decision on which sectors to focus on for Khulisa based on their potential for:

- jobs impact specifically in rural areas,
- jobs for young people, and
- jobs for people with low levels of skills

We settled on agri-processing, Tourism and the Energy economy – sectors not merely confined to urban growth, but with potential impact in rural areas, and this is contributing to the falling rural unemployment rate. These are all encouraging achievements in the context of a national economic growth rate that has dropped to just 0.4% according to the South African Reserve Bank.

We have managed to keep business confidence 10 points higher than the national average and 11 and 12 points higher than Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal respectively. [Interjection.]

The massive switch in business confidence to the Western Cape represents a significant shift in sentiment since the 1990s when business confidence was traditionally much higher in Gauteng.

Another important indicator of economic progress is the growth in building plan approvals. It reflects confidence and movement in the economy.

With the growth in value of buildings completed at the national level declining by 6% in 2015, the value in the Western Cape has grown by 27% and this is not just in our central business districts. The value of buildings completed in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain has increased substantially since 2007 from R115 million to almost R961 million.

The PREMIER: And amazingly, 56% - now listen to this statistic, 56% of all bonds registered by residents of Gauteng during the past year were for properties in the Western Cape. People, rich and poor, only migrate voluntarily to places that they believe offer them better prospects, and this starts with good governance. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: We regard these statistics as a vote of confidence in this province. The market is responding to the growing demands and challenges in all sectors and in the process creating jobs, which people so desperately need.

The growing demand for homes in the province is reflected in the number of building plan approvals, with the Western Cape's share of the number of buildings completed nationally at well over 30%. One province, 30% nationally.

The building sector is a component of economic growth, and the downstream secondary jobs are significant. The construction sector employs more than 160,000 people in the province and directly contributes R30 billion to the provincial economy, and of course, when a person has a job, he or she will purchase goods and services, which creates even more jobs. This is called a virtuous cycle, and after years of paving the way, cutting red tape and encouraging entrepreneurship, we are now beginning to see the results.

I have little doubt that the new Metro administrations in various other parts of the country will make similar progress ...

The PREMIER: ... as the first crucial step to economic liberation in all our provinces. It is a hard, long road dotted with deep potholes that are created often by politics. We hope the progress we are making inspires you all to persevere.

Since the start of this term, we have secured over R5.9 billion worth of investments for the Western Cape, through the work of our excellent economic development and investment agency, Wesgro. This resulted in 1 865 new jobs from 2014 to 2016.

That is in a two-year period. We have also closed a total of 25 trade deals to the value of R8.6 billion since 2014, creating 662 new jobs.

Our focus going forward will be on increasing the Rand value of our exports, generating maximum job creation potential from export orders, and supporting Western Cape companies who have the ability to expand into the rest of Africa.

The African expansion programme is forging ahead with Wesgro committing to R501 million in deals to date. We will apply the experience of the last two years to make further progress on our continent. Since 2014 Wesgro has helped over 1 470 Western Cape companies to export their goods to global and African markets, accompanied 9398

exporters on trade missions and mentored 1070 companies through the Export Development Programme known as the EDP.

We are preparing to ramp up efforts to boost investment into our region through the launch of the Cape Investor Centre later this year. This will serve as a “one stop shop” for investors, enabling them to complete local, provincial and national regulatory processes in a single location, under the professional guidance of a single relationship manager; cutting red tape.

The investor centre follows the approach of our Red Tape Unit, now in its seventh year of operation. The unit continues to maintain an 85% resolution success rate in solving the 6000 cases of red tape blockages it has dealt with.

We are looking to unlock R1 billion in red tape savings by 2019 with a provisional estimate of R600 million in savings or benefits to date. Cabinet has further resolved that Regulatory Impact Assessments must be done for new legislation and significant policies, so that we do not unintentionally create new red tape barriers that stifle growth.

Red tape can be especially harmful for small enterprises. Since taking office, we have refined a support system for entrepreneurs, with 35 000 small businesses supported since 2009. Our SMME Contract Finance Fund facilities support loans to SMMEs that require more capacity to secure larger business contracts. A total of 164 SMMEs have been assisted since 2014, with loan transactions worth almost R13 million.

The second funding vehicle is the Enterprise Development Fund, which has supported 300 SMMEs in three years. The fund was created in 2012 and includes grants and loan fund mechanisms for SMMEs. An amount of R62 million has been invested in small businesses to date, through a 40/60 loan / finance partnership between our Economic Development Department and the National Empowerment Fund. The funding is available to small business in the form of a low cost loan.

During research for this speech, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that a full 75% of all venture capital deals concluded in the whole of South Africa, happen right here in the Western Cape. 75% of all venture capital deals happen here or are concluded here in the Western Cape.

One of the reasons cited by the PricewaterhouseCoopers’ Emerging Company Survey, for this indicates that there are more small business development and innovation programmes in this province compared to elsewhere in the country. This is partly because we do whatever we can to support small business, by linking them with funders willing to back their ideas, by hosting the annual Western Cape Funding Fair to bring funders and entrepreneurs together.

An extension of this funding fair is the Investment Readiness Programme which takes the fair through the entire West Coast, Winelands, Eden, Central Karoo and Overberg regions. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Major funders partner us for this road-show, which has managed to secure over R7 million in funding linkages to rural businesses in the first year of operation. Madam Speaker, I have already mentioned our focused economic growth plan, Project Khulisa, which helps create conducive conditions for growth in key job-creating sectors of

our economy - agri-processing, tourism, and the energy economy, with a particular focus on oil and gas. The results are profoundly encouraging.

Employment has increased by 40% in the agriculture and agri-processing sectors over the past two years through the creation of over 127 000 jobs. [Applause.]

A major focus of the Khulisa agri-processing team is the development of the China and Angola markets for our region's export wines. China represents a potential market of 38 million people who drink imported wine twice a year. I do not know where we got that statistic from, but they drink imported wine twice a year and we would obviously like that to be South African wine and specifically Western Cape wine, and Angola is the largest destination for wine exporters in Africa. [Interjections.]

Our remarkable successes in agriculture and agri-processing are a testament to human ingenuity, as we are not blessed with particularly fertile soils or abundant water. Those natural assets lie on the Eastern seaboard of our country. Here we have water shortages constituting a major crisis. We are working on expanding the storage capacity of the Brandvlei Dam, so that an additional 4 400 hectares can be irrigated, with the potential of creating upward of 8000 new rural jobs.

Our tourism sector continues to show remarkable potential. International arrivals are up by almost 16% year-on-year, and we passed the 10 million passengers mark through Cape Town International airport last year.

Guided by Wesgro, we have generated an additional R3 billion for the economy by adding over half a million new two-way direct seats through our Cape Air Access Initiative.

This has been a remarkable success... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...and it is a strategy necessitated in part by SAA's ill-fated decision to suspend direct international flights to Cape Town. Other airlines saw the gap immediately and the rest is history.

The launch of an expanded Cape Town International Convention Centre this year will help grow the already booming conference sector, which over the past two years has had an economic impact of over R645 million in the region, measured by the total average delegate spend per day of R3 210. That is how much the average delegate to a conference spends per day and that is how much it boosts our economy.

The Western Cape is now well established as a global tourist destination. Our strategy going forward is to develop the niche markets. Plans are well advanced for establishing the Cape as the Cycling Capital of Africa.

We are also growing Madiba Legacy Tourism, by establishing a Madiba Legacy Route and promoting the region as a global food and wine destination. There are growing markets in these sectors, which are too numerous to mention.

The PREMIER: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the oil and gas economy we are preparing for the industrialisation of the West Coast to facilitate the growth of a sector with great potential. The Saldanha Industrial Development Zone is well on track, its Board is established and memorandums of understanding sealed with 34 potential investors. [Interjections.]

The bulk services, waste water treatment and a supply hub for the port are already in place, with a link bridge to the port and water reservoir under construction. We are working in partnership with the Trade and Industry Department nationally, the Saldanha Bay Municipality, the Industrial Development Corporation and the Transnet National Ports Authority to great effect.

