

No 2

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEBATES OF THE
PARLIAMENT OF THE
PROVINCE OF THE
WESTERN CAPE**

(HANSARD)

**FOURTH SESSION – SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE**

25, 28, 29 AND 30 MARCH 2022

CABINET

The Premier	Mr A R Winde
Minister of Agriculture.....	Dr I H Meyer
Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport.....	Ms A J Du Toit Marais
The Acting Minister of Community Safety	Ms A J Du Toit Marais
Minister of Education.....	Ms D A Schäfer
Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities	Mr D J Maynier
Minister of Health	Ms N Mbombo
Minister of Human Settlements	Mr T A Simmers
Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.....	Mr A W Bredell
Minister of Social Development.....	Ms S Fernandez
Minister of Transport and Public Works.....	Mr D G Mitchell

OFFICE-BEARERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

Speaker.....	Mr M Mnqasela
Leader of Government Business	Dr I H Meyer
Deputy Speaker.....	Ms B A Schäfer
Leader of the Opposition	Mr C M Dugmore
Chief Whip : DA.....	Ms M M Wenger
Chief Whip : Opposition.....	Ms P Z Lekker
Secretary.....	Mr R Adams

MEMBERS OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT PARTIES

Democratic Alliance = DA
 African National Congress = ANC
 African Christian Democratic Party = ACDP
 Economic Freedom Fighters = EFF
 AL JAMA-AH = AL JAMA-AH
 Freedom Front Plus = FF PLUS

Allen, Reagan Ivan	DA
America, Derrick.....	DA
August, Shaun Nigel.....	GOOD
Baartman, Deidre Maudelene.....	DA
Bakubaku-Vos, Ntombezanele Gladys.....	ANC
Bans, Anyanda Precious	ANC
Bosman, Gillion	DA
Botha, Ms Lorraine Juliette.....	DA
Bredell, Anton Wilhelm	DA
Brinkhuis, Galil	AL JAMA-AH
Christians, Ferlon Charles.....	ACDP
Dugmore, Cameron Muir.....	ANC
Fernandez, Ms Sharna Gail.....	DA
Kaizer-Philander, Wendy Felecia	DA
Kama, Mesuli	ANC
Lekker, Ms Patronella Zingisa	ANC
Lili, Andile	ANC
Mackenzie, Ricardo Denver	DA
Makamba-Botya, Nosipho.....	EFF
Marais, Petrus Jacobus	FF PLUS
Marran, Patrick.....	ANC
Marais, Ms Anroux Johanna Du Toit	DA
Maseko, Ms Letta Matlhodi.....	DA
Maynier, David John	DA
Mbombo, Ms Nomafrench	DA
Meyer, Ivan Henry	DA
Mitchell, Daylin Gary.....	DA
Mnqasela, Masizole.....	DA
Mvimbi, Lulama Lennox	ANC
Nkondlo, Ms Nobulumko Degracia	ANC
Plato, Daniel.....	DA
Sayed, Muhammad Khalid	ANC
Schäfer, Ms Beverley Ann.....	DA
Schäfer, Ms Deborah Anne	DA
Simmers, Tertuis Alfred	DA
Smith, Danville	ANC
Van der Westhuizen, Andricus Pieter	DA
Wenger, Ms Mireille Mary.....	DA
Winde, Alan Richard	DA
Windvogel, Rachel	ANC
Xego, Melikhaya	EFF

**PERMANENT DELEGATES TO
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

Arnolds, Andrew	EFF
Gillion, Ms Maurencia Natalie.....	ANC
Labuschagne, Ms Cathlene.....	ANC
Londt, Johan Jaco	DA
Labuschagne, Ms Cathlene.....	ANC
Njadu, Edward Zoyisile.....	ANC
Sileku, Isaac Mbulelo	DA

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEBATES

OF THE

PARLIAMENT OF THE

PROVINCE OF THE

WESTERN CAPE

(HANSARD)

**FOURTH SESSION – SIXTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE PROVINCE OF THE WESTERN CAPE**

The sign* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same speech, indicates the original language

FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2022

5021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

[Hybrid sitting held with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 10:00.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLING AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see p. 5060

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. A very good morning to everybody in the Chamber this morning and those that are attending on a hybrid virtual session, to all our guests, our press, a very good morning.

I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. If a member of this Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, it is the member's responsibility to ensure that he or she has good quality data connectivity for good quality audio and that there are no disturbances. The hybrid system has been functioning well up to now, and we cannot attribute any sound problems to the system. Members who are considered to be out of order, please be reminded that your microphones will be muted, and a call to order.

Hon members, for the purpose of the sitting we have language translation services and please for you to connect via your second device, such as your cell phone, and if you have earphones to please use it within the House. Hon members are also reminded that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sittings, and in this regard I draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules.

(Notice of Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I give notice that I shall move:

That, notwithstanding Rule 163, the House considers the Principle and Finalisation of the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill (2021/22 Financial Year) [B 1–2022].

Agreed to.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B 2–2022]

(Consideration of principle)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We, of course, have been hit hard by the pandemic, and although there are a number of significant downside risks, we do expect a gradual economic recovery in the Western Cape.

