

# MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# PARLIAMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE

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FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2014

1. The House met at 11:30.
2. The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.
3. [11:33] The Premier delivered her State of the Province Address as follows:

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Honourable Mr Speaker, hon members of the Provincial Cabinet, the hon Mayor of Cape Town and Speaker of the City of Cape Town, the hon Leader of the Opposition, members of the Diplomatic Corps, hon leaders of political parties, hon members of the Provincial Legislature, Director General of the Western Cape, heads of Provincial Departments, leaders of Local Government, religious leaders, community leaders, colleagues and friends, and most important of all the citizens of the Western Cape province, welcome to everyone here today. †Namkelekile ninonke apha namhlanje. \*You are all welcome here today. †n Hartlike warm welkom aan almal hier vandag.

Twenty years ago, Mr Speaker, on the occasion of his inauguration as State President, Nelson Mandela stood on the Grand Parade in Cape Town and undertook to create “a better life of opportunity, freedom and prosperity” for all South Africans.

He said: “This needs unity of purpose. It needs action. It requires us all to work together” and so, as we prepare to celebrate as a nation twenty years of democracy, we must ask ourselves: are we translating Madiba’s vision of opportunity into action that is meaningful for all our people? Are we working together to fulfil the promises he made at the dawn of our democracy?

Our vision in the Western Cape is the same as those spoken on the Grand Parade 20 years ago. We call it the “open, opportunity society for all”. This is a society in which everyone has the chance and the means to use opportunities in life, and where everyone takes responsibility for using those opportunities.

This is also the society envisaged in our Constitution, and it is the vision which the citizens of the Western Cape have given us to fulfil over the last five years, in partnership with them, with civil society, with business and with other institutions and spheres of Government and indeed, Mr Speaker, with every single citizen of this province, because no government can by itself guarantee a better life for all. Progress is the product of partnerships. That is why in this province, we say, “Better Together”.

I believe that together over the last five years, we in the Western Cape have made progress in realising our vision of an open, opportunity society for all. Of course, Mr Speaker, there is always a long way to go, but we have to measure progress from where we were five years ago.

We have shifted resources and energy into creating opportunities for growth and jobs without compromising, and indeed while enhancing the State’s ability to deliver better outcomes in health, education and social development. We have also refocused our efforts to promote social inclusion with a more pragmatic and less ideological approach. I believe that this is the Western Cape story, and it really is a good story to tell. [Interjections.]

It really is, Mr Speaker, it really is Mr Speaker, the best story to tell in the country. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: It is a story of real, sustainable jobs being created through investment ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: ...because there is confidence in the future of this province. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: It is a story of our commitment to get rid of the corruption that was rife when we came into office in 2009, and most important of all it is a story of expanding opportunities to the poorest citizens so that they may have a chance to use their opportunities to live a life that they value.

Mr Speaker, as we near the end of this fourth democratically elected Provincial Parliament's term, allow me to report back to the citizens of the Western Cape on what our government has achieved over the past five years. This is an important report-back meeting in order to show to the province what their vote went to in the last five years, but before I begin I would like to welcome two of my special guests in the House today, Mr Colin Deiner, Chief Director for Western Cape Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services and there he sits in the box, and Jacqui Pandaram, who is also right next to him, Director of Operations. Western Cape Disaster Management, Mr Schalk Willem Carstens, who is the Director of Disaster Risk Reduction, could unfortunately not be here today but he is also part of Colin and Jacqui's management team.

I would like to pay tribute to them and to everyone in the disaster management team for the work they do in dealing with the large number of floods and fires and other disasters that regularly hit our province.

The exceptional work that you do, often under the most trying of circumstances, saves lives and frequently reduces damage and the subsequent heavy losses to our economy and to our individual households and families. I would like to thank all of you for the crucial role you play in our province and I never ever want to take you for granted because when you do your work so well people do not really notice how well you are doing. It is only when a disaster goes wrong that people focus on it and it is to your credit that everything has gone so well, and for that reason I am sure the opposition will join me in warmly congratulating you and having you as a special guest in the House today.

Vyf jaar gelede, mnr die Speaker, het ek voor hierdie Parlement gestaan en onderneem om my bes te doen om 'n Premier vir almal te wees. Ek het ook sommige van die reuse uitdagings uitgelig wat ons as 'n nuutverkose regering in die gesig gestaar het, asook wat ons planne was om hierdie uitdagings aan te pak.

Most importantly I stated that our government has resolved to allow everything we do to our overriding objective of combating poverty and promotion opportunities for all through policies that encourage sustained economic growth; that attracts, develops and retains skills and capital; and that drive infrastructure development.

All of these factors create the environment needed for job creation and our government believes that one of the best indicators of opportunity is whether people are able to get jobs.

We also believe that entrepreneurship is a crucial vehicle for creating jobs, increasing economic growth and driving innovation. Over half of all formal employment in our country is provided by small and medium enterprises. That is why we have prioritised providing support to SMEs so that they are able to start up, survive, stabilise and expand.

We have supported the establishment of twenty access points across the province through partnerships with the Small Business Development Agency or the Small Enterprise Development Agency, because it has now changed its name; the business place operating in Philippi, Cape Town CBD and Khayelitsha and the West Coast Business Development Centre, which collectively have assisted over 22 000 SMEs with business development and with procurement and to support to access finance, and those are all critical to SMEs starting up and trying to grow.

Our Enterprise Development Fund, which is a partnership between the Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the National Empowerment Fund, has committed to just under R20 million in loan funding to small black-owned businesses over the last two financial years and I am delighted to say, Mr Speaker, that 52% of these businesses have been female-owned.

Ons verskeie ondersteuningsintervensies het ongeveer 11 400 werksgeleenthede gefasiliteer en volgehou as gevolg van die stigting en uitbreiding van sowat 3000 klein en medium sake-ondernemings oor die afgelope drie jaar.

However, one of the biggest hindrances to the growth of entrepreneurs is the many regulatory obstacles to doing business in South Africa. It is estimated that the annual cost of red tape to SMEs is R80 billion. That is the annual cost, Mr Speaker, money that could have been used to create jobs. Red tape is also cited as the reason why early-stage entrepreneurial activity has decreased across our country as a whole. Provinces are, unfortunately, not constitutionally empowered to change most of the laws and regulations that result in red tape, but we can help people navigate through them with minimal delays.

We established our Red Tape Reduction Unit in 2011, to assist SMEs and everyone else to get through these bottlenecks. It was the first unit of its kind in any government across South Africa. Since the launch of the unit and its hotline less than three years ago, more than 2 200 queries have been received and 87% of the blockages have been successfully removed.

The unit has also developed a set of regulatory impact assessment guidelines and an implementation framework that will be rolled out across the provincial government during the 2014/2015 financial year. These guidelines will ensure that new legislation or policies introduced by departments have been checked and checked rigorously in order to ensure that they do not increase the regulatory obstacles to doing business in this province. Existing legislation and policies will also be reviewed.

We all know, Mr Speaker, that corruption kills investment, destroys growth and jobs, and makes poor people poorer. That is why we have focused on making sure there is no place for corruption in this government.

Our Business Interest of Employees Act, which was passed in 2010, has forbidden state employees and their families from doing business with our administration. We are the only government in the country to have passed this type of legislation.

We have also invested in building the capacity of our forensic investigations unit so that between April 2010 and December 2013 the unit closed over 600 cases including tackling a huge backlog inherited from the former administration.