The PREMIER: This has been a co-operative governance venture between three spheres of government, just as the World Cup was, and I wish to thank our National and Local Government partners for the ease of doing business with them on this project. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: The Western Cape is also home to a growing number of green manufacturers who are driving South Africa's status as the fastest growing green economy hub in the world, according to a report by Moody's Ratings Agency. Four recent investments worth R1.1 billion in alternative waste treatment projects have created 148 jobs and advanced the technical capacity of the sector.

We, the Mayor and I, launched the R500 million New Horizons Energy plant in Athlone last month. This is the first plant in Africa to turn municipal solid waste into biogas, reducing the need for landfill sites and producing energy and fertiliser, and above all, creating jobs.

GreenCape, our special purpose vehicle for the green economy, was awarded the Chairman's Award for Exceptional Service by the Institute of Waste Management of Southern Africa. Congratulations to that great team.

As we analyse the growth projections of our priority economic sectors, we have concluded that we do not have enough of the skills required to fill the jobs that we anticipate. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: We do not have enough skills to fill the jobs that we anticipate. [Interjections.] Our answer to this crisis is the Apprenticeship Game-changer ...

The PREMIER: ...which aims to ensure that young people have the necessary skills for jobs in the sectors where demand is growing. We have set a target of introducing 32 500 apprentices into the labour market by 2019 to meet the needs of a growing province.

Between April and September 2016, 3 009 young people completed their work-based programmes in fields linked to the tourism, oil and gas and agri-processing sectors. We aim to dramatically upscale the supply of skilled artisans by working with relevant sector Education and Training authorities, employers, learners and their parents.

This year our priorities are:

- to intensify Maths support in the province's 23 technical high schools and 50 other schools;
- Enhancing public awareness for a technical and vocational career paths through our TVET colleges;
- Engaging employers about taking on learners for workplace-based learning programmes such as apprenticeships;
- We are also working with SETAs on an innovative dual system apprenticeships and combined work experience for solar PV installers.

This project is the initiator of what we hope to achieve: a full dual apprenticeship system, where learners have both theoretical and workplace training at the same time.

This formula has proved itself in driving economic growth and boosting youth employment worldwide, and will be a game-changer if we manage to institute it in South Africa.

The PREMIER: If we want our economy to grow, we have to ensure energy security. We have learnt over the past decade that our country is overly reliant on the state monopoly called Eskom. This brings me to our Energy Game-changer, on which we are working jointly with the City of Cape Town.

South Africa's energy crisis requires a sustainable, low carbon and diverse energy mix. Technological advances are enabling the Western Cape to pioneer the trend towards small, distributed suppliers of renewable energy, with flexibility and low costs.

Our target is to enable independent generation of 135 megawatts through solar panel PV installations by 2020. We are well on our way. Current trends show... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ...we are well on our way towards meeting that goal.

Current trends show a marked uptake of rooftop PV, with 120% growth in approved installations in the Cape Metro region alone from May to December 2016. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: To date 32 megawatts rooftop PV capacity and 65 000 efficient water heaters have been installed in the province. This is significant progress on the 10 megawatts installed this time last year.

Given the consistent focus on rooftop PV, we think it is feasible to double the current installed capacity over the next year. We have helped 15 municipalities to meet the requirements for legal installation of rooftop PV, with Nersa approved tariffs. This is a marked increase from just two this time last year and we have a target of 20 municipalities in the next year. [Interjections.]

This system enables households and businesses to feed their solar generated power into the municipal grids and get compensated for it. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: That is why people who switch to solar PV must please remain on the grid. It can generate an income for them, while at the same time helping to secure an energy supply for our economy. Installations also need to be legally compliant for safety reasons, and hence we are appealing to Western Cape residents to do the right thing and get approval for their PV systems otherwise it can be very dangerous.

We will continue supporting municipalities to develop long-term plans for integrating metering and financial systems in order to accommodate solar energy feed-ins to the grid. [Interjections.]

The City of Cape Town has been pioneering in this regard. This month we are launching our Rooftop PV Campaign to encourage businesses to switch to solar, to stay on the grid, and save on their electricity bills.

PV installation prices are currently dropping significantly, by 21% to 45%, and the cost of coal generated power is increasing. There has never been a better time to switch and save. This is the pay-off line that means exactly what it says - switch and save, not only electricity, but money. [Interjections.]

For our part, we are installing PV in five Western Cape Government buildings, preparing an energy services tender for our health facilities and other buildings, and negotiating a green lease with the property owners of many of our rented buildings. We also engaged National Treasury and the Energy Department numerous times on the business case for direct power procurement. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: We believe that allowing municipalities to enter into contracts with independent power producers is a fourfold win: cheaper electricity prices, lower carbon emissions, more investment and more industrialisation and of course ultimately more local jobs. The City of Cape Town is pushing hard for the right to do this.

The PREMIER: Unfortunately, we have had no meaningful response to date from the Department of Energy and we are concerned that they may well be trying to defend Eskom's monopoly. Mayor De Lille has been clear about her plans to pursue the City's legal options in this regard and we will support her.

Madam Speaker, the current respite from load-shedding must not make us complacent. Growing the economy at the rate required to create jobs will test our country's current capacity to the limits and expose our over-reliance on a State monopoly. We have to change this.

A further economic threat to our region, one that is ever-present at this time of the year, are the thousands of fires that break out all over our hot, dry province. Ten years ago, we were astounded that we had 12 000 fires in one year. It was almost unmanageable. Now more than 17 000 fires have already been recorded this fire season.

It is impossible to establish with any certainty the cause of most of these fires, but we know that a great many have to do with human agency, whether by accident or ill intent.

All allegations of criminality are referred to the relevant authorities to investigate. We will support the use of the full force of the law to track down and deal with any alleged arsonists who endanger the lives and livelihoods of so many. I believe that throwing cigarette butts out of car windows should also constitute attempted arson. With our winds it merely takes a spark to land on a patch of dry grass to become a raging inferno. Members of the public can assist by phoning 10177 when they spot an early-stage fire.

A quick response is the best way to contain the blaze. [Interjections.] But hoax calls and panicky false alarms, such as those that we are getting from the opposite side of the House, create enormous problems. Members of the public should help, not hinder our emergency services. For our part, we have massively grown the province's fire-fighting resources.

This year the Department commissioned 10 purpose-built fire-fighting vehicles, which will be deployed to rural municipalities across the province. This is a huge boost to rural areas where to date the fire-fighting capacity has been constrained. This initiative forms part of a three-year project to invest R37 million in the province's fire-fighting capacity.

Since 2012 we have gone from eight to 26 fire-fighting aircraft operating across 31 runways. These resources have meant that for five years running now, 97% of all fires could be brought under control within the first hour of being reported. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: We are also running an innovative smoke alarm project, aimed at saving lives through early fire warnings in informal settlements and of course, when lives are lost, this is the greatest tragedy of all.

The PREMIER: And it happens far too often; far too often... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...in our informal settlements, and indeed I will accede... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I will accede to the hon member Mr Dyantyi's request and pause for a moment... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I will. I think it is a moment to pause, and I agree fully with the hon member Mr Dyantyi, it is a moment where we can all pause to think very seriously about...

The PREMIER: ...about our compatriots who lose their lives in shack fires. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for those who observed that moment of silence. [Interjections.] Our pilot programme in the Breede Valley has been very successful. A second pilot will see the entire community of Wallacedene receiving smoke alarms, obviously without any cost to them. We will be evaluating the efficacy of this programme very carefully.

Western Cape residents owe a great debt of gratitude to our fire-fighters. They are truly world class, and deserve their hero status in the public mind. [Applause.] So on behalf of all citizens, thank you to all our fire-fighters, professionals from all five district municipalities, local municipalities, the City of Cape Town, the staff from CapeNature, SANPARKS and the Working-on-Fire Program. You are a real team and it is truly *Better Together*.