We welcome the recent announcement by President Cyril Ramaphosa to relax restrictions, especially those restrictions that relate to the tourism and hospitality sector in the Western Cape. We regard relaxing restrictions as a step in the right direction that will support economic growth and job creation in our province. We are already, in fact, seeing the green shoots of economic recovery in our province, with traveller confidence returning with more than 125 000 international passengers and more than 462 000 domestic passengers arriving just last month at Cape Town International Airport, which we believe is very good news, particularly for the tourism and hospitality sector, which of course was so hard hit by the pandemic in the Western Cape. We of course now need National Government itself to push forward and to allow the national state of disaster to expire.

Deputy Speaker, while we on the subject of the economy, we should also recognise, and indeed, I think, welcome the recent statement by President Cyril Ramaphosa that: “Government does not create jobs; business creates jobs”, which I think we would all agree, or perhaps we would not all agree, was both a moment and an admission that the development state has failed and failed spectacularly in South Africa. We know that President Cyril Ramaphosa is at war with his party and his admission that it is business, not governments, that creates jobs, must have come as a terrible shock, not necessarily to the Leader of Opposition, but to the smokestack economy supporting Ministers that dominate National Government in South Africa.

Deputy Speaker, we, as hon members know, I tabled a *Budget to Push Forward* last week in the Provincial Parliament here in the Western Cape, and we did so to sustain the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic to support our strategic priorities, most importantly jobs, safety and well being. We did so to protect frontline services, including education, health and social development; to improve the composition of expenditure by boosting spending on infrastructure, supporting vulnerable municipalities and of course to improve the efficiency of expenditure by improving value for money and procurement; to mitigate existing risks such as drought, fire and flooding and, of course, also to mitigate new future risks; and finally, to ensure the long term sustainability of the Western Cape.

To push forward, we will spend R19,6 billion over the medium term on jobs; R4,4 billion over the medium term on safety; R111,3 billion over the medium term on wellbeing and R30,3 billion over the medium term on infrastructure in the Western Cape. Because we, Deputy Speaker, have been prudent and because we have taken the hard decisions over a number of years to balance our budgets, we of course are now in a position to allocate R10,1 billion more over the medium term in the Western Cape; and so to push forward, we will be spending an additional – an additional R6,2 billion on education over the medium term; an additional R2,4 billion over the medium term on healthcare and an additional R136 million over the medium term on social development; and of course, we will be spending an additional R2,6 billion over the medium term on infrastructure in the Western Cape, and we, of course, will spend that budget across five districts and 30 municipalities in our province, including spending R8,7 billion in the Cape Winelands District; R989 million in the Central Karoo District and spending R54,2 billion in the City of Cape Town, and of course finally we hold R1,3 billion in the Provincial Reserves for unforeseen and unforeseeable expenditure to mitigate future risks such as flooding, fire and drought in the Western Cape.

To push forward, Deputy Speaker, we will have to respond to massive spending pressure, building up, not just in our province, but in all provinces across South Africa. However, there are significant downside risks to the economic outlook, including stagnant economic growth with the national economy forecast to grow at about 1,8% over the medium term, huge fiscal deficits of R386,6 billion in 2022/23; R323,6 billion in 2023/24 and R304,2 billion in 2024/25. We have staggering national debt of R4,5 trillion in 2022/23, R4,8 trillion in 2023/24 and R5,2 trillion in 2024/25 and of course with that comes massive debt service costs of R301,8 billion in 2022/23, R334,9 billion in 2023/24 and R363,5 billion in 2024/25.

But to be honest, the most worrying figure was a figure dropped into the Budget Speech by the Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana himself, who revealed for the first time that a staggering – a staggering R308 billion has been wasted on bailing out failing State-Owned Enterprises in South Africa. Think about it!

We have wasted R308 billion on failing State-Owned Enterprises in South Africa. To put that number in perspective, R308 billion is 11 times – 11 times more than the Provincial Education budget; 10 times more than the Provincial Health budget and 134 times more than the Provincial Social Development

budget for the next financial year in the Western Cape, and so we are in deep economic trouble and to make matters worse, the war in Ukraine will increase the downside risk, and push up prices of petrol and wheat and fertiliser in South Africa.

What all this means in the end, of course, is that provincial budgets are not likely to increase in real terms, and that spending pressures building up in Education, in Health and Social Development are going to put huge pressure on provinces across South Africa, which is precisely why we are investing in a project to better understand fiscal future trends so that we ensure the fiscal sustainability of the Western Cape.

In the end, Deputy Speaker, we tabled a budget to push forward so that we give hope to people who do not have jobs and so that we give hope to people who feel unsafe, so that we give hope to people who struggle to reach their full potential and so that we give hope to people who perhaps do not have access to good schools and good clinics and good roads and so that in the end we can all get up, so that we can all get out, so that we can push forward, and so that we can do even better in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, hon members. Budgets are about choices that governments make. That are informed in our context by what we want to achieve in the country, the province or the municipality, where we govern. They are not neutral. Budgets reflect our ideology and how we see the world and this development state in South Africa has guided us to a minimum wage, has promoted particular growth sectors in our economy and has in fact introduced the public works.