Mnr Speaker, bedrog, korrupsie en ander ongerymdhede is in meer as 230 van hierdie gevalle bevestig en ongeveer 120 hiervan is by die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie aangemeld. Dissiplinêre stappe is geneem teen amptenare wat by hierdie sake betrokke was en dit het tot 43 afdankings gelei. Ons Forensiese Ondersoekendeheid is ook deur die Staatsdienskommissie erkenning gegee as 'n voorbeeld van beste praktyk in ons land en ons is baie trots op hulle.

Our commitment to developing a corruption-free, efficient public sector has resulted in over R2 billion worth of foreign direct investment flowing into the province over the last four years. This is because people have confidence that the investments will be properly administered in a properly run province and that their money will not be siphoned off to corruption. [Interjection.] This is despite a decrease in global FDI.

Many sectors have benefited from the inflow including the business process outsourcing sector, which is one of the huge success stories in this province, Mr Speaker. There are currently just over 40 000 people employed in the industry, which is worth an estimated R8 billion. Other good news about this industry is that 70% of those employed are between the ages of 18 and 35 and only have a matric. By next year the job numbers are expected to grow to 52 245 and by 2016 to over 65 300, and that is a wonderful story to tell, Mr Speaker.

While South Africa has struggled to recover from the global economic downturn, a number of areas in the province have started seeing the benefits of our various interventions.

One of these I am really delighted to say, Mr Speaker, one of these areas is Atlantis just outside of Cape Town, which has traditionally been a very marginalised community and which also has very high levels of poverty and unemployment, which has been the case for many years. New investors are now moving into the area while existing companies have expanded and begun leading in technology.

Die invloed Mnr Speaker van nuwe beleggings is deels te danke aan die Stad Kaapstad en die Wes-Kaapse Regering se gesamentlike plan om Atlantis die hart van groen-ekonomie vervaardiging in die provinsie te maak.

Two years ago, Mr Speaker, the City of Cape Town proactively identified portions of land at competitive rates in Atlantis for manufacturers producing products and services related to the green economy.

Both the Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town also worked together to reduce the burden of red tape by obtaining environmental clearance for industrial activities on the land. This has significantly sped up the process of establishing manufacturing facilities in the area.

I am excited to announce that GRI Renewable Industries, the wind industrial division of international company corporation Gestamp, has revealed that it will be opening a wind tower manufacturing facility in Atlantis this year. It will be fully operational by the second half of 2014 and will create around 200 direct local jobs. The total project investment will be around R333 million. There are also discussions underway to attract a wind turbine blade manufacturer to Atlantis. It is clear that our work to reduce bottlenecks over the last two years is starting to pay off and we are recognised as an investment-friendly province, which is good for poor people, because investors create sustainable businesses that create jobs, real jobs for people and that is how we move this province and our country step by step out of poverty.

These two factories are also over and above the six renewable energy factories that have already opened up in the province over the past two years, including AEG, SMA, Jinko, SunPower, Enertronica and ReneSola resulting in an investment of R200 million and 400 jobs, Mr Speaker.

Another major investment in the area was the opening of the R350 million Hisense factory last June, which is projected to create over 1000 local jobs over the next three years. The factory currently employs 450 people – 150 more than it initially projected and every additional breadwinner is an additional family with food on the table. It has also already established itself as a leader in technology on the continent, manufacturing the first UHD TV in Africa and I promise you I will be the last to get it. I do not even know what it is, but it sounds like a grand innovation.

Hisense oorweeg dit ook om 'n tweede-fase belegging in die Wes-Kaap te maak en om 'n Navorsing-en Ontwikkelingsentrum in die provinsie te vestig. Die sukses van die Hisense-ooreenkoms het daartoe gelei dat ander Sjinese maatskappye aktiewe belangstelling daarin toon om die geleenthede te benut wat deur die Wes-Kaap gebied word vir beleggings in nie- kommoditeitshulpbronne.

Finally, Atlantis Foundries has also become one of the top performing plants in the country. It employs 1 170 people, Mr Speaker, mostly from Atlantis and surrounding communities. All modern freightliner trucks in America use Atlantis Foundries engine blocks, which are the most modern and technically sophisticated engines available anywhere in the world. Last year, the foundry surpassed its sister plant in Germany when it comes to

quality and one thing I like announcing here is that our country surpasses Germany in terms of quality so let us that many of our factories do that increasingly.

All of these investments have created thousands of jobs in the area and have put Atlantis on the path to becoming one of the leading green and manufacturing hubs in the country.

Another major development up the West Coast is the Saldanha Industrial Development Zone, the IDZ, which was officially launched last October and which has the potential to become one of the most important levers for job- and economic growth in the province. A recent feasibility study completed by the UCT Graduate School of Business has estimated that the development will have created 2 600 direct jobs by the end of its first year. We worked very, very well with the National Government to get the IDZ off the ground. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Over the past few months several lease agreements have already been signed with international and South African oil and gas companies.[Interjections] One of the largest oil rigs to be serviced in the province ...

The PREMIER: The Sedco 700 also recently docked at the Saldanha Bay port for service repairs along with another three major oil rigs, Mr Speaker, another three major oil rigs creating around 8000 jobs during their stay. So when oil rigs come because our port facilities are good we grow jobs because to service an oil rig creates many, many jobs and much revenue for our country.

The growth in Atlantis and Saldanha are important examples of how land and infrastructure can be used and indeed must be used, Mr Speaker, to unlock and create wealth and attract investment by the private sector to grow jobs.

In many of these projects, we have worked constructively and well with the relevant National Government departments, as our Constitution requires, and we commit ourselves to cooperative government at all times. [Interjections.]

However, despite our commitment, it sometimes does not work because other National Government departments have, either for reasons of complete inefficiency or deliberate blocking, prevented the development of key infrastructure projects that are essential to generate growth and jobs. I raised this with the President at the last Cabinet Legotla and I am writing him a full document setting out exactly how national departments block service delivery in this province. [Interjection.]

For example, Mr Speaker, our province's twelve small fishing harbours can play a crucial role in supporting fishing communities [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: And providing them with access to other economic opportunities. Up to now it is a disgrace that the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has been managing these harbours and allowed them to fall into the disrepair we see today. A report commissioned by the National Government in 2005 made a number of recommendations to address their dysfunctionality but hardly anything has changed more than a decade later.

However, Mr Speaker, the constitutional mandate for harbours does not lie with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at national level, it actually lies with Local Government. We have therefore been engaging with the National Government for a very long time to try to unlock the socio-economic potential of these harbours but they have continuously blocked our efforts to prevent the partnership that proper management requires, to the detriment of fishing communities.

The PREMIER: Secondly, our government has committed to connecting the Western Cape to affordable, high speed broadband and we have set clear targets for the roll-out of our broadband project and we are well underway with our broadband project and we have advertised for companies to tender for the design, provision and management of the broadband network in 2012 and then we were told by the South African State Information Technology Agency, known as SITA, that we were contravening the SITA Act, and that the tender had to be awarded by them. [Interjection.] We were then required Mr Speaker ... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: We were then required Mr Speaker ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members.

The PREMIER: We were then required, Mr Speaker, to cancel. Mr Speaker, because of SITA's intervention, we were required to cancel our procurement process and we had to request SITA to manage the tender for a broadband network services on our behalf.