A major role is also played by the members of the Fire Protection Associations, Volunteer Wildfire Services and private contractor teams and that is what we call a whole of society approach. Pilots from the South African Air Force and the private sector also contributed greatly, as do the South African Defence Force Joint Operations Centre and the National Disaster Management Centre.

It would have been my pleasure to welcome as a guest here today Mr Reinard Geldenhuys from the Overstrand. He can't be here today, because I understand he is busy dealing with an emergency at sea.

The PREMIER: But Reinard is rated by his colleagues as probably the best wildland fire officer in the country. [Applause.] [Interjections.] He has commanded major fire operations during the past few years... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...including the Houwhoek fire last year and the Grabouw fires this season and I wish that both sides to the House would afford him the respect he deserves.

The PREMIER: Together with Etienne du Toit, Mr Geldenhuys is responsible for leading the entire provincial planning for the fire season each year. He was part of the team that drafted and established the Western Cape Incident Command System, which we used to manage the 17 000 fires so far this year. He also serves as the base manager for the Struisbaai NSRI station, from which he was sent to sea today, which he fits into his busy programme. If anyone is deserving of this recognition and to represent the fire-fighters of the Western Cape, it is Reinard in absentia and I want us to thank him... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Madam Speaker, we live in a water scarce province and country, which is a great threat to economic progress. A study we've already completed indicates provincial water demands will exceed the current supply by 2019. We are currently having level 3B water restrictions in the Cape Metro. The latest dam levels are at an average 34.8 %. Last year at this time we were on 44%.

Going forward there are some key interventions to address water shortages in our region that are being engaged by all levels of government. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: These are:

- The Berg River-Voëlvlei augmentation scheme which amounts to diverting surplus winter water into the Voëlvlei Dam, maximizing the storing capacity of winter rain;
- Secondly, fast-tracking the development of the Table Mountain Group Aquifer, the underground water table stretching from the Peninsula all the way to areas including Knysna and Oudtshoorn;
- Thirdly, water re-use, in other words, waste water treatment on a macro scale; and
- fourthly, desalination.

This sounds an obvious solution, but the great challenge is its cost. It would cost a minimum capital amount of R15 billion to build a desalination plant for Cape Town with operational costs potentially running between R350 million and R1 billion every year. This would translate into very expensive water. There are encouraging signs that new technologies can provide a cheaper solution.

We will soon be launching our H2O Heroes Campaign to acknowledge everyone's efforts in saving water and ask them to do more. Every person can personally save hundreds of litres of a month by taking short showers, by using bath water to irrigate gardens, and driving around in a dusty car. In a drought a dusty car is a status symbol, Madam Speaker.

We are doing everything we can to generate water savings in our Government buildings through the Department of Public Works. This includes water meter installations in CBD buildings, changes to air-conditioning systems and internal staff communication amongst many other interventions because we all have to contribute.

The agricultural sector is a major water user that is very vulnerable to climate change. Climate projections for the region indicate continued warming of between 1.5 degrees and three degrees Celsius across the province by 2050, with some moderation along coastal areas. It calls for a concerted response. Our Smart-Agri Plan was launched in May 2016 by a broad coalition of stakeholders to increase climate-smart production, reduce the risk

of disasters, facilitate planning across the sector, and share climate change data. This involves innovation, and I want to share one amazing example. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: It is amazing.

The PREMIER: Maybe if you get off your apps right now you can listen in and enjoy this amazing story.

The PREMIER: Through our online platform called FruitLook we have established a digital means of optimising the water usage of the entire agricultural sector. We have mapped 5.7 million hectares of farmland, including the entire fruit producing area of 220 000 hectares from Vredendal in the west to Montagu and Bonnievale in the east and De Doorns in the north.

The PREMIER: Right down to the level of an individual field, farmers no longer have to estimate how much water their crops will need. They can access accurate information on the water needs of their crops, field by field, at any given time through our app.

The PREMIER: No, it is our initiative. It is a capable State initiative. [Interjections.] It is a capable developmental State's initiative... [Interjections.] Using only satellite and weather data, we tell farmers how much water their crop used in the previous week, whether the crops experienced any water deficiencies and the actual biomass produced. In total... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: It is amazing how some of our colleagues do not understand the impact of these innovations, Madam Speaker, but nevertheless for those in the gallery who do, I will continue.

In total, FruitLook offers farmers nine types of information on their crop growth, from a vegetation index showing how vigorously the crop is growing, to a leaf area index showing the size of each leaf versus the amount of visible soil.

The FruitLook service is funded by us and free to farmers, and training sessions at our Elsenburg headquarters are fully booked. The number of crop fields we are helping farmers to monitor has grown by 450% in five years, from just under 20 000 hectares in 2012, to an estimated 90 000 hectares this year.

The PREMIER: There are so many examples of smart Agri that it is impossible to keep up. The industry is being totally revolutionised.

The PREMIER: We are also leading the way on an innovative farming method to beat the drought [Interjection.] called conservation farming. At our Langgewens Research Farm in the Swartland... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ... we are currently producing nearly double the amount of wheat on less than half of the areas previously planted, despite the drought conditions. A recent study on the impact of this research project has shown that 98.8% of farmers in Swartland have begun implementing this methodology from our experimental farm, which involves enhancing the nutrient content of soil, by making seasonal changes to the type of crop planted in a particular spot. For example, our research has established that wheat yields rise significantly when crops are planted on a land where canola or lupin was grown the previous season.

The drought also has a serious impact on animal production along the West Coast and Central Karoo districts, with many farmers having to sell their animals while struggling to feed their core herds.

Provincially our Agriculture Department has completely reprioritised its budget, making R48.1 million available for drought relief in the last 2 years. Of this money, R35.9 million went straight to 564 smallholder farmers in the form of fodder, supplementing the monthly livelihoods of agri-workers, and compensating for crop losses. [Interjections.] We are committed to supporting emerging farmers in the Western Cape and we have implemented land reform more successfully than anywhere else. [Interjections.]

Our success can be attributed in part to our farmer support strategy over the last eight years, called the “commodity approach”. It is based on partnerships with commercial agriculture to create opportunities for emerging farmers to access markets and mentorship. We believe we have refined a unique formula.

In the Western Cape we are busy encouraging commercial farmers, who have existing contracts for the supply of commodities, to partner with emerging farmers capable of supplying a portion of the overall contract value. In this way, emerging black farmers are able to access local and international markets, growing their agri-businesses with the support of established farmers. We are grateful to all those who have supported this initiative with such good results.

We are also there every step of the way through our Agriculture Department’s extension and advisory services, recognized by the global Food and Agriculture Organisation for the innovative ways we support emerging farmers in particular. Commercial farmers in the Western Cape appreciate the importance of transformation in the agricultural sector.

They are bringing resources to the table, in cash and in kind, to support the transformation agenda. A good example is Hortgro, the national services group for the deciduous fruit industry. They have made R20 million available to support a programme to help black farmers expand their orchards, infrastructure and equipment.

Our provincial Agriculture Department has contributed R40 million to this plan, and we are grateful to the National Treasury for matching the combination of private involvement and provincial involvement with a further R60 million through the Jobs Fund. All told, this represents a R120 million project to boost black fruit farmers over a four year period.

Madam Speaker, our pioneering commodity approach has led to the success of 62% of all land reform farms in the Western Cape. 62% of them are productive and contributing to economic growth and jobs. This represents remarkable progress for a high-risk sector with many challenges, not the least of which is the weather. We know how well we are progressing because we are the only province to commission an external evaluation of all land reform farms within our boundaries. [Applause.]

The evaluation looked at the 246 land reform projects we supported between 2009 and 2013. Success was measured using six indicators, including access to markets, updated business plans and job creation on land reform farms. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Our target going forward for successful farms that are part of the land reform programme is a 70% success rate and this must keep rising. Obviously 70% is not enough, but it is far, far higher than anywhere else in the country. We have established a

Land Reform Advisory Desk and District Land Reform Committees to provide the necessary support.