I can assure you, Deputy Speaker, that the hon John Steenhuisen would come nowhere near President Ramaphosa, having raised almost R1,2 trillion for investment and that is why the people of South Africa have confidence, and that is why the President has strengthened the NPA, the SIU, the Hawks to deal with those thieves that have attempted to destroy our State-Owned Enterprises.

I want to argue today that this Provincial Budget reflects the right-wing liberal orthodoxy of the DA, which perpetuates the myth of an equal open opportunity society. This ideology masks the reality in our country that race, class and gender are indicators of poverty, inequality and the ownership of capital assets. After centuries and decades of struggle by the majority of South Africans against colonialism and apartheid, we established a democratic state governed by the Constitution of the Republic. A central thread, which runs through this founding document, is that the democratic Government needs to take steps to redress the inequalities of the past caused to persons who were subjected to unfair discrimination.

Section 25(8) of the Bill of Rights in our Constitution, which deals with property, states that no provisions of this section may impede the state from taking legislative and other measures to achieve land, water and related reform in order to redress the results of past racial discrimination. Chapter 10 of our very own Constitution, Deputy Speaker, in this province, which deals with the Directives of Provincial Policy, states that the Provincial Government must

adopt and implement policies to actively promote and maintain the welfare of the people aimed at achieving the following: the promotion of non-racialism and the protection and advancement of persons or categories of persons disadvantaged by unfair discrimination.

In this province, that is people who are classified as Coloured, as Indian, as African, and women. Deputy Speaker, it is clear to me that this DA Provincial Government is in breach of both the National and the Provincial Constitution. This Constitution is not a right-wing liberal document; it is an injunction to establish a united non-racial, democratic, non-sexist and prosperous country. It obliges us to implement laws and policies and budgets, which redress this unfair discrimination.

What is shocking, Deputy Speaker, is that Premier Winde is in fact not even aware of the provisions of Chapter 10 of the Constitution of the very province that he leads. When he was asked to name but one policy that this Government has introduced to advance those disadvantaged by unfair discrimination, he could not do so, not one. He could not. We have a political party that leads this province that are race denialists. They wilfully ignore that the vast majority of workers in our province, who are Coloured and African, do not own land or capital assets. It is of no concern to the DA that less than 2% of agricultural land in this province is owned by black South Africans, Coloured, African and Indian. It is of no concern to the DA that while white South Africans who constitute 18% of the population in this province owns 70% of the urban land, while Coloured and African citizens who constitute 48% and 32% of the population own only 10% and 3% of urban land respectively. This racism runs deep in the DA and its leaders are unwilling to confront it. The DA Deputy Chief Whip in the City, who is white, recently said that an African DA Councillor must "go and fetch your food from the Eastern Cape". No action was taken against him. Mayor Hill-Lewis simply says the matter has been settled.

If one member, white member of this House said the same to a black DA member in this House, would you have just said, "no, the matter is settled" or would you have actually done something about it? We are thus not surprised at the steady stream of Black DA leaders who have left are being pushed out by the DA. Here in our province we have seen our Coloured voters in 2021 deserted the DA and voted in their thousands for other parties.

This budget is about choices. The DA chooses to cut social security by demanding that the minimum wage be reduced to an old age pension level; to propose spending cuts at national level on higher education; to cut spending on community policing fora which will disable our communities at that level in fighting crime, and to cut and curtail spending on health resulting in possible closure of clinics in Mitchells Plain and of refusal to adequately fund the Khayelitsha Hospital or say anything about when GF Jooste will be built.

They cut allocations to municipalities which then impose hefty penalties and rates on citizens for basic services. It wants to halt land distribution and undermine security of tenure and it wants to reduce, and it has in fact reduced, funding to the Children's Commissioner over the medium term. Where the ANC governs, Deputy Speaker, we seek practical steps to advance redress, where the Theewaterskloof Municipality has granted a long-term lease of municipal land to Coloured and African farmers.

We need all of us to hold a new consensus based on the provisions of our Constitution. Redress and equity are central themes, practical solutions which confront the original sin of land dispossession directly while securing food security and the transformation of the agricultural sector.

What is the ANC proposing in the Western Cape? We have initiated and will carry out a land audit throughout this province. As Leader of the Opposition and with our ANC MPLs I will request meetings with every Mayor and the relevant National Ministers to establish the state of the land audit in every municipality. We want to know from every municipality what land is owned by the National, Provincial and Local Government; which land is owned by State Owned Enterprises; which land belongs to community trusts? We also want to identify local well located private land.

We do not support what the DA's coalition partner, the EFF, supports. They want to simply invade land. That is a recipe for chaos. The DA's refusal to accelerate land redistribution in this province is also a recipe for chaos. We want the redistribution of land to happen in terms of the Constitution and the law, but we cannot, Deputy Speaker, wait any longer. I want to appeal to Premier Winde in his absence to enter into a new consensus about the need for land redistribution in our province. Our President has called upon us to enter into new consensus.