The PREMIER: Now I can tell you, Mr Speaker, that one delay after another on SITA's part has created very serious problems for us and we are still waiting for this process to be finalised which has significantly delayed our broadband project and threatened the delivery targets we have set. [Interjections.] We are currently seeking legal advice, Mr Speaker, on the constitutionality of the SITA Act.[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members, order!

The PREMIER: We are currently seeking legal advice on the constitutionality of the SITA Act and just this past week it has emerged that another province may have been allowed by the relevant Minister to circumvent this constraining legislation ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: And not to have to use SITA ... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: While we were forced to comply ... [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I have written to the Minister ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Seeking clarity as a matter of urgency, because it will be totally wrong, totally wrong, Mr Speaker. [Interjections.] if we were forced to comply with all the unnecessary red tape that so profoundly delays delivery projects because we have to channel them through National Government agencies, while other provinces are allowed to circumvent them and we will not allow that, Mr Speaker. [Interjections.] It is one clear standard for everyone, not one rule for us and another rule for ANC provinces.

The PREMIER: You would not know a good story if you fell over one Mr Magaxa. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: This is not the first time, Mr Speaker, that major projects in this province have been blocked by the National Government. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members, order!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! [Interjections.] Hon members, order! [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, proceed honourable.

The PREMIER: This is not the first time, Mr Speaker, that major projects in this province have been blocked by the National Government. [Interjections.] The construction of two urgently needed schools in Grabouw was delayed for a number of years because the national department of Public Works failed to transfer land to us. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: And of course, as we know, those delays resulted in dire circumstances for the communities concerned, and here comes the announcement, which is a very good story for me. [Interjections.] I have decided, Mr Speaker, that in future when faced with this type of stonewalling from national departments we will move much faster in invoking the Constitutional mechanisms to declare intergovernmental disputes. [Interjections.] We will not tolerate this blockage. [Interjections.]

Die PREMIER: Mnr die Speaker, ons besef dat ons regering 'n deurslaggewende rol te speel het om burgers van geleenthede te voorsien, om hulle vaardighede te ontwikkel. Om die vaardigheidspyplyn te versterk is integraal tot die versnelling van ekonomiese groei en werkskepping.

Ons het byna R1.7 miljard aan vaardigheidsontwikkelingsprogramme oor die afgelope vyf jaar bestee en opleidingsgeleenthede aan 98 000 mense voorsien.

I am delighted that a few of the young people who have benefited from our skills programmes were able to join us here today. Imaan Kathrada and Zikhona Sangotsha are two of the 4 065 young people who have been placed in work opportunities under the Work and Skills programme since it started in 2009.

†Zikhona uphi? \*Zikhona, where are you? †Imaan uphi? \*Imaan, where are you? †Waar? †O daar.

Hello Zikhona, †wamkelekile apha namhlanje. \*You are welcome here today. Where is Imaan? Imaan, †As-salamu alaykum. \*Peace be unto you. You are very welcome today. Thank you very much for being here.

The PREMIER: There they are.

The PREMIER: So Imaan and Zikhona are warmly welcomed by all of us here today and both of them are among the 60% ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members!

The PREMIER: ... of the programme's graduates who have been offered permanent placements once they finish their training. Mr Magaxa that is a very good story! [Interjections.]

Imaan is 22, so at the start of her adult life, and works as a Human Resource Manager at Stretch Experiential Marketing based in Woodstock. She was writing her matric exams when she heard about the Work and Skills programme and she applied. She participated in the programme in 2009 and got a job at a music rehearsal studio and then at her current firm through the contacts she made during her training year. Within two months of working at the company, she had used her opportunity with such diligence, that she was appointed as head of their human resource department. She says she is lucky to have her dreams come true and attributes it to the opportunity she got in the Work and Skills programme.

And that shows you, Mr Speaker, what happens when people get opportunities and take the responsibility to use them, Better Together, Imaan! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Then Zikhona ... †uZikhona uhlala eGugulethu. Zikhona lives in Gugulethu and currently works for Precision Press in Bellville. She matriculated from Isilimela Comprehensive School in 2008 but struggled to find permanent work after graduating so she has submitted her CV to the provincial department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism in the hope of finding work. The department offered her an apprenticeship under the Work and Skills programme and she was placed at Precision Press. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon member!

The PREMIER: She was offered a permanent position as an operator at the factory after completing her apprenticeship and has recently also begun assisting with the training at the company.

Another programme or ours, Mr Speaker, which is also good news, is the Premier's Advancement of Youth project which has already provided 1 476 matriculants on-the-job training in Government departments for a year. Just over 750 will also take part in the programme in 2014/2015.

21 year old Mogammad Amierr Peterson took part in the programme in 2012 after his mother saw an advert in the newspaper encouraging young people to apply, and here I would like to just pause for a moment, because I read and heard that his mother had been instrumental in seeing this advert in the newspaper, how important engaged and involved and committed parents are to helping their children spot opportunities, use opportunities and develop opportunities, and so to Mogammad's mother, well done, Better Together! And she saw this advert encouraging young people to apply for our PAY project. He was offered a job after completing his internship in the Department of the Premier and plans to study further. He says he has had a great experience so far and is grateful for the opportunities that have been provided to him by the PAY project and I also want to add by his mother, Ms Peterson.

Finally, Abongile Feni also completed her PAY internship in 2012. She found out about the PAY programme through her high school and applied to work in the provincial Department of Agriculture. She was awarded a full bursary by the department to study a B. Agric. at Elsenburg College after finishing her internship and is in her second year of studies. That is really wonderful, Abongile, and it is another example of someone getting an opportunity, using it and progressing in life. She plans to work for the department once she has completed her degree and I hope Abongile, one day I see you sitting in the box over here with all of the other people here today. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: These four young people are examples of what can be achieved if you have a Government committed to building a pipeline of opportunity and citizens who actively seize these opportunities to improve their lives.

Mr Speaker, this is a great example of Madiba's vision of opportunity being translated into action.

Our Government is committed to providing even more skills development opportunities to young people living in the province. We are currently working on a GAP year project. It is going to be a very important one in years to come [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: A GAP year project where young graduates [Interjections.] where young graduates will be [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon, hon, order! Hon members, hon members, hon.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mr Magaxa, order hon members! [Interjections.] Hon Minister, order.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for the opportunity to have a sip of water, Mr Speaker. I was referring to our new innovation, a GAP year project where young graduates will be paid to provide tutoring to learners at our after school MOD centres in order to improve education outcomes. I plan to make a more detailed announcement on this soon, but it really is a first nationally and a very innovative project.

Last year I explained how the Economic Development Partnership was a great example of our “Better Together” philosophy. The EDP has continued with its important work over the past year including identifying potential areas of greater collaboration between the province and the City of Cape Town’s economic programmes.

Om vennootskappe binne die landbousektor te bou deur samesprekings met plaaswerkers, georganiseerde arbeid en boere te voer, vorm steeds deel van die Ekonomiese Ontwikkelingsvennootskap se werk.

Die Ontwikkelingsvennootskap het ook die Toekoms van Landbou en die Landelike Ekonomie-proses gelei wat uitgeloop het op ’n omvattende verslag en stel aanbevelings vir al drie regeringsfere.

In order, Mr Speaker, to maximise trade and tourism and attract investment into the province, we have developed a new international relations strategy. Key regions have been identified in the strategy, for collaboration and partnerships in our future. These areas are Africa, the BRIC countries and our existing partners in the Regional Leaders Forum.