Since 2014, we have facilitated over R400 million in conditional grant funding to 293 businesses operating on land reform farms. The funding is provided through the National Comprehensive Agriculture Support Programme, known as Casp. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: When a project is approved for grant funding, through a stringent and fair process, the Provincial Government's Implementing Agency then proceeds to facilitate the approved funding for the emerging farmer.

The PREMIER: We have called this agency Casidra, the Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development in Rural Areas. Casidra will, for example, procure the required equipment on behalf of an emerging farmer, and then deliver it directly to the farm. We essentially apply a project management approach to help maximise the value of grant funding for emerging farmers.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure today to welcome Ms Jacky Goliath, a shining example and role model for emerging farmers with aspirations of growing their businesses.

I don't know where Ms Goliath is, but she must be somewhere here in the gallery. Thank you Ms Goliath. [Applause.] [Interjections.] Ms Goliath started off... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Ms Goliath started off with 1 000 fynbos plants based in a Kylemore nursery called "De Fynne". She then upgraded to 1.5 hectares in Simondium, and today has moved on to a 22 hectare prune farm obtained with Government assistance. Her business is now a fully-fledged wholesale nursery specialising in growing water-wise and indigenous plants, as well as fruit crops.

Now in their third year of production, De Fynne is a supplier of more than 30 different plant products, including 3 000 plants to Woolworths every week. Next time you walk down the aisles of a supermarket, remember the progress we are making on land reform in the Western Cape. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

De Fynne has won several awards, with Jacky becoming the first ever female farmer to win the Toyota New Harvest Award, in 2015 and I am delighted to say that these beautiful flowers, surrounding a King Protea, are from Ms Goliath's farm.

The PREMIER: The support we have provided along the way includes nursery establishment, infrastructure, mechanisation and capacity building.

Madam Speaker, our rural communities rely on a growing agriculture sector for their livelihoods. We are the only province in the country with a dedicated Farm Worker Development programme, which aims to enhance the status and socio-economic conditions of agri-workers and their families.

There were a total of 65 development and social upliftment projects since 2014, benefitting 19 778 agri-families. Taking into account interventions from other departments, the total number of rural development projects rises to 206 since 2014. Like rural land reform, urban land reform can be a very important empowerment tool.

We are making steady progress on issuing title deeds to housing beneficiaries. There is currently a 59% national backlog in the transfer of ownership to housing subsidy

beneficiaries. In the Western Cape we've brought this down to 28%. In total, we've delivered over 75 300 title deeds to beneficiaries since 2009. During this financial year we put R41 million behind addressing the backlog, through the Human Settlements Development Grant. A title deed represents a direct transfer of wealth and land. It is a crucial component of land reform. Our Human Settlements Department has also listed affordable housing as a strategic priority, to which I now turn.

This is different from the RDP or BNG house, to use the acronyms which now refer to the transfer of a free house by the State to a beneficiary. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: This affordable housing approach is crucial because the current approach of simply transferring free houses is not sustainable. [Interjections.] National policy, which we support, is to increasingly move in the direction of ensuring that people contribute something towards their housing. This of course requires sustained economic growth and jobs as a necessary pre-condition for the focus on affordable housing.

This involves a shift to what is called social housing ... [Interjections.] ... usually rental stock, which requires tenants to pay rentals, so that the stock of affordable accommodation can be maintained and extended. If people do not pay their rents, this can't happen. The process grinds to a halt. This is also why social housing institutions have been increasingly reluctant to give their approval for new projects.

If people do not pay their rents, social housing institutions have to borrow more from banks and charge more in rent to service their debt. So, given the fact that the country cannot afford to extend free housing indefinitely, and if social housing institutions are not building sufficient rental accommodation, the low end of the housing market is in trouble.

Part of this problem can be addressed by the anticipated restructuring of the Capital Grant System which will increase subsidies for the provision of rental units to R155 000 each up from the current R125 000. This is an enormous individual subsidy from the State and is only sustainable if people pay the modest rentals required of them. News of this development has boosted confidence in the sector.

The total value of potential affordable housing projects in the pipeline now stands at over 40 000 units worth R3.2 billion, across three types of subsidies. I won't go into them, but they are known by the acronyms as FLISP, Social Rental Housing and Institutional Housing, which cater for different market segments.

Madam Speaker, affordable housing projects must be sustainable and replicable and must be accessible to jobs. This is what we aim to achieve starting with a Game-changer project in Pinelands, a residential feeder suburb to the inner city of Cape Town, where 22 hectares of land are immediately available. It's the size of Ms Goliath's farm. The size of the land is relevant to the project's viability.

We have called this Game-changer the Better Living Model for mixed-income, mixed-use development, and we are implementing it in partnership with the City of Cape Town. We have calculated that 3 600 residential opportunities can be built on this site. This will include a mix of affordable housing options to be cross-subsidised by open market properties and retail space, and that is why the 22 hectares are so significant to the project's viability.

Besides the provision of much needed well-located affordable housing, this development will catalyse the upgrading of the surrounding roads infrastructure and public transport, as well as introduce new social services to the neighbouring communities.

As we all know, Cape Town does not only have one CBD. Together with the City, we are implementing the Better Living Model in other core nodes, with exciting results.

A total of 3000 units are planned for the Belhar CBD, where a mixed-use high density residential development will create an urban context around nearby education facilities – the University of the Western Cape, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Northlink College and the Provincial Government's Oasis School for children with learning disabilities.

The development will include a mix of student accommodation, social rental stock, open market GAP housing and bonded properties. The development includes neighbourhood squares, a promenade, an urban green area and a retail centre.

We have already delivered in this development, Phase 1, 627 of these units. By early 2018 we will have installed the bulk services, and connected them to the remaining 2 400 units to be implemented in this project. We are also making progress on a catalytic project to upgrade informal settlements near the airport along the N2, known as the Southern Corridor.

The project will have huge transformative potential for communities in the informal settlements Barcelona, Gxa Gxa, Vukuzenzela, Kanana, Kosovo, Thabo Mbeki, Tsunami, Lusaka and Europe, all of which are in the Gugulethu, Nyanga and Philippi areas. The priority backyard dwellers in these areas will also benefit from this project.

The installation of bulk and internal services is underway in Forest Village, for development approvals for Ithemba expected this year, and for the remaining areas in 2018.

We have similar catalytic projects in large informal settlements elsewhere in the province. In George, for example, 15 000 units are planned for the area covering Thembaletu, Syferfontein and Wilderness Heights.

The PREMIER: And Wilderness Heights.

That is a statement here that I am making in the House.

The PREMIER: Construction of top structures ...[Interjection.]

I would also like to caution the hon Dugmore not to engage the Premier in direct questioning whilst she is delivering her presentation. So if we could have quiet on the floor and in the gallery. We may proceed, thank you, Premier.

The PREMIER: I respect your ruling, Madam Speaker.

Construction of top structures for Thembaletu Phase 1 is underway. Phase 2 is already out on tender [Interjection.] with further phases at various stages of planning.

In Paarl, the appointments of all contractors is underway for the Vlakkeland project, with 2 556 units planned. Planning is also well underway on the Trans-Hex development in the Breede Valley. The development will yield over 8 000 housing opportunities to improve the living conditions of informal dwellers and farm workers.

These catalytic projects and several others totalling 105 201 housing opportunities are in the pipeline for completion by 2022.

This is a province that values opportunity for its citizens. There is no greater demonstration of our progress in this regard than the strides we are making in connecting our citizens to each other and to the world.

Our Broadband Programme, identified as a Game-changer, has delivered high-speed internet services to 1 414 sites across the province to date. The sites include schools, hospitals, emergency centres, clinics, rural libraries, Cape Access centres and Government offices.