Premier Winde, will you support local social compacts in every municipality to identify and release public land starting this year, 2022. MEC Maynier, will you through the Deputy Speaker, provide funding to those municipalities who do not have updated and accessible land audits. This land must be used for integrated social and low-cost housing, for agriculture, urban food security, human settlements, LED arts, culture and recreation. These audits must be accessible and transparent. They must be included in the IDP of each municipality, as well as the land release strategy. The dodgy land deals like in Swartland must stop. The †baantjies vir boeties [jobs for pals] of the National Party that had been carried over into the DA must stop.

This budget clearly does not invest enough in tourism, a sector which is very well positioned to grow jobs, and one which has the potential to advance black operators. Our province is blessed with natural beauty, with indigenous plants which are the envy of the world.

We need to ensure sustainable development. This endowment that we have is threatened by climate change, water pollution fires and a sanitation crisis. The ANC demands that the environmental Commissioner be established in this province to ensure that the public and private entities protect the environment.

We need to see a sustainable development consciousness as a comparative advantage to the Western Cape, a citizenry who understands climate change and the need for sustainable development which empowers the community. This is what a dynamic Environmental Commissioner can bring. This Office of the Commissioner will be seen as a plus for the Western Cape and attract hundreds and thousands more domestic and foreign tourists. The ANC says the Environment Commissioner now.

†Die ANC sê die Omgewingskommissaris nou.
[The ANC says the Environment Commissioner now.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The ANC †ithi uKomishinala Wendalo esingqongileyo lwepondo, ngoku – not izolo. Ngoku.
[The ANC is saying the Environmental Commissioner of the Province, “now” – not yesterday. Now.]

We all know that the establishment of a Children's Commissioner came as a result of the campaign by the ANC and civil society. Hon McKenzie tried to claim it as a victory of the DA. No one believed him. He is †tjoepstil [dead quiet] about the lack of funding for the Commissioner. Where have you been, hon member Mackenzie? The ANC will insist that the Adjustment Budget deals with the under-funding of the Children's Commissioner.

In the light of the Fritz and Payne matters the ANC will be demanding transversal GBV policy and ensuring that GBV is taken seriously in this Provincial Government. The elements of this policy must include consistency in procedures across all offices and departments, immediate suspension of people when they are in Court facing any charges relating to GBV; action taken against those superiors or Heads of Departments would seek to cover up cases of GBV even if they are women like the Head of Department of Transport and Public Works, who clearly has covered up and not even instituted provincial disciplinary processes against the acting HOD, at least of the Head of Traffic. Support for the victims of GBV including legal, psychological and material assistance when and if needed, and full disclosure of reports with respect to victims when taxpayers' money is used to investigate these matters. Speaker, the ANC cannot support this budget, because it does not address the inequality especially in the Western Cape and while, Deputy Speaker, we welcome the verbal commitment to actually establishing a Provincial House for Traditional and Khoisan leaders, once again, we fear what happened with the Provincial Children's Commissioner is now happening with the Environment. You talk about this, but you do not implement it.

We are saying that before 2024, a Western Cape House of Traditional Leaders must be set up in the Western Cape and the allocations that have been made are minimal. There is no strategic plan and we insist, Deputy Speaker, that this must actually be done. So, we have a situation where the hon Maynier comes here and undermines the notion of a developmental state.

Our President is leading this country on a growth path that will include and that is why all of us including members of that side... [Interjection.] should support President Ramaphosa because he is the person and the organisation that he represents that can take South Africa forward. [Time expired.]

Mr D AMERICA: Good morning, and thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the last two years of living in the midst of a global pandemic have affected all of us. The continued national state of disaster also impacted negatively on a host of industries. The impact of the successive lockdowns on the public transportation system and its commuters cannot be underplayed. Nowhere has this been more devastating than on the state of our rail services in Cape Town.

Due to vandalism, land invasions, and lack of security to protect our infrastructure, Cape Town's rail infrastructure was devastated by these wanton criminality. Many functioning services were negatively affected and others came to a screeching halt. Our rail services are in such a sorry state that when services were meant to resume, commitments previously made by PRASA cannot be fulfilled, and our train commuters continue to be denied safe, affordable and reliable public transport. The Northern Line is only now coming back into operation after being closed since March 2020, and whilst the National Minister transferred back in January promised that the Central Line would be fully functional by the end of July this year, this is not going to happen. Then PRASA promised that the line would be open by the end of December 2022. This too has now been moved to open by the end of December 2023. These empty promises leave countless passengers with limited transportation options to wait so much longer. I am therefore pleased that this budget has shown a commitment by the Provincial Government to not only improve, but also to strengthen public transport in the Western Cape through local partnerships and inter-governmental cooperation.

The Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works has committed itself to working with PRASA and other stakeholders in the province in an effort to fix the rail system and to restore the Central Line. Reliable rail services play a critical role in any well functioning public transport system. Hon, Deputy Speaker, of course, the only way we can truly fix the broken rail services in the Western Cape is for rail services to come under the custodianship of a capable metropolitan and provincial government. The most recent discoveries by PRASA regarding 3 000 ghost employees have come as no surprise and highlights how broken the entity truly is. This discovery highlights the deeply rooted corruption and mismanagement at PRASA. These ghost employees presumably went undetected for years, which means that PRASA has possibly lost millions of rands per year on salaries and benefits. These monies must be recouped and the perpetrators brought to book. Another critical component, Deputy Speaker, of our public transport system is our taxes. We have seen an increase in the number of taxes on the roads with registered Blue Dot stickers. This initiative by the Department has contributed massively towards improving driving in the taxi industry. The R70 million allocation for the upcoming financial year towards extension of the Blue Dot Taxi Incentive Program is therefore welcomed. This initiative is a good example of how effective governance makes a difference by investing in projects that not only protect passengers' safety, but also encourages quality services while improving the standard of taxi driving.

Deputy Speaker, the events of yesterday is a matter of grave concern. We respect the right of aggrieved parties to express themselves and to protest. However, these needs to be done without the infringement on the rights of others. Although undertakings were given that the protest action would be peaceful, none of those undertakings were complied and adhered to. Commuters were prevented from going to work. School children were prevented from going to school. Golden Arrow buses and other private property and infrastructure were burnt. These acts of wanton criminality cannot be tolerated, and therefore we condemn it in the strongest terms.

Deputy Speaker, as South Africa moves towards a post-COVID society, the Western Cape Provincial Government has acted fast and decisively to ensure that our province and its residents transition in a manner that grows the provincial economy, protects jobs, attract investment and is centered around ensuring the dignity in the services that it delivers.

Let us work together and push the economy forward as we navigate through the post-COVID environment. Hashtag just dignity (#just dignity) Thank you Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Today is the last day of the first term for the 2022 school year, a term that has seen learners return to full time attendance, following our calls for adjusted direction. I thank all the teachers, officials and parents who have supported our learners in making the adjustment back to daily attendance, as we all get to grips with the longer-term management of this pandemic. Our team has done very well in managing the placement of learners, but of course, with the return of learners full-time the issue of overcrowding has reared its head in many of our schools, again.

It is a logical consequence unfortunately, that if there has been insufficient funding over consecutive years, the only way to place learners is to crowd classrooms. This is not what we want, and not what is best for education. It is also not confined to the Western Cape. Other provinces are taking strain as the sheer scale of theft from the national fiscus and economy destroying policies by the ANC take a massive toll on service delivery.

This is demonstrated by the violent protest at the DBE's head offices in Gauteng recently, and Limpopo Education officials being held hostage over a shortage of school spaces, and we are back on the treadmill again as applications for the 2023 school year have now opened.

It is most unfortunate that the more we try and move forward into the 21st century ways of doing things, the more we are stymied by the incompetence of the National Government and entities. We put a huge amount of effort into the online admissions process, only to have problems in the very day it started opening as a result of issues at the State Information Technology Agency, commonly known as SITA, which we are compelled by law to use, we have to be compelled because we certainly would not use them voluntarily. That is how states maintain monopolies and prevents competition, fodder for a failed state.

This has affected our admission site to the understandable anger of parents; that is unfortunately not because of matters within our control. Fortunately, we have managed to find solutions to some of their service failures, and the site is running more smoothly. Applications for over 82,000 learners have already been completed on the system, with more arriving every minute. But we appeal yet again to parents, despite the irritations and problems we have had, to take note of the 15th of April deadline for applications. Contrary to claims by some political parties, the online system is neither new nor inaccessible. It helps us ensure that applications are completed accurately, it reduces the administrative burden for schools and officials, reduces travel, and leave costs to parents who previously would have had to apply to each school physically, and also helps to weed out illegal practices in admissions.

There are a number of ways for parents to apply at locations where facilities and connectivity is available, and the site is zero rated. The more parents apply on time, the better we can plan to cope with the continuous increases in the number of learners joining our schools each year, but challenges remain, even when they do apply on time, given the persistent under-funding I have referred to, which has left us struggling to keep our heads above water and deal with the challenge of constantly increasing placement demands in our province. So, we welcome the substantial additions in this budget to Education. It will take some of the pressure off by allowing us to build more classrooms, schools and employ more teachers. It will assist us in being able to expand our offerings in pursuit of our STEAMAC vision, in terms of which our aim is to empower our youth to get the skills they need to participate actively in the economy, to get jobs and to create jobs, which are crucial to the Western Cape Recovery Plan. I shall expand more on this during my budget speech next week.

One of the crucial things we need to do as part of the Recovery Plan is address the learning losses caused by COVID. We are the only province to have invested in a credible measure of testing via our systemic tests, independently set, marked and internationally benchmarked.

Whilst National Government and all the other provinces have kowtow to unions that are hell bent on resisting any form of accountability, we have actual evidence of where the learning losses are and we can use this evidence to ensure that we target our interventions appropriately.