Increased market access for our province’s export products is a key priority and a special focus area for the Department of Agriculture. It is estimated, Mr Speaker, that just a 5% increase in agricultural exports from the Western Cape could create another 23 000 job opportunities in this province and so our links with Africa and our trade with Africa is of primary importance.

Die departement het ’n aantal intervensies ingestel om boere by te staan om blootstelling in die oorsese markte te verkry. Een van die positiewe uitkomstes was ’n 32% toename in die uitvoer van Suid-Afrikaanse wyne tussen 2009 en 2012 en dis ’n baie, baie groot styging in die uitvoer van ons wyne en baie, baie geluk. Dit skep werk. Dit skep ekonomiese groei. [Tussenwerpsel.]

Die Wes-Kaapse Regering is verbind tot die ontwikkeling en ondersteuning van kleinskaal-boere en bemagtigingsprojekte in landbou en die verbetering van die lewens van plaaswerkers in hierdie provinsie.

Creating opportunities in the rural economy is critical if we want to break the cycle of poverty in these areas and build social cohesion.

Since 2010, the department has pioneered a unique commodity approach to support empowerment projects under its Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme. Strategic partnerships have been forged with commodity organisations in the fruit, dairy, grain, viticulture, sheep, wool, meat, aquaculture, poultry and vegetable farming sectors. I cannot think of any farming sector that is not covered there so in fact these commodity partnerships have been established all over the place and the scale of support provided under the programme is illustrated by the money spent and projects supported during the 2012/2013 financial year. Around R84.3 million was allocated to 82 projects across the farming sector benefiting 5452 beneficiaries.

For the 2014/2015 financial year, just over R55 million has been allocated to fund a range of empowerment projects and to provide training and market access to smallholder farmers.

The commodity approach has made it possible for the department to capitalise on the expertise of the agricultural industry and provide mentoring to support black farmers to develop their commercial enterprises.

Mnr die Speaker, ons departement se aandeelgelykheid-skemas bly verder steeds van die suksesvolste grondhervormingsprojekte in die land.

In antwoord op die stakings wat aan die einde van 2012 in landelike gebiede in die provinsie uitbreek het, het die departement ook 'n 12-punt plan ontwikkel om die onderliggende oorsake wat tot die gewelddadige onluste aanleiding gegee het, aan te spreek.

Some of the main interventions under this plan include the launch of a helpline dedicated to farm worker issues, funding mechanisation training courses for farm workers on how to use farm machinery; youth empowerment programmes in rural areas including internships, study bursaries and accredited learnership training to unemployed youth; investment in sport opportunities for farm workers; facilitating engagement sessions between farmers and farm workers so that we can improve communication and conducting a province-wide farm worker survey to order better understanding and the needs of the farm worker community. We need that structurally done, we need it organised and we need much better communication in our rural economy which has been promoted very well under our government. We also budgeted R17 million for farm worker development projects during the 2013/2014 financial year.

A survey of farm workers in the Overstrand and Theewaterskloof municipal areas has already been completed and is moving to other municipalities. One of the main issues raised by farm workers so far is the fact that they do not qualify for free basic services when living on farms. A very serious issue, they do not qualify - as things currently stand - for free basic services on farms.

ESKOM traditionally supplied electricity to the farmer who does not qualify for the free service, with tariff charges varying from farm to farm.

So I am very pleased to announce today, Mr Speaker, that we plan to rollout a major pilot project, in partnership with ESKOM, in the Hex River Valley next year to provide a reliable electrical connection to each farm worker household in the area so that they too can benefit from free basic electricity.

The PREMIER: Now there is some very good news for hon member Mr Magaxa but he is too busy talking so he would not have heard it.

The PREMIER: We have chosen the Hex River Valley, Mr Speaker, for the pilot project because it comprises 170 farms with approximately 2000 farm worker households, which means that a large number of families will benefit from the project, and we will be able to test it at scale and I would like to thank Eskom for really coming together with us and for understanding the critical need for this project so that we can implement it [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: A business plan for the project is being developed by a task team consisting of the provincial Departments of Local Government and Agriculture and ESKOM. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: The plan, Mr Speaker, envisages the project to start in February 2015 if the necessary R12.5 million of funding required for the pilot is secured from the national Departments of Energy, the Treasury and Rural Development and Land Affairs. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: This has to be a “Better Together” project and we are absolutely committed to making sure that it is. If the pilot is successful the provision of free basic electricity will be rolled out to farm worker households across the province, which will be a first in South Africa, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members order!

Die PREMIER: Mnr die Speaker die Wes-Kaapse Regering is verheug daaroor om die koördineerder en fasiliteerder van hierdie opwindende proefprojek te wees, wat, indien suksesvol, aan duisende arm plaaswerker-huishoudings in die provinsie groot verligting sal bring.

As I have already mentioned, everything we have done over the last five years has been focused on growing the economy, creating jobs and alleviating poverty in this province, but we recognise that as long as deep inequalities in education still exist, we will never redress the economic injustices of apartheid. Providing quality education, Mr Speaker, is the most important ladder of opportunity that any Government can provide young people with.

Mr Speaker, four years ago we released our strategic plan for education up to 2019. This plan has served as the blueprint for the sustained and systemic approach we have followed to improve academic performance particularly in languages and mathematics, the National Senior Certificate, as well as to reduce the number of underperforming schools in this province.

We have stuck to this plan and not deviated from it, nor have we deviated from the targets we set ourselves in 2009, and we have continued to spend the bulk of our education budget which is over 80%, on the poorest 60% of our learners and I think it is important for me to repeat that. We spend 80% of our education budget on the poorest 60% of our learners, which is quite right.

Some of our achievements in helping schools in the poorest quintiles include:

Firstly increasing the amount allocated to our school feeding scheme by more than 100% from R112 million in 2009 to R260 million in 2013/2014 and expanding the programme to schools in Quintiles 4 and 5. Last year we also introduced a breakfast meal for learners in addition to the lunch meal they receive each day;

Secondly, Mr Speaker, we have also expanded our no-fee schools programme, which already covers all public schools in Quintiles 1 to 3, to additional schools in Quintiles 4 and 5.

Thirdly 216 schools in these quintiles applied for no-fee status and the Western Cape Education department has allocated R46 million in 2014/2015 to cover these costs;

The Western Cape Government fourthly also pays the highest amount of money, when compared to other province, to schools who qualify for fee exemptions - an amount of over R90 million over the past three years.

Mnr die Speaker ons het ook vordering begin sien as gevolg van ons verskeie intervensies in die 2013 Nasionale Senior Sertifikaat-uitslae wat geen uitsondering is nie.

Ons het 'n rekord aantal van 40 558 kandidate gehad wat die matriek-eksamens geslaag het, wat die hoë mikpunt van 40 000 wat ons vyf jaar gelede gestel het, oortref het. So, Mr Speaker, we exceeded our target for people passing the National Senior Certificate. Dit is ook die hoogste aantal matrikulante wat nog ooit in hierdie provinsie geslaag het.

[Tussenwerpsels.]

The PREMIER: We have also continued to improve the retention rate of learners at schools from 36.9% and that was dismal, because it is easy to get a very good matric pass rate if all the children are dropping out of school before they get to matric, and so it is critical to see the matric pass rate together with the retention rate and so it is absolutely crucial to keep children in school so that they get a crack at matric, and if you are making them all drop out before they get there or allowing them to all drop out before they get there, your matric result will not show systemic improvement in the education system. In fact it will be masking systemic decline and we were determined to prevent that so when we took over in this province the dropout rate was enormous. It was over 60% and our retention rate was 36.9% and now we have upped it to 52.1% but this is still dismal. We have to keep our kids in school, Mr Speaker, and we have to keep them going till they get a matric qualification which is a critical gateway to further study, education and training, and so we have a long way to go to improve and it is encouraging that we have got this far, because it already means that many more learners are making it through the schooling system, which dramatically improves their life and career prospects.