Full coverage of over 1 900 sites as originally planned will be completed by April 2017. This is according to the project plan presented to us by our partners, the State Information Technology Agency (SITA) and Neotel. [Interjection.] Since all planned sites will soon be connected, we will embark on a technology refresh phase to upgrade minimum network speeds to 100 megabits per second, and that is a fantastic speed.

The PREMIER: Well, I cannot engage him, otherwise I would explain it to him. [Laughter.] It is a pity that ...

The PREMIER: Sorry, Madam Speaker. It is a great pity that the hon member Uys does not understand the difference between 10 and 100 megabytes ...

The PREMIER: ... but I will explain it to him another day, Madam Speaker.

The PREMIER: We thank both SITA and Neotel for their work to date. Few understand the revolution that is happening right under our noses in the Western Cape, with a number of schools and public facilities being connected to the internet every single day. Much of this work is happening under difficult circumstances, with numerous criminal threats to staff on the ground. We thank them all for their perseverance and fortitude, as we thank every single person who delivers services anywhere in this province at risk to their own personal safety.

In 2015 we also announced that we would bring Wi-Fi to every ward in the Western Cape through a plan to deliver 384 Wi-Fi hotspots in the three years between 2015 to 2018. So far a total of 150 Wi-Fi hotspots have been delivered by March 2017, which is right now, which will take our current numbers of citizens accessing the service to over 70 000. [Interjections.] The remaining 234 hotspots will be delivered by early 2018.

The PREMIER: I am coming to a section now, Madam Speaker, which I will also explain to the hon member Uys, so he does not have to interject now and ask me the questions, because at our hotspots people can receive 250 megabytes of free data, and when they have used this allocation, they can buy more ...[interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...at the ridiculously cheap rate of R45 for 5 Gigs.

Thank you very much. I would like to repeat that, because I think the residents of the Western Cape will welcome being able to buy data, which is different from airtime [Laughter.] for R45 for 5 Gigs. [Applause.]

You can also get unlimited access to Government websites, including our education portal...

The PREMIER: ... where you can learn all about Gigs, and we will also teach the hon member Uys how to buy data online. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

Of course I am constantly asked for a roll-out plan for the remaining sites, but Neotel says they first have to finish the broadband installation and upgrade from 10 to 100 megs, so they have a strong enough backbone to install reliable Wi-Fi services to every ward. They have promised me a full roll-out plan by October this year.

Schools have been prioritised for broadband connection, as part of our e-Learning Game-Changer. A total of 1 239 schools will be connected to our Wide Area Broadband network by April the 17th according to Neotel projections.

More than 5 320 Western Cape classrooms are now tech-enabled, exceeding our target of just over 5 000. Our e-Portal for learners to access curriculum aligned content now has 5 612 digital resources. All education stakeholders can use it to source resources they find most useful.

We have started to enhance the teaching of maths and languages, through the use of technology in special pilot projects, particularly in primary schools and are eager to assess the results.

If we want to expand this approach, we have to establish an e-Culture in all our schools for teaching and administration, and I am delighted to say that teachers and administrators are showing an enormous eagerness to make the switch by attending our training programmes in record numbers in their own time.

WCED has developed an online self-assessment competency instrument for teachers to identify where they require additional training.

Statistics show how web traffic is growing in our schools. Page hits, hon member Uys, we will explain what that is in a moment too [Laughter.] have increased ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Page hits have increased from 375 million in June 2015 to over 3.8 billion in January this year. An additional 745 million page hits were recorded in our libraries and Cape Access centres.

An interesting trend is on our central dashboards, how we noticed the data usage jumps from schools during learning hours, to our libraries and Cape Access Centres in the afternoons and school holidays, which shows how much learners are using the internet to advance education.

The PREMIER: While it is good to see our libraries so well used, we do not want to see a drop-off in internet traffic in our schools in the afternoons.

The PREMIER: We are currently under-utilising our internet access opportunities in schools ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...that are closed during the afternoon and evening. This has to change. We pay tribute to the teachers and principals who give their learners access during the full day. It makes an enormous difference.

The Cape Access programme has also managed to establish e-centres in each of the municipalities outside of the City of Cape Town. By next month we will reach 70 e-centres across this province.

Recent centres added to the network include the Berg River Municipality towns of Eendekuil and Noordhoek, Hornlee in Knysna Municipality, and the remote rural town of Merweville near Beaufort West.

E-centres on the way soon include Op-die-Berg, Slangrivier, Lamberts Bay, Groot Brak River, Riebeeck West, Riebeeck Kasteel and the Goedgedacht Trust Farm. I urge all members to visit these centres to experience how they provide access to information, skills and opportunities, especially to the youth in these isolated rural communities.

We are laying the foundation for a legacy of quality education in the Western Cape. This, in my view, is the most important function of Provincial Government, preparing young people to use their freedoms to enrich their own lives and develop our country.

This requires a strong educational base, and we are making progress as the following indicators show:

The matric pass rate is up from 75% at the beginning of our term, to 86%.

Bachelors passes are up from 31.9% to 40.9%.

The proportion of Bachelors passes in Quintiles 1 – 3, which are the poorest schools, has more than doubled.

The same goes for distinctions in the poorest Quintiles, which have increased from 615 in 2009, to 1 372, that is more than double, in 2016.

[Applause.]

The actual number of passes is steadily increasing and we have the highest retention rate in South Africa, which refers to keeping learners in school and preventing them from dropping out before matric. The number of under-performing schools is also down from 85 in 2009 to 19 last year. That is still 19 too many, and we are determined to make every school functional in this province.

The PREMIER: When the current administration took office in 2009, the pass rate in Quintile 1 schools, the poorest schools, was 57%, in 2016 it was 75%. Pass rate rises of over 18 percentage points, were also recorded in Quintile 2 and 3 schools respectively.

Amongst the record maths and science results this year was a 100% pass mark for physical science from a learner in one of our Quintile 1 schools, Siphelele Xabendlini. A 100% pass in physics. [Applause.] And 94% for mathematics.

The PREMIER: Siphelele arrived from the Eastern Cape in 2014 ...[Interjections.] Listen to his story and then you can work it out.

The PREMIER: Siphelele arrived from the Eastern Cape in 2014, that is just two years ago.

The PREMIER: And started Grade 10 at Phandulwazi Secondary School in Philippi.

The PREMIER: Prior to his arrival in Phandulwazi, in terms of what I read of Siphelele's story, he had never studied Physical Science at all. In two years, with the support of his father, Mr Linda Xabendlini, his teachers and various study materials, Siphelele learnt an entirely new ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...complex subject, and came first in the Western Cape, with an extraordinary result of 100%. [Applause.]

I have already had the privilege of shaking Siphelele's hand at the [Interjection.] at the event at Leeuwenhof, where we honour our top matrics, but today we are all honoured to be joined by Siphelele and Mr Xabendlini.

The PREMIER: And they stay in Brown's Farm in Philippi in a pink shack.

So I say congratulations to you Siphelele.†Uphi? [Where are you?] [Applause.]

The PREMIER: And next to him is his proud father. [Applause.]

†INKULUMBUSO: Tata, siyavuyisana nani!

[The PREMIER: Father, we are happy for you!]

I would love to be able to engage in the debate but I respect your ruling, Madam Speaker.

The PREMIER: And through you, Madam Speaker, may I tell the House ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...a little bit about Mr Xabendlini senior. Siphelele has spoken most movingly about his father's interest in his education, and I read in the newspaper Siphelele's account of how his father had encouraged him to move from the Eastern Cape to come to the Western Cape for a better education. [Applause.][Interjections.]

The PREMIER: More than once, Mr Xabendlini ...[Interjection.]

Mr Xabendlini is a role model for fathers. No government can ever replace the role of a committed parent and in the case of boys and young men, the role of a committed father. In March, Siphelele will be starting his B.Com degree in Business Science and Analytics at UCT. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: And we wish him all the very best.

The PREMIER: Madam Speaker, we are achieving these successes and of course Siphelele has to take the largest amount of credit for his own success, by ensuring accountability within the education system, backed by a capable state.