Unfortunately, the results of the 2021 systemic tests were as we feared COVID-19 has reversed the steady improvement in results that we had made prior to the pandemic with a particularly strong impact on the foundation phase. We are not surprised by this as we know just how much the extended school closures and disruptions affected our learners. We know that learners in poorer communities were especially hard hit by not being able to attend schools, which astoundingly, the ANC members of this House demanded should remain closed, but at least now we have additional funding it will assist us in being able to address this.

It will still be crucial to continue building successful partnerships with the private sector, such as those we had established in our collaboration schools, which are offering new learning opportunities to our children, where there would otherwise be none.

I am delighted that after the ANC opposed the collaboration schools, model member Sayed recently visited the Gouda a while ago and spoke about a public private partnership to create a high school, just like the collaboration schools. I trust that you will reach out to the ANC's alliance partner, SADTU, and persuade them to drop their opposition to these schools so that we can move forward and provide more exciting opportunities, such as we are seeing at Jakes Gerwel Technical High School in Bonnievale, and Apex High School, which have achieved incredibly good results.

That is the difference between the DA and the ANC. The DA creates legislation that enables partnerships such as this for the benefit of our residents.

The ANC creates legislation that restricts us and stifles innovation, such as the Act forcing us to use SITA. Only when the party of enablement is in power in South Africa, will we succeed. So, we will use the additional funding allocated to us as best we can to promote opportunity for all our learners and ensure that they leave school with the skills they need that give them the sense of dignity they deserve and we will continue to look for ways to enable, rather than disable. This budget is the first for many years that will enable Education to address some of our myriad challenges, and we welcome it. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is no secret that the Western Cape is an extremely wealthy province, both in resources, human capital, and its fiscus. As rich as this province is, the people of the Western Cape still go without the basics; daily receive the grave deal of poverty, inequality, institutionalised discrimination and the status quo that this very Government keeps reinforcing either wilfully or as a consequence of negligence.

The budget MEC Maynier delivered was a rehash of all the budget speeches that came before. If one were to investigate the annual budget addresses since this administration's inception, you would find that little changes were made to the Province's budgetary priorities, despite circumstances having drastically changed since 2009. Considering the rollercoaster ride that the people of this province have been on for the past two years, our lives and livelihoods were impacted. Poor economic development, joblessness and increasing cost of living, how all these harsh conditions affected citizens, but it was this Government's prerogative to return R891 million back to the Provincial Treasury from the Department of Education and underspend R46 million in its 2019/20 Human Settlements budget. This Government is calling for urgent action to stimulate economic growth, but the economy will not grow if departments decide to sit on much needed cash reserves and starving the people of this province of their basic needs in the process.

Just earlier this month, the South African Human Rights Commission strength analysis report shows that the DA-run Western Cape has the highest number of active cases in the country – a total of 1 592 complaints in the Western Cape, which is nearly three times as high as the next province, and accounts for 26% of the total number of complaints being managed by the Commission in the country. This is reflected in its callous budgeting.

Nevertheless, the budget did get some things right, like the increase in social development and repeated focus on the infrastructure investment; arguably one of our most important avenues in which to generate mass job creation. This is welcomed, as I have been calling for a change how to address crime. As a former warden I know that our current response to crime just simply is not cutting it despite cities like Cape Town's protestation to the contrary. We simply cannot just arrest everyone so increasing Social Development's budget gives this Department room to diversify programmes that can address the systemic challenges that lead to crime and in so doing stop crime before it happens.

In conclusion, this budget should have reflected the hopes and aspirations of our people.

Instead, it bears testament of the fact that this administration has no concrete plan for all the citizens of the Western Cape. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Deputy Speaker, following in Minister Maynier's *Budget to Move Forward* we will support our strategic priorities allocating to Jobs R19,6 million; Safety R4,4 million; Wellbeing R111,3 million and Infrastructure R30,3 billion. As history has shown time and again, through many struggles, nations and humanity as a whole have experienced the arts, creative innovation and sport have been the shared relieve restoring hope and inspirational motivation to move towards our common goals to overcome hardships together. As we are moving forward, the aftermath of feelings of loneliness, anxiety, boredom and grief, while seeking a sense of safety during the triple crisis of a global pandemic, a brutal economic downturn, and a profound social and cultural dislocation is still lingering.

As safety is a key priority of the Western Cape Government, I am honoured to have been entrusted with the role of Acting Minister of Community Safety to ensure the continuity of the Department pivotal programs and to actively be involved in meeting the imperatives of the Safety Plan in the interim.

While at provincial level we do not have control over the police, the Department of Community Safety has played an instrumental role in improving safety for all who call the Western Cape home. However, as the Western Cape Government, we are mandated to promote and develop Cultural Affairs and Sport at a provincial level and as the Minister of Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, I can confidently acknowledge that there is a great synergy in creating safer communities through sport and culture. Capacitating safety partnerships with communities and stakeholders supports effective oversight in creating safer spaces and through the years of engagement I firmly believe sport and culture to be the catalyst of this needed social investment. Premier Winde said in his SOPA, and I quote:

"We are going to beef up oversight, we are going to beef it up."

With the renowned Department of Oversight and Community Safety, we will be a force to be reckoned with.