The Western Cape also has the highest number of learners qualifying for Bachelor Degree studies in the country, with 3158 more learners qualifying than in 2012 and 5153 more learners than in 2009. We have made really good progress.

We have also continued to see a climb in the number of learners passing maths and science in the province. In 2013, 12 216 candidates passed maths compared to just 11 311 in 2012 and in physical science the number of passes increased from 7900 to over 8000, well over 8000. We have also reduced the number of underperforming schools from 85 in 2009 to 23 in 2013, which is an extraordinary achievement.

More importantly, the results of our poorer schools in Quintiles 1, 2 and 3, have improved significantly over the past few years.

The number of National Senior Certificate, what we commonly know as matric passes in Quintiles 1 to 3 - those are the poorer schools - has increased by 3354 learners since 2009 and I put the numbers there deliberately and not the percentages because if your numbers are falling your percentages go up, so percentages mask more than they explain. I put the numbers there because our targets are there in numbers and we are exceeding all of our numbers, which I am delighted about. The number of learners achieving Bachelor passes in poorer communities has more than doubled since 2009 from 1432 passes to 3219 passes in 2013 in our poorest schools and that is really spectacular.

The number of underperforming schools in Quintiles 1 to 3 has also decreased by 66% from 50 schools in 2009 to just 17 in 2013, so of our poorest schools we have reduced the number of underperforming schools to 17 and we will not rest until that figure is zero.

Mnr die Speaker dit beteken dat meer en meer kinders wat in arm gemeenskappe in die provinsie woon met vaardighede toegerus word wat hulle benodig om sukses te behaal en hul lewensstandaarde te verbeter.

We are the only province that conducts rigorous competency testing for our matric markers and I cannot emphasise how important that is. Minister Angie Motshekga recently said again we have to standardise the quality of our matric marking and Umalusi says that all the time, and so we pioneered in this province rigorous competency testing for our matric markers and we are therefore confident that our results are credible and accurately reflect the ongoing improvements within our education system and, Mr Speaker, let me pause there for a moment and say that when we plan to introduce these rigorous competency tests for teachers I knew that we were putting the Western Cape at a disadvantage in comparison with the other provinces, but I said that is not the point, this is not a beauty contest. It is a commitment to improve the quality of education and it is a commitment to improving the standards for all our children so that when they get that matric certificate it really means something and that is our commitment to them.

Improving language and mathematics levels in all grades remains a core focus of our Government too, Mr Speaker. The Western Cape department of education has been conducting systemic, internationally benchmarked language and mathematic tests for all learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 in order to determine the levels of learners' abilities so we can identify and target weaknesses and improve outcomes. Now let me say that we are the only province who have such testing and this test should not be confused with the annual national assessments. These tests are quite different. The Western Cape also writes the annual national assessments, but we have in addition international tests independently administered. The tests are marked by outside service providers and learners must get 50%, not 30%, to pass. The results show that while our good public schools are world class, Mr Speaker, we still have a lot to do to ensure that our weaker schools are providing internationally benchmarked education.

Last year, a total of 245 000 learners from 1 422 public ordinary schools were tested, as well as 6 000 learners from 98 independent schools.

We are pleased that while the pass rates are not acceptable and they are not at all acceptable yet against international benchmarks, there has been an improvement in the mathematics results in all three grades and we will not rest until every child at every one of our schools gets internationally benchmarked quality education. Our good public schools as I said are producing some of the best results in the world. Our weak schools have a long way to go. We have to fix that, but we have an even greater concern

about the language results. All three grades saw a slip in their pass rates on the international benchmarks.

Mr Speaker, these tests are not an exercise in self-congratulation by this Government. That is why we demand that they be of an extremely high standard and as I said earlier far higher than the annual national assessment testing administered by the National Government. So you cannot compare our systemic test results with the ANA results in the rest of the country.

Holding our learners to a much higher standard is also the reason we insist that our matric markers must be tested and why we have the highest number of learners qualifying for Bachelor Degrees in the country and in the end it is not to gain [Inaudible] for us. It is for those children so that they can get jobs anywhere at an internationally benchmarked level which more and more investors are requiring of South Africa and if it is good enough for anywhere else in the world it is good enough for our children and we can only produce the best for them.

Finally our education budget continues to face the pressure of ever increasing enrolment numbers each year. Since 2010, inward migration has resulted in over 130 000 additional new enrolments within our education system, 80% of which were from the Eastern Cape. This year alone the department enrolled 21 631 learners from the Eastern Cape.

The Western Cape Government is committed to providing all learners entering this province, who are seeking better opportunities as they come here, with access to quality education. However this does have major financial and planning implications [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Particularly when many of these learners arrive unexpectedly at the beginning of the school year and often a few days or weeks into the school term and there is an absolutely disgrace that many of these children have to leave their parents and have to leave their families in search of better quality education, that a shambolic province is unable to provide them.

We have estimated that the migration of learners from the Eastern Cape over the last five years has cost an additional R1.2 billion. [Interjections.] The hon member Mr Skwatsha I will repeat this for you because I am also speaking to you.

The PREMIER: Because the hon member Mr Skwatsha was interjecting [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members!

The PREMIER: So that you would not hear this critical statistic and that is why I am speaking to him [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon member Mr Skwatsha!

The PREMIER: We have estimated that the migration of learners from the Eastern Cape over the last five years has cost the Western Cape an additional R1.2 billion. Yet, this money has not been diverted from the Eastern Cape education budget, even though they now service 100 000 fewer learners in that province. [Interjections.]

We need to start questioning why this money is not being re-allocated [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: To the provinces that are actually providing for these learners' education.

The PREMIER: We need that money, Mr Speaker [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: So that we can educate children decently here, Mr Speaker. Citizens cannot take advantage of their opportunities if they are not healthy.

Ons besef dat intervensies om die siekte-las te verlig en om seker te maak dat ons kinders gesond grootword, ook sal help om 'n sterker ekonomie te bewerkstellig en armoede te bekamp. Ons glo dat 'n regering wat omgee 'n verantwoordelikheid het om te verseker dat toeganklike, bekostigbare, hoë-kwaliteit gesondheidsorg aan elke burger in die provinsie beskikbaar is.

80% of patients, Mr Speaker, receiving treatment at Western Cape hospitals receive free services or pay a nominal fee.

A key focus of all our health policies and programmes is improving wellness through behavioural change. One of the main drivers of the serious service pressures on our health system is the quadruple burden of disease consisting of HIV and TB; chronic diseases and mental health; injuries, and woman and child health.

Over 80% of our budget in health, Mr Speaker, is spent on health conditions resulting from alcohol and drug abuse, risky sexual behaviour, unhealthy lifestyles and lack of exercise, 80% of our budget. In other words, Mr Speaker, our budget is being drained by preventable health problems, while many unpreventable conditions do not get the treatment they deserve.

It is critical that citizens start taking responsibility for their health and wellbeing, through healthy lifestyles, through safe sex, through stopping smoking, through undertaking exercise and all the things that are within our power to do, because their failure to do this puts major pressure on our health system, which is already under severe strain due to a 28.8% increase in the province's population over the last ten years.