The PREMIER: We are the only province that conducts its own systemic testing, and we set the pass rate at 50% for these tests. We are also introducing, and we have introduced, more difficult language tests as early as 2011. We are not looking for a good story to tell, we are looking for the truth about the learning levels of our students. These tests are of great benefit to our schools and for every learner, especially our poorest learners.

Madam Speaker, we had to go to court last year to stop the South African Democratic Teachers' Union disrupting these tests, and many thanks must go to the communities who backed us by protecting their schools from disruption from a handful of teachers who should have been doing their jobs, like most teachers were.

To improve systemic test outcomes, we put all primary school maths and language teachers through a training period over six years. Now we are reaping the results in significant improvements, particularly in Grade 6 mathematics.

From 2014 to date, the Grade 6 maths pass rate rose from 30.4% to 40.1%, based on a pass mark of 50%. While we still have a long way to go, these results bode well for mathematics in high schools in coming years. We still have to find an effective way of stopping the dip in the first two years of high school in grades 8 and 9.

A further accountability measure is the requirement for all schools to have School Improvement Plans in place. This is a means of keeping principals and school governing bodies accountable to education outcomes. We will soon introduce regular monitoring of our schools through changes to the Provincial Schools Act.

We are faced with major challenges given the demand for public schooling in the Western Cape. We have introduced an online enrolment management system to help manage learner placement, but far too many parents wake up too late and find that they cannot enrol their children at a school of their choice, or often at any school. We battled this year to place over 17 000 pupils in school at the beginning of this year, mainly due to increased and to late enrolments.

The growth in pupil numbers in this province has been 95 000 over the past six years and has resulted in a demand for places far exceeding the supply, especially in schools offering quality education. Two weeks ago we opened the enrolments process for 2018 already, and I am urging all parents and guardians of pupils to please move early. We cannot cope with people arriving with their children at school at the beginning of the year.

We have stretched infrastructure budgets to their limits, building 2 386 new classrooms and 120 new and replacement schools since 2009. An online textbook ordering system has been in place since 2013, ensuring that books arrive on time for our growing numbers of learners. We deliver all of this while achieving the only clean audit in any South African education department. [Applause.]

Many thanks to our internal Audit Committee and our “supply chain champions”, as they are called within the Provincial Education Department. We have also protected pro-poor programmes within a strained fiscal environment.

Here are some of our achievements:

The number of learners attending no-fee schools has increased by 58% in the last five years, to almost 580 000 learners. That is more than half the learners in this province.

Fee exemptions granted to learners at fee-paying schools has increased by over 60% over the same period. More than 97% of our schools are either no-fee schools or have benefitted from compensation for fee exemption.

Over 475 000 learners receive not one, but two nutritious meals a day through the feeding schemes.

The PREMIER: Madam Speaker, through you, where there are conditions grants for these feeding schemes, they are not stolen through corruption.

Over 58 000 Learners benefit from our transport scheme. All this is very good, but all our subsidy programmes will soon become unsustainable. That is why our number one priority must be growth and jobs, so that people can afford to contribute towards the added quality we routinely add to basic public education, and to keep pupil:teacher ratios manageable.

We know that regular, well-structured after-school programmes improve educational outcomes, reduce drop-out rates, increase self-confidence and improve potential for tertiary education and work placements, but in disadvantaged schools, after school programmes are not the norm, which limits learners' potential.

That is why we have prioritised the expansion of quality after school sports, arts and culture, academic and life skills-programmes and elevated this attempt to the status of a Game-changer.

Our target is 112 000 learners attending quality after-school activities on a regular and consistent basis by 2019. We are making good progress in meeting this target.

To date we have just over 47 000 learners attending after-school programmes on a regular basis and are on track to meet our 2016/2017 target of 65 000 learners.

Madam Speaker, a well-functioning health system aligns its strategy and structures towards one, unifying purpose, in our case, access to person-centred quality care. In a tough budget climate, the Department has to deliver its services as efficiently as possible.

The Department's clean financial audit, unique in the country's health sector, was achieved through tireless effort and attention to governance procedures by many individuals, we appreciate each one. Over the years we have spent the maximum possible on improving public healthcare.

We have spent R5 billion on capital infrastructure in health since we took office in 2009, R3.5 billion on new infrastructure and R1.5 billion on maintenance.

Some of state-of-the-art facilities delivered during this period include district hospitals in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain, the expansion of our Knysna and Hermanus hospitals, revitalisation of the Paarl and George hospitals, and new primary healthcare facilities in Kwanokuthula, Delft, Grassy Park, Dunoon, Nomzamo and Knysna.

The PREMIER: Research projections show that future demand for public healthcare requires a regional hospital in the Klipfontein area, to answer the heckled question that's just been placed right now. [Interjections.] A full regional hospital.

The PREMIER: And this area includes Manenberg, Gugulethu, Nyanga and Hanover Park amongst other communities.

The business case for such a hospital has now been approved by the National Department, and the funding application is in the process of being finalised. I will return to this topic in more detail shortly, in the context of the urban upgrades in Manenberg.

Further major build programmes in our extension of health services are underway in District 6, Hanover Park and Elsies River. In response to mental health needs, we have made significant investment in quality psychiatric care and this care is sadly becoming more and more needed because of the consequences of drug abuse, particularly methamphetamine or Tik.

The Cape Winelands District is now home to a fully functional Psychiatric Unit at Paarl Hospital, the first of its kind for the region. We also opened a R110 million refurbishment to Valkenberg Hospital's administration building as part of an ongoing expansion to that facility.

At the operational level, our medicine distribution system ensures that stock-outs do not occur in our facilities for any medication the Province is responsible for procuring. We have worked hard to establish a seamless flow from our Cape Medical Depot to our larger facilities across the province, who then supply the smaller facilities.

This year is the 50th anniversary, Madam Speaker, of the world's first heart transplant, performed in Cape Town's Groote Schuur Hospital by Dr Chris Barnard.

The PREMIER: Our Cultural Affairs and Sport Department will support a travelling exhibition to honour this milestone.

It is good to see our institutions continuing this proud history of innovation. In fact, just three weeks ago ground-breaking surgery was performed at Groote Schuur Hospital by surgeons reaching a lesion in the skull base of a brain, through a patient's eye socket. The operation was done on a 64 year old pensioner from the Athlone area. No scars are visible after the operation and the patient was able to go straight to a general ward. To our knowledge this is the first operation of its kind in the world. Expanding brain surgery through eye sockets means far fewer invasive cranial procedures and much quicker recovery times for patients.

Innovation is happening at every level in our facilities ensuring better quality in patient care. A good recent example is Mitchells Plain Community Health Centre. In this regard, please join me in welcoming Sister Zethu Xapile, Facility Manager at Mitchells Plain Community Health Centre. Where are you, Sister Xapile? [Applause.]

The facility's Back-to-Basics system ensures that chronic medication patients receive their meds pre-packed and available for pick-up on arrival. We know when to have their meds ready because the facility's Chronic Club schedules return visits for the last day of a patient's medicine supply.

With this system, stable chronic patients effectively bypass the queues of the pharmacy and simply collect their medicines. This frees up the pharmacy to deliver services to acutely ill patients.

This means that waiting times are down 60% at the clinic's pharmacy, and picking up pre-packed meds now takes patients just five to ten minutes. That is an extraordinary innovation, and thank you very much Sister Zethu and your colleagues, in achieving this outcome and your selfless commitment to improving public healthcare in our province, thank you very much. [Applause.]

We owe a great debt of gratitude to all out staff who are here across our facilities. We could only pick a few people to come here today - I could actually pick scores and scores - who are working day and night, in challenging conditions, to service a growing population of uninsured health patients.

The PREMIER: Let us take a moment to appreciate in particular our Emergency Medical Services staff, who while going about their duty of saving lives, have been subject to increasing attack by criminals. From our records of past criminal incidents, we have designated 10 red zones in the City where EMS staff now enter only with a police escort.