Deputy Speaker, I know the concern within the Community Policing Forum structures in the Western Cape regarding what the impact of the establishment of the Provincial Secretariat in terms of Section 16 of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Act 2 of 2011 will be on the continued existence and operation of Community Policing Forums. I want to reaffirm that the Western Cape Government, through its Department of Community Safety is committed to fulfil its mandate conferred by Section 206 of the Constitution, Section 66 and 68 of the Constitution of the Western Cape, as well as Section 5 of the Western Cape Community Safety Act. This mandate, amongst other things, includes monitoring police conduct and overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service in the province by assisting Community Policing Forums through the provision of funding, training and resources in order to promote good relationships between the South African Police Service and communities, which will in turn make the Western Cape a safer place for all. It is for this reason that we are awaiting legal advice on the best way forward.

Deputy Speaker, engagement with Cultural Affairs and Sport creates a positive atmosphere, empowering individuals to make healthier choices through becoming more inspired, involved, questioning and willing to take risks. It is our duty to create an enabling environment through which our youth can thrive and feel a sense of belonging and safety. Contrary to popular belief, we are not a people at risk, but rather a people with potential. As the DCAS we are committed to economic transformation and job creation. We facilitate work opportunity and various capacity building opportunities through programmes aimed at youth acquiring skills to facilitate their entry into the job market. Supporting and funding cultural and sporting tourism through festivals and sporting events across the province contributes to job creation and work opportunities.

†Deputy Speaker, die verslapping van die COVID-19 Regulasies word verwelkom. Die Wes-Kaap is die Sport en Kultuurbestemming van Suid-Afrika en die wêreld. Ons beleef tans die bedrywigste tyd in die Wes-Kaap. Dit is die Kaapstad Fietstoer, Cape Epic, Suidoosterfees, Woordfees, KKNK, rugby in die DHL Kaapstad Stadion, ballet in die Kunstekaap, opvoerings in die Baxter - net om 'n paar te noem. Meer mense, meer geleenthede, meer inkomste, maar volgens Hugo Theart, artistieke direkteur van die KKNK maak die nuwe regulasies nie veel verskil aan die situasie nie. Lara Foot, artistieke direkteur en CEO van die Baxter, stem saam. Lokale onderdak of teaters mag net 50% gevul word, met sosiale afstandsitplekke 'n gegewe. 100% kapasiteit in teaters en lokale sal broodnodige inkomste vir kunstenaars verseker. Ons moet ook nie vergeet van diegene wat afhanklik is van werk in beide die sport- en kultuursektore nie. Die plekaanwysers, die kaartjieverkopers, kelners, roomysverkopers, al die teaterbystandpersoneel, tegnisi, ensovoorts. Die terugkeer na groter gehore, vol sale en stadions dra by tot die geestesgesondheid en sosiale insluiting van gemeenskappe en vergestalt hoop.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, the relaxation of the COVID-19 Regulations is welcomed. The Western Cape is the Sport and Culture Destination of South Africa and the world. We are currently experiencing the busiest time in the Western Cape. It is the Cape Town Cycle Tour, Cape Epic, South Easter Festival, Woordfees, KKNK, rugby in the DHL Cape Town Stadium, ballet in the Artscape, performances in the Baxter – to name a few. More people, more opportunities, more income, but according to Hugo Theart, artistic director of the KKNK the new reugulations do not make much difference to the situation. Lara Foot, artistic director and CEO of the Baxter, agrees. Local roofed spaces or theatres may only be filled at 50%, with social distancing seating a given. 100% capacity in theatres and halls will ensure much-needed income for artists. We should also not forget about those who are dependent on work in both the sport and cultural sectors. The ushers, the ticket sellers, waiters, ice cream vendors, all the theatre support personnel, technicians, etc. the return to large audiences, full halls and stadia contribute to the mental wellbeing and social inclusion of communities embody hope.]

With social inclusive programmes the DCAS augments social protection policies by mitigating social vulnerabilities of women, children, the girl-child, persons with disabilities, youth under age, through art, culture and sport programmes.

We are protecting woman improving laws and policies and raising awareness of women's rights. We speak about safeguarding in sport terms. We meaningfully engage in all the symptoms, the legal economic and political factors of gender-based violence; the unequal power relations between men and women; the myriad of factors which contribute to GBV and the interplay of these factors which lies at the root of the problem, but is this enough?

We need to think differently about GBV, be more robust about any form of GBV including hate crimes and abuse against the LGBTQIA+. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support Premier Winde who announced in his SOPA the Violence Prevention Unit which will be a dedicated unit.

†Die eenheid van Voorkoming van Geweld wat in die Departement van Gesondheid sal wees. Die eenheid sal data gebruik om ingrypings te ontwerp en toe te pas wat voorkom dat geweld plaasvind.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The Violence Prevention Unit that will be vested in the Department of Health. The Unit will use data to design interventions and apply it to prevent violence from taking place.]