Yesterday Minister Botha briefed the media on the pressures currently facing our health system including the dramatic rise in patient numbers visiting our medical facilities. He reiterated that our Government is committed to treating all new patients needing medical care but that we will also seek legal advice on how to challenge the formula that National Treasury applies when allocating provincial budgets and the formula of the National Government does not take into account the real-time inflow of people into affected provinces.

The PREMIER: Actually people that we want to serve and provide a service for.

The PREMIER: As you actually know it is a great indictment of the provinces from which people come, that they take billions of rands of taxpayers money and fritter them away in corruption and failed projects. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: That is where the disgrace is and nowhere else, as you well know. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Some of the high level priority [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members, hon member Mr Ozinsky, hon Minister Carlisle can you [Interjections.] Hon Minister Carlisle, hon member Mr Ozinsky please stop this running commentary.

The SPEAKER: Proceed honourable.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Some of the high level priority areas include strengthening partnerships with the private sector, revitalising infrastructure and improving patient experience at our health facilities [Interjections.]

We have made progress in many of these areas, Mr Speaker, since 2009. [Interjections.]

For example, we have spent R2.7 billion on health infrastructure over the last four years, which has resulted in our Government delivering a number of medical facilities including 17 clinics, 12 ambulance stations or disaster management centres, eight district hospitals including Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain; 13 regional and specialised hospital projects [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: 21 central hospital projects, 5 pathology laboratories and the Western Cape Nursing College. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Our complaint hotline has also been a huge success [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, order! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: During the period August 2012 to January 2014, 1096 complaints were logged on our helpline of which 795 or 72.5% were quickly resolved.

Ons het ook 'n aantal innovasies bekendgestel ten opsigte van die bou van vennootskappe en uitbreiding van gesondheidsorg geleentede in die provinsie.

First, the Departments of Health and Education have provided R24 million to fund five state-of-the-art mobile units visiting schools, mostly in poor and rural areas to screen and treat Grade R and Grade 1 learners for conditions that require medical and dental care. This is an extraordinary innovation, Mr Speaker. The mobile units will go all over this province to see Grade R and Grade 1 learners and ensure that they have screen testing so that we can identify any disabilities or any health challenges at an early stage so that these can be treated and do not affect the learners performance or opportunities in our education system.

The mobile units will start visiting schools in the next few months. We have also appealed to the private sector to partner with us to expand the reach of this important service.

We have also outsourced the packaging and distribution of patient medication parcels to a service provider and this is a very good news story, Mr Speaker, because an average of 215 medicine parcels are distributed each month to 1 400 alternative sites across the province, which means that these patients do not have to travel to a clinic or hospitals to wait in long queues to fetch their medication. This has reduced the waiting times at clinics and lightened the workload of pharmacies at community health centres.

Hierdie, Mnr die Speaker, is die eerste inisiatief van sy soort in die land. Ons het ook vordering gemaak in 'n aantal areas wat gesondheidsuitkomst betref oor die afgelope vyf jaar. Ons het byvoorbeeld, steeds die hoogste TB-genesingsyfer in die land, naamlik 81.7%. Verder het ons die aantal baba-sterftes sedert 2010/2011 geleidelik laat afneem en ons het ook die hoogste lewensverwagtingskoerse vir beide mans en vrouens in die land.

The Western Cape also has the lowest mother-to-child HIV transmission. [Interjections.] †Niyangxola man! \*You are making a noise man! [Laughter.]

The Western Cape also has the lowest mother-to-child HIV transmission rate and an Institute of Race Relations study also found that the province has the highest condom distribution rate in the country. I am sure the honourable members will keep quiet for this announcement, because we have distributed almost 114 million male condoms between April 2012 and March 2013.

The PREMIER: So you can have safe sex in the Western Cape, for free. [Interjections.][Applause].The Human Sciences Research Council, Mr Speaker [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members order!

The PREMIER: The Human Sciences Research Council, Mr Speaker, also released the key findings of its 2012 household survey last year, which found that the Western Cape had the lowest HIV prevalence rate in the country. [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, substance abuse [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Mr Speaker, substance abuse not only increases the burden of disease in the province, but it also compromises education outcomes, destroys families and fuels violent crime, all of which threaten economic growth and job creation and keep people permanently trapped in poverty. That is why as soon as we assumed office five years ago we undertook a major substance abuse programme to address this critical priority.

We identified the need for a comprehensive strategy to combat substance abuse and we launched our plan a year later, and we have been systematically applying it ever since.

Some of our key interventions to date include:

Increasing our expenditure from R42 million in 2009 to R87 million this year;

We have also mainstreamed substance abuse education in the Life Orientation teaching material in our schools;

Substantially increasing our drug rehabilitation centres is another major project that we have undertaken, from 8 in 2009 to 28 in 2014; so an increase of 20 drug rehabilitation centres across the province.

We have also introduced early intervention and short-term counselling programmes at Social Development Offices in Athlone, Gugulethu, Wynberg and Mitchells Plain;

En ook om 'n aantal nie-regeringsorganisasies te befonds sodat behandelingsdienste aan duisende pasiënte gelewer kan word.

However, Mr Speaker, we also recognise that prevention is better than cure, especially when it comes to substance abuse, which is why prevention is one of the main focuses of the substance abuse strategy and we are introducing interventions that deter young people from risky behaviour. That is also a critical role of functional families to deter young people from risky behaviour and substance abuse.

Our MOD centre programme provides learners a safe, fun place to play sport and participate in cultural activities every day and they do that after school, thereby keeping them off the streets and away from gangs, drugs and alcohol.

We have continued to expand this programme and there has been a major increase in enrolment figures. Currently, 48 894 learners are registered at the 181 MOD centres at schools across the province, which is an increase of 34 000 learners over the past year so more and more learners and their parents are hearing about this programme and are making use of this programme because it keeps children safe in the afternoon while their parents are working. The department of social development also supplies meals at 101 of these MOD centres in the afternoons, which is over and above the Western Cape Department of Education's feeding scheme, which happens during school hours. We also plan to expand the service to all MOD centres during the new financial year so you will not only get meals at school. You will get a meal in the afternoon when you go to the MOD Centre.

I am also excited to announce that, together with the City, we opened the country's first youth café in Rocklands in January. The café is free to young people and provides training in entrepreneurship and business strategy. Young people are provided with virtual credit to spend on resources including refreshments and using the computers and laptops at the facility. They earn credits thereafter by either presenting acts of community service to the café staff or by attending training sessions at the café so they learn how to earn money and they learn how to spend money and they learn about the connection between the two.

Sedert die kafee amptelik 'n maand gelede oopgemaak het, het meer as 400 mense geregistreer om toegang tot die program te kry. Ons beplan ook om nog jeugkafees in Nyanga Junction, Atlantis, Vredendal, Bredasdorp en Oudtshoorn oop te maak. Dit sal egter aansienlike finansiële hulpbronne en vennootskappe met die privaatsektor verg.

NGOs also play a crucial role in all our poverty alleviation programmes and promoting social cohesion, which is absolutely central to whatever we do and that is why we are providing funding to around 2 115 NGOs across the province. Now the Financial and Fiscal Commission has found that our Department of Social Development spends a bigger portion of its budget - that is 68% - on transfer payments to NGOs and this is higher than any comparable department anywhere in the country, and let me pause there for a moment, Mr Speaker, to say that I saw in the clippings this morning, the newspaper clippings this morning, that a person called Lester September is claiming that we have cut the transfer payments to NPOs and NGOs in this province. Well, the statistics from the National Government and Monitoring Agencies are quite different. We spent 68% of the budget of this department on such transfers and it is the highest in the country.