We have launched Operation Khuseleka as a means of supporting our staff, including counselling, additional safety equipment and building coalitions with local neighbourhood watches. We appeal to communities to work with us to protect our staff, so that we can focus on saving lives.

We must also make progress in preventing preventable illnesses, Madam Speaker, I sound like a stuck record on this but I have to raise it every year.

The PREMIER: We are not making adequate progress in this area, and that is why I have to repeat it. AIDS, which used to dominate newspaper health coverage, has all but vanished from the front pages of Western Cape newspapers. This is because of our world-class comprehensive testing and treatment regime. Aids has become a chronic rather than a fatal disease in this province, and this switch has made many people complacent. We should be intensifying, not diminishing our focus on this disease.

The PREMIER: I was totally appalled to learn, during my research for this speech, that after decades of AIDS campaigning, the probability of a 15-year old South African girl becoming HIV positive is still 35%. More than one in three.

The PREMIER: Although the statistic in the Western Cape, Madam Speaker, is substantially lower at 20% or 1 in five, this number is still, frankly, incomprehensible.

It is the direct result of the Blesser culture. Currently there are over 250 000 new HIV infections per year in South Africa, most of them young girls. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Infected people can fortunately now enjoy a normal life expectancy if they access free treatment... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...but they have to remain on treatment life-long, and if we add almost 300 000 people to this pool every year, it is clear that the AIDS budget will erode the resource base of the rest of the healthcare system. It is not affordable, Madam Speaker, and we have to talk about it. Not the politically correct way that still dominates this conversation, but focusing on the real issue. We have to talk about the fact that unprotected sex, especially inter-generational sex, spreads AIDS and therefore we have to stop this practice.

The PREMIER: Which part of this is so hard to understand?

The PREMIER: Which brings me to public safety in general.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, but I would like to ask you on that point of order whether you would go through the Hansard record, because what I heard was very ... [Interjections.]

I would like to turn to public safety in general. If we could get safety and security right, it would be the biggest Game-Changer of all, but we do not have the constitutional mandate to perform this function. Police, and the entire criminal justice pipeline, are a mandate of National Government.

The PREMIER: We have oversight powers, which we are using to their fullest extent. The Western Cape Community Safety Act, for the first time, provides a legal framework for the accreditation of neighbourhood watch structures.

Our accreditation system allows for neighbourhood watches to access resources, training and equipment from our Community Safety Department. The City of Cape Town will in future also align their support programmes to accredited neighbourhood watches.

There has been a lot of enthusiasm for our Walking Bus model, for example. A system where adults volunteer to create safe routes to school for learners, by chaperoning them in convoy to and from the premises.

Walking Buses were recently launched in 28 neighbourhoods with strong community support. A good example is the vicinity of Nelson Mandela High School in Nyanga, where a pilot project is in place with a local neighbourhood watch and where safety has improved significantly.

We are calling on the public to help us expand this model in more communities. We already run a comprehensive Safe Schools programme, with a R30 million budget. We actively support schools to develop safety plans, report incidents, provide counselling to learners, and mobilise community support to protect their school property.

Madam Speaker, I read with interest that President Jacob Zuma paid an unannounced visit to Nyanga police station this week. The precinct consistently has the highest number of murders in the country, and accounted for a full 10% of all murder cases in this province over the last decade. It used to be slap-bang in the middle of my constituency, so I know it well.

Listening to the complaints of local police officers about a lack of resources, President Zuma responded with a curious question ...[Interjection.] He asked what were the police doing to combat drugs in Nyanga? Did they have a plan in place?

The PREMIER: What is remarkable about the President's enquiry is that he has been making promises for several years now to re-introduce specialised units to combat drugs and gangs and the key problems of crime in Nyanga. He promised this step in his 2016 SONA, and this year simply repeated this promise without any progress update.

He should have been there to tell the police officers in Nyanga when they can expect ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...the specialised drug units supporting them with more boots on the ground. He should tell them why the SAPS, which falls under his national mandate, has not prioritised a second police station, nor to our knowledge made any request for a property to build one.

The PREMIER: In Nyanga the average police ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...to population ratio is one officer for every 754 people, compared to the national average of about one officer for every 358 people. The lack of policing resources is a major contributing factor to the unacceptable crime rates. On your next visit, Mr President ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...please tell us what you plan to do about it.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I was just ...[Interjection.]

As I was saying, Madam Speaker. On the next visit, I would like the President to please tell us what he plans to do about crime in Nyanga.

The PREMIER: In fact, in the President's reply to his State of the Nation debate in Parliament yesterday, it sounded as if he had just discovered the crisis in our criminal justice system. He has the mandate to deal with it and I hope he does. In fact, the whole criminal justice pipeline is in dire need of repair.

Police detectives are profoundly over-burdened, making it difficult to secure convictions. Far too often perpetrators are back on the streets, causing confidence in the criminal justice system to wane, and encouraging people to take the law into their own hands.

The PREMIER: Our Court Watching Briefs Unit has been expanded to over 25 courts this year. In the past year alone, we examined 662 criminal cases that would otherwise have fallen out of this broken pipeline between police, prosecutors and the courts. Many of these cases are now back on the court rolls due to the intervention of this excellent unit.

The office of the Police Ombudsman, Advocate Vusi Pikoli, is up and running, investigating complaints of police inefficiencies and the breakdown of the relationship between community and members of the SAPS.

The Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry also made important proposals for improving policing, which continue to influence safety initiatives in Khayelitsha and elsewhere. We thank Cluster Commander Johan Brand and Provincial Commissioner Khombinkosi Jula, and their many colleagues for working with us so productively in this regard.

The PREMIER: Madam Speaker, I now wish to turn to a social problem that is a leading driver of crime. Also a leading driver of vehicle crashes, and interpersonal violence, and that is alcohol abuse.

Everyone in the Western Cape is acutely aware of the harmful effects of alcohol abuse in this province. It is even worse than the evil effect of illegal drugs, if that is possible. This is a problem that requires all spheres of government to co-operate effectively, together with affected communities.

It requires the liquor industry to take much greater responsibility for ensuring responsible trading rather than just exhorting people to drink responsibly.

Law enforcement, behaviour change and an industry that operates within the law, in letter and in spirit, are essential to reduce the significant intentional and unintentional injuries associated with alcohol abuse.

At a provincial level, we know only too well our limited influence to reduce alcohol consumption and its harmful effects. Yet the scale of the problem is so vast that it demands that we at least try. For this reason, we introduced an Alcohol Harms Reduction Game-changer. It has proved the most difficult and intractable Game-changer by far.

We have chosen to start our work in some of the most challenging areas, where alcohol is a major contributor to violent crime and abuse. Our goal is to reduce alcohol related intentional injuries and fatalities, starting in Khayelitsha, Gugulethu and Nyanga and Paarl East.

Through our best endeavours we would like to create an environment in these areas where the rule of law prevails, which will automatically reduce access to alcohol.

But this also requires a greater offering of recreational and economic alternatives for the high risk 18 to 35-year old age group. We are keen to facilitate and promote these alternatives that importantly must be rooted in communities and run by social and business entrepreneurs, not Government.

That said, as a government, we can directly contribute to reducing alcohol related harms and enhancing social services in communities.

In the past year we have tested a number of potential solutions, and we are currently assessing their impact and what's more, and what else we can do about it. [Interjection.]

In particular, we need to sharpen the influence and role of the Western Cape Liquor Authority as a key partner in regulating the alcohol industry. Licence fees and fines will increase substantially.

We are aware that the shebeens far outnumber licensed premises and our focus will be on moving towards legalising some illegal outlets, coupled with a drive to ensure responsible trading, targeted at the industry and stopping illegal liquor sales, particularly in dense residential areas.

We are getting a much clearer picture of the impact of alcohol on our health programme, through something that we call the Brief Motivational Interventions, and this happens at the emergency centres in our three targeted communities that I have mentioned.