But key to any successful strategy, Mr Speaker, aimed at tackling substance abuse and its related social ills, including gangsterism and violent crime, is a strong criminal justice system.

The Western Cape Government has no powers when it comes to investigating crimes and securing convictions in a court of law. This is a national competence.

Our role is confined to oversight where we can monitor and assess the police and make recommendations to police management on systemic problems and failings.

When we draw attention to systemic problems, we do so because it is the role given to us under Section 206 of the Constitution, not because we feel like doing it. We want the people of the Western Cape to receive better policing and to ensure that police officers on the ground are given the resources and the training they need in order to deliver this service. We have introduced a number of interventions to improve policing in the province over the last five years.

After receiving a request from a group of civil society organisations in Khayelitsha, prompted by a horrific spate of vigilante killings, I established a Commission of Inquiry into allegations of police inefficiency in the area in August 2012.

Unfortunately, despite widespread support for this initiative from the Khayelitsha community for the Commission, it was delayed for over a year due to legal proceedings instituted by the National Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa who tried to block it.

The PREMIER: The matter eventually landed up in the Constitutional Court, Mr Speaker, after Minister Mthethwa's application to the Western Cape High Court was dismissed.

The judgment made the following key finding:

“The Premier is obliged to take reasonable steps to shield the residents of Khayelitsha from the unrelenting invasion of their fundamental rights because of continued police inefficiency in combating crime and the breakdown of relations between the police and the community.”

That is what Court found. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: The Commission begun public hearings last month and I look forward to receiving its recommendations once it has concluded its work, and if it had not been for the blocking by the National Government, Mr Speaker, this work would have been concluded long ago.

An HON MEMBER: Shame on you!

The PREMIER: Shame on them. Mr Speaker, the Constitutional Court ruling was a victory for provincial oversight and also paves the way for implementation of our new Community Safety Act as Minister Mthethwa's court challenge mirrors those that have already been overturned by the Constitutional Court.

Last October, I signed the proclamations to put a number of operational sections in the Act into effect. A Safety Advisory Council is currently being established and is envisaged to be up and running by the end of May. The primary task of the council will be to advise on the regulations required to operationalise the Act.

We also aim to establish a Western Cape Police Ombudsman who will be empowered to investigate reports of police corruption, abuse of power, or service delivery failures and this will be in place by August.

Other provisions of the Act, including neighbourhood watch accreditation and strengthening community police forum structures will be fully implemented during the 2014/2015 financial years.

We have also continued, Mr Speaker, with our expanded partnership programme aimed at strengthening the role of the community police forums [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: And the important role they play in their communities. Our community police forums are being remunerated to visit police stations on a regular basis and to supply the Department of Community Safety with accurate, verifiable information. Currently 88% of community police forums have signed up to be part of the programme.

Ons het ook byna die befondsing verdubbel wat ons beskikbaar maak vir programme om veiligheid in arm gemeenskappe te bevorder, van R41 miljoen in 2010 tot R80 miljoen in 2014.

These programmes include the Youth Work Programme that places youth at risk in short term work opportunities with various partners including central improvement district, NGOs, municipalities and Government departments during which they are paid a stipend. So far 430 youths have participated in this programme at a cost of R9.1 million.

We have also been pioneering the youth- and religion safety initiative over the past few years that allows religious and faith-based organisations through funding from the Community Safety Department, to run their own youth safety programmes in their communities over the school holiday period. Since December 2012, 17 000 young people have participated in these programmes, keeping them off the streets during the school holidays.

Mr Speaker, we have repeatedly sought to work cooperatively with the police because that is what the Constitution requires and we believe it offers us the best chance of bringing down crime in this province. We have warmly congratulated the South African Police Service for their recent success in securing convictions against high profile gangsters and I am sure the house will reiterate that congratulations.

While our cooperation on the ground continues to improve, it is unfortunate that our efforts have been constantly blocked by the SAPS national leadership and the National Government.

Parliamentary questions Mr Speaker, have revealed that the Western Cape has the highest number of understaffed police stations and largest personnel shortage out of all of the nine provinces. At the same time there has been a massive drop in the number of police reservists deployed due to the National Government placing a moratorium on the recruitment of reservists. This has placed major strain on the police officers in our province who are unable to carry out their duties effectively. [Interjections.] Testimony provided by the station commanders at the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry have highlighted the challenges they face because of undermining police activity, because of under-resourcing and especially with respect to modern technology.

The Minister of Community Safety, Dan Plato, has raised our concerns [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: There is a very good story to tell but we wish [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: We wish that the National Government would up its game because Minister of Community Safety Minister Plato has raised our concerns over personnel shortages on a number of occasions with Minister Mthethwa through our Policing Needs and Priorities reports and at MINMEC meetings. The national Minister has, however, failed to respond to our requests or requirements.

We have also repeatedly lobbied the National Minister and President Jacob Zuma to reinstate specialised gang units in the Western Cape.

Ons glo dat die herinstelling van hierdie eenheid krities is as ons ons gemeenskappe van bendes en die geweldsmisdaad en dwelm-plaag wat daarmee gepaardgaan, wil verlos. Die Nasionale Ontwikkelingsplan het ook 'n beroep gedoen op die herinstelling van hierdie eenhede.

Gang violence has once again surged in recent weeks with many innocent bystanders being caught in the gang crossfire and schooling in certain hotspot areas being disrupted, including Manenberg and tragically again. I am therefore calling on President Zuma and Minister Mthethwa to take the action that is needed and that is proposed in the national development plan

that they claim to support, to properly resource policing in these areas, so that crimes are investigated and convictions secured.

The small number of Metro Police cannot be expected to take over the function from the SAPS. [Interjections.]

Road safety, however, is a law enforcement area where provincial and local Governments do have powers and functions, Mr Speaker. I am pleased to announce that our administration has made major progress in reducing road fatalities over the last five years. There were 1,739 road deaths in the year before we came into office, and 1 216 during 2013 - an overall decrease, Mr Speaker, of over 30%.

This reduction is a result of a number of innovations we have introduced including having the only 24/7 traffic service in the country that conducts weekend alcohol blitzes across the City and the province; initiatives focusing on long distance public transport such as regular safety checks and a fatigue management programme and implementing average speed over distance camera enforcement technology on the deadliest stretches of our roads.

Road safety is also an area where partnerships are critical to progress, Mr Speaker. Reducing deaths on our roads is heavily dependent on whether citizens take responsibility for their own safety. No government can be on hand when a person climbs into a vehicle drunk. You can only hope to stop him on the road.

Mr Speaker, I have left the most complex delivery area of all until last. Our Government recognises that building integrated and sustainable human settlements in our province is critical to building social cohesion and eradicating poverty.

The PREMIER: That is why 93% of Human Settlement's budget is spent on housing programmes aimed at people earning less than R3500 per month.

We have also focused on delivering a range of housing opportunities in a way that is most fair considering our limited resources and the increasing demand of a rapidly growing population in this province. It is important to remind ourselves that this province grew demographically over 17 years by almost 46% and most of the new residents here are desperately poor.

Since 2009 we have delivered 119 674 housing opportunities over 16 programmes, creating 37 130 jobs and using the services of around 147 broad-based BEE contractors.

Successful provincial Department of Human Settlement projects include a gap housing project in Harmony Village, social housing projects in Elsies River and Scottsdale, the Drommedaris social housing project in Brooklyn, the Asazani project in Mosselbay, the Luxolo People's Housing Process

Project in Browns Farm, and the Siyaphumelela People's Housing Process Project in Makhaza.

We have also focused on providing beneficiaries with security of tenure by radically improving the rate at which title deeds are transferred to recipients of new housing projects. Between 2009 and 2014 the department issued over 88 000 title deeds which has drastically reduced the backlog we inherited from the previous administration.

We have also driven a number of interventions aimed at strengthening project planning pipelines in municipalities and the policies governing the beneficiary selection process and that is absolutely critical because unless beneficiary selection processes are meticulously fair and transparent they always lead to conflict and even when they are fair and transparent they still often lead to conflict.

Regional Directors have been appointed by the department for each of the five districts in the province and the City of Cape Town who provides direct support to municipalities and are supported by professional resource teams have been spread out throughout the province. Five year project pipelines have also been developed for every municipality.

The department has also developed the electronic Western Cape housing demand database, which municipalities can use to record and manage their housing demand data. This system drastically minimises opportunities for corruption.

That is good news, isn't it, hon member Mr Magaxa? [Interjections.] This system drastically minimises opportunities for corruption during the allocation process and many councillors need to hear that warning.

Our Government has adopted a framework of norms and standards for municipalities to select beneficiaries for housing from the waiting lists on the subsidy projects. This has greatly enhanced the fairness and transparency of the allocation process.

Die Departement van Menslike Nedersettings het ook daarop gefokus om die behuisingsbehoefte van plaaswerkers met die munisipale beplanningsprosesse te integreer. Hulle het 'n duidelike stel riglyne vir munisipaliteite ontwikkel om te verseker dat plaaswerkers op hul databasisse vir behuisingsaanvraag geregistreer is en voorgestel dat 'n kwota vir ouer plaaswerkers by die munisipale seleksie-beleide ingesluit word.

All of these innovations have contributed towards improving the delivery of housing opportunities in the most optimal and fair way.

However, recently the ANC has started playing political football with housing, Mr Speaker.

The PREMIER: Yes, not only recently actually, they always played political football [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: ...with every delivery aspect [Interjection.] Mr Speaker we all know that the ANC has repeatedly claimed that when they were in Government in the province they “built 16,000 houses per year” while they claim “that the DA has only been able to build 10,000 houses per year.”

Mr K E MAGAXA: Less, less than that.

The PREMIER: That is completely untrue.

The PREMIER: That is completely untrue, Mr Speaker. I was so sceptical of the ANC’s delivery claim that I instituted an investigation by the Forensic Investigation Unit in the Department of the Premier to do an audit [Interjections.] To do an audit [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Oh yes, oh yes! To do an audit on the source of this data [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon, hon members order! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: The ANC does not like the efficiency of our Forensic Investigation Unit [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

The PREMIER: Well it is a crime to misstate your housing statistics.

The PREMIER: Now I asked the FIU [Interjections.] to do an audit on the source of this data. [Interjections.] You want to cover it up, don’t you member Ozinsky, hon member Mr Ozinsky?

The PREMIER: The misrepresentation of your housing statistics. That is what you want to cover up. [Interjections]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, hon Premier, address the chair please.

The PREMIER: And I asked the FIU ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members there will [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: I asked the FIU to do an investigation into the source of this housing data which was drawn from the 2008/2009 annual report produced by the then department of local Government and housing under the former ANC administration.

The annual report claims that the ANC completed 15 717 houses during 2008/2009 but the FIU discovered that this claim could not possibly be verified. For a start the ANC’s thumb-suck figure includes programmes that had nothing to do with building and delivering housing units. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: It included figures that had nothing to do with building and delivering housing units Mr Speaker.

The PREMIER: And it also shows that the ANC simply shifted the deadline and counted units that had not been completed by the end of the financial year. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: And many other tricks besides. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members!

The PREMIER: And many other tricks besides. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon, hon minister. [Interjections.] Order! Order! Order! Order! Hon premier, you will have an opportunity to discuss this. Please can you keep your interjection very low, please.

The PREMIER: †Bayoyika, \*They are scared, Mr Speaker, that is the problem. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There will be opportunity to discuss the state of the province.

†The PREMIER: †Bafuna ukubaleka bayoyika. \*They want to run, they are scared.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, proceed hon Premier.

The PREMIER: They got away with it because at that stage the Auditor General was not verifying these claimed statistics by actually counting the finalised housing total by the cut-off date. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: But despite the fact that the Auditor was not auditing predetermined outcomes at that stage he noted in the 2008/2009 audit report and I quote: “the evidence provided to support the performance as reported in the draft annual report was in a number of instances materially inconsistent with the reported performance information.” [Interjections.]

Ooh yes! So every time you hear of housing comparison made by the hon opposition in this election you will know - I am not allowed to say that word, it has been ruled unparliamentary, but they are giving unverified information [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: In fact you were talking nonsense. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members!

The PREMIER: You were talking nonsense. [Interjections.] If we are to compare apples with apples [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Hon member Ms Tingwe!

The PREMIER: †Lurhwaphilizo olo.... [Uphazamiso.] \*That is corruption.... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: You see, Mr Speaker, the chunk, if we are to compare apples with apples and if we add all our subsidised programmes to the housing delivery figure our records far outstrips anything the ANC is able to claim. [Interjections.] And what is more... [Interjections.] And what is more Mr Speaker [Interjections.] And what is more, Mr Speaker, their claim to have built 16 000 houses each year is totally without foundation. [Interjections.]

I would use stronger terms than this but it would probably be ruled unparliamentary, Mr Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Order hon members! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: While the ANC distorts facts and figures to back their service delivery claims we will carry on delivering basic services and housing opportunities to communities across this province.

The PREMIER: There are many more programmes and plans that have been implemented by our Government, which I could mention today. You know, one of them actually is the portable flush toilet that the hon members referred to now.

The PREMIER: Do you know that there is a flourishing export industry of portable flush toilets from the Western Cape to the Eastern Cape where there is no sanitation at all? [Interjections.] [Applause]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order hon members! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: And it is time for me to wrap up, Mr Speaker. I have spoken too long already. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: That will be good news. [Interjections.] When I stop exposing you it will be good news for you. Mr Speaker, while we acknowledge that we still have a long way to go [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members!

The PREMIER: ...to realise fully our vision of creating an open, opportunity society for all in the province [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I believe that in the Western Cape we are making progress in realising the dream that we all shared in 1994.

The PREMIER: It only remains for me [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mr Magaxa.

The PREMIER: To thank the citizens of the Western Cape for voting our Government into power in 2009 and for giving us the opportunity to fulfil our mandate and deliver on the promises and the commitments that we have made. [Interjections.]

I would like to thank a remarkable team of people, in the provincial cabinet, in the provincial administration, professional staff led by the Director General, in my office for particular service that goes over and above the call of duty every day and in my family where that commitment is exemplified as much as it could possibly be, and to all of you for showing what “Better Together” means in practice. So let us continue making the Western Cape “Better Together!” Thank you very much.

[Applause.]

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

4. The House adjourned at 12:56.

R G HINDLEY  
Secretary to Provincial Parliament