People land up in a trauma ward for a variety of reasons. In a great many of cases these injuries can be attributed to alcohol. In fact 42% according to our BMI records.

The focus of this programme is to reach the most susceptible people with a behaviour change message, in the hopes that it will sink in at a later stage and reduce alcohol related harms being repeated.

The BMI intervention is designed and designed to try and convince them to change their risky behaviour, and offer further treatment if needed.

Many of the people who are engaged in risky drinking are not alcoholics needing rehab, they are weekend binge drinkers who need to realise that their behaviour is risky and can result in serious harms to themselves and others.

This shows the high burden that alcohol abuse is placing on our health system. We call on citizens to support our efforts to ensure that the trading in liquor is done legally and responsibly.

Madam Speaker, in the past month we have released amendments to the Provincial Liquor Act for public comment. We are using the insight gained over the last year to create the regulatory environment required for alcohol harms reduction.

We are serious about compliance. Traders must remain within the law, and not find loopholes to circumvent it.

That is why the maximum fine the Liquor Licensing Tribunal can impose has increased from R20 000 to R100 000 per incident. We will offer an appeals mechanism to ensure that matters are resolved fairly and as speedily as possible.

We will also be appointing five more liquor inspectors to extend the monitoring of the system. If you don't want to face the wrath of the law, do not break the law.

The amended regulations also place a responsibility on Liquor Inspectors in the entire province to visit all premises or vehicles where suspicions exist on reasonable grounds that liquor is being stored, conveyed or sold contrary to the provisions of the Liquor Act. So it is not only the legal outlets anymore, the illegal ones will be targeted specifically.

Our Alcohol Harms Reduction Green Paper was also released for public comment in the past year, incorporating our entire strategy. Driving under the influence of alcohol, and pedestrians walking under the influence of alcohol, continue to be the most consistent and biggest contributor to injury and deaths on our roads.

Our Transport and Public Works Department have worked hard to reintroduce evidentiary breath alcohol testing, commonly known as the Draeger device.

Electronic breath alcohol testing can rapidly determine whether a driver is over the legal limit. This has the potential to speed up legal processes against persons driving under the influence.

Besides enforcing the law, we are further committed to enhancing the quality of alcohol related health and social services interventions in communities.

Our prevention and treatment programmes reached 12 500 people last year, with a big focus on awareness about foetal alcohol syndrome. This is yet another 100% preventable condition, with 100% irreversible harms for new lives and for society as a whole. We simply have to put a stop to this scourge.

The abuse of both alcohol and drugs remains an enormous problem in our province. A total of 23 626 clients have accessed substance abuse clinics and services since 2014.

The Social Development Department has steadily expanded its services over the years. We have more than trebled the number of substance abuse treatment sites from seven in 2009, to 25 today.

Adolescent matrix programmes are also available at schools in Kuilsriver, Eerste River, Steenberg, Lavender Hill, Hout Bay and Elsies River.

Again, we have to prevent preventable conditions. Addiction is a disease but it can be prevented. And the role of parents and families is central to this process. No State can substitute for a functional family.

Madam Speaker, our social problems may be many, and they are often geographically concentrated. We are using every possible lever to mitigate them. An important one is urban design to positively transform neighbourhoods. Nowhere is this more necessary than in communities most impacted by gang violence, drugs and alcohol abuse.

Since 2015, the Province, City of Cape Town and our community partners have jointly been working towards the vision of a Youth Lifestyle Campus in Manenberg.

A network of education and after-school facilities, linked by safe promenades and upgraded lighting and infrastructure.

The community is also being prioritised by the City's Mayoral Urban Regeneration Programme. We have been helped every step of the way in Manenberg by the VPUU not-for-profit organisation, that provides the interface between community and Government.

All partners recently participated in the annual Community Action Plan review. Integral to implementing this Vision, from a provincial perspective, is a Schools Upgrade Programme.

The provincial Education Department receives funding for the upgrade of “plankie” schools in Manenberg, through the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Development Initiative known as ASIDI.

These funds are transferred from the National Department of Basic Education, and have been utilised to replace the Silverstream and Red River Primary Schools in Manenberg.

The Western Cape Government, through the Provincial Education Department, will fund any further replacement of schools in the area.

Funding will be made available to replace “plankie” schools with three new school buildings in the community. Each school will be constructed in compliance with the minimum infrastructure norms and standards, and will include modern after-school facilities, in line with the Youth Lifestyle Campus vision.

We also agreed that it would benefit the youth of Manenberg to include a School of Skills within the Upgrade Programme. This unique schooling model designed by our Education Department has provided young people an alternative pathway into apprenticeships and jobs.

A Request for Proposals will also be issued by the provincial Department of Public Works this year to use all or part of the former hospital site on Duinefontein Road, the old G F Jooste Hospital, for skills and community development use.

The Department of Health’s planning indicates that a Regional Hospital is a necessity for future healthcare demand, and will require 7 hectares of land, as it will comprise 550 beds, much larger than each of our district hospitals in Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha. The City of Cape Town is also investing in various upgrades to public infrastructure in the community, including lighting, roads and parks.

Viewed together, this proposed infrastructure package represents a massive public investment in the community of Manenberg and its surrounding areas, and particularly in our youth.

In order for the vision to become a reality, the current spatial landscape in Manenberg will obviously also be required to change. Each proposed step will still have to follow its own legislated process, including the public participation that is required. It is bureaucratic and time-consuming, but we have to work within the law and every sector involved.

The infrastructure upgrades seek to use urban design to transform a community, creating opportunities for quality education, after-school activities and business development, but it will all be pointless if a community does not become an active partner in transforming their environment.

Madam Speaker, we are targeting seven further municipalities across the province for urban upgrading projects in a similar way, through our Regional Socio-Economic Programme, known as the RSEP, working hand in hand with the VPUU.

The Province has committed R165 million for this programme over a four year period. A further R70 million has been pledged by the German Development Bank for implementation

of the tried-and-tested partnership methodology. The Bank has been a reliable and consistent partner to us, for which we are extremely grateful.

RSEP projects are currently being implemented in the Saldanha, Swartland and Breede Valley Municipalities, with the Drakenstein and Theewaterskloof supported and targeted by the VPUU.

I am pleased to welcome Chris Smal as a guest today. Chris, where is Chris? There he is, Chris Smal. Thank you very much. Working for Breede Valley Municipality, almost single-handedly rolled out 30 RSEP community projects in the Worcester area in just over a year.

The neighbourhoods we are targeting in partnership with the local municipality are Zwelethemba, Avian Park, Roodewal and Riverview. Completed projects include upgrades to parks, facilities, pedestrian walkways, rubbish collection points, and stand-pipes in informal settlements.

In a short space of time, multi-purpose sports courts and recreational facilities have been built for young people to play netball, basketball and soccer.

Chris has also harnessed the passion and commitment of local residents, assisting a local church in Avian Park with the building of a BMX track that will serve as a positive recreational alternative for young people in the community. This is the whole-of-society approach we speak about so often. It is this whole-of-society approach in action. Thanks to the people who are driving with inspiration and energy the focus, such as Mr Smal.

We appreciate the good work you are doing, and appreciate the partnership we are building with Breede Valley Municipality.

Madam Speaker, today I have presented a progress report for the Provincial Government. It has been long, but it is by no means exhaustive. [Interjections.]

The various Ministers will flesh out our future plans, complementing this progress report. The various Ministers will speak about our future plans in their respective budget votes.

Suffice to say that we are a strong and cohesive team, working under the diligent oversight of this Legislature, to position our province for the future. We have come a significant distance, but there is still much to accomplish in the remainder of our term.

The PREMIER: We have set ourselves enormous stretch targets, and we are pursuing them tirelessly to achieve our long term vision which is simply this: to give every person living in this province the opportunities they need to use their freedoms, to live lives they value.

Thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

[Full text in English to be printed in *Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports*.]

5. The House adjourned at 12:45.

Dr G A LAWRENCE
Secretary to Provincial Parliament