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director said: "The work we do for and about women and girls is often about the things women are fighting against." Sport gives us an opportunity to do something that puts girls and women in the best positive light. It shows off their strength and capacity to be winners. I wish to encourage all victims of sexual offences to come forward and report their perpetrators. We cannot allow these injustices to continue being perpetrated in our communities. We must stand up against them. I thank you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, as the ACDP I want to respond to the Budget tabled by hon Minister David Maynier in this House. Deputy Speaker, let me first say I really believe that spending so much money on this pandemic is unnecessary and a waste of money, an allocation of R777 million for the health platform which we will spend to fight against this COVID. Another R198 million for rollout of vaccines and it goes on and it works over a billion. Let me just read some from the memorandum that was handed over to the Union Buildings on the 21st of March by our National Leader, Reverend Kenneth Meshoe. This is what it says, and it is again protecting our Constitution.

"We, the free people of South Africa, gave birth to and recognise the Constitution that is meant to empower and uplift us, not to disempower us and not to strip us of our freedom and dignity; as it has over the last two years. We, the free people of South Africa, have come here today to declare that there is a national crisis and this is a call for all South Africans to unite and defend the same Constitution that we fought for and also specifically the Bill of Human Rights."

That is what we want to, what I want to say. That is why I say it is a waste of money. Minister Maynier says that vaccines have won over the virus.

Many of the people do not want to be forced to be vaccinated and that is the point of the ACDP, and the important thing, the important thing is it is now happening at UWC where our members were standing with placards yesterday, standing up and saying... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, one minute.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Okay, sorry, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, one minute if you can just take your seat. Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I would just like to ask whether the hon Christians would be prepared to answer the question as to whether he is vaccinated or not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, do not ask the question, do not ask the question. Ask the question if he would take a question. Hon member?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Deputy Speaker, yesterday our members were standing in front of UWC... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The answer is no.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Because now students that want to graduate are now forced to be vaccinated. It is taking the rights away of our students, taking the rights away of people that are saying that we will not be vaccinated.

Let me just get back to Education. The Education Department, the WCED talks about quality education for every learner in every classroom and then when you go and you read the papers, it is not happening on the ground. There is no quality education. There is no quality education, dignified education in our schools, and here in the paper, do not turn our kids away. We know that money can be spent, more money can be spent on education because we cannot manage 70 people, in students in our classrooms, and yet parents are saying we are not receiving that quality education. I want to go further when it comes to Community Safety. Now I have always said that and I said this in the State of the Province Address, where are our Walking Bus members that are at home? More than 5000 Walking Bus members are at home... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: ...bread taken off the table by this current Mayor and the Minister is talking about... [Interjection.] "quality of life, quality, quality." This is not quality. I am asking this Budget to make some room under Community Safety for the Walking Bus to come back to bring our communities safer to our schools. I thank you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. A couple of weeks ago MEC David Maynier tabled the so-called "*A Budget to Push Forward*" but it was preceded by the World Bank Report which shows that South Africa is the most unequal country in the world with race playing a determinant factor in a society where 10% of the population owns more than 80% of wealth.

The present-day inequalities are a direct result of centuries' long policies of apartheid, colonialism which entrapped black people in poverty, limited opportunities to access quality education and participate in the labour market.

These remain largely unresolved 28 years into our democratic dispensation, especially in the Western Cape, which is the last bastion of white privilege. When tabling his Budget, MEC Maynier ignored the above and instead bragged about Western Cape being a special place, with the best health system, the best education system, and best infrastructure. It is for this reason that we must amend the theme of the budget to declare a budget to push forward the acceleration of social transformation in the Western Cape. While I am tempted to call the claims by the MEC hogwash, it is correct that we have the best education, healthcare and infrastructure for a select few. For the majority of our people this remains a distant dream.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the healthcare system in the poor working-class communities is but one example, the Khayelitsha District Hospital Management and Board requested an additional R150 million to improve service and deliver the best healthcare system in Khayelitsha. This Government declined to allocate any additional funds to KDH because the DA believes that best healthcare is a privilege reserved for a select few.

This Government declined to allocate any additional funds to KDH because the DA believes that the best healthcare is a privilege reserved for a select few. It is for the same reason that there is no clear timeframe for the rebuilding of J F Jooste, which closed over a decade ago. It is also the same reason the DA is closing down clinics in working-class communities in the city.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the budget commits to the three priorities, the so-called three North Star priorities, which include job safety and well-being. I want to ask today, job safety and well-being for who?

In answering the question, I take a look at the R132,000 increase for unemployment in the province between Quarter 3 of 2020 and the Third Quarter of 2021. During this period, unemployment increased to over 794 000. Of this the 372 000 were Coloured, followed by Africans at over 363 000, while unemployment for white people stood at just over 54 000.

The MEC must tell us what he will do on strategies to address unemployment and race imbalances. The same trend is observed on safety when unemployment is highest in those areas that are in the top 30 murder presence in the province. The continued mass murders in Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, and the ongoing gang violence in Manenberg, are testimony to this.

Hon Premier, where is your Safety Plan to address these murders? The people are asking. We for long warned that in its current form the plan will not work, and you ignored us.

Who told you that it is not enough to only invest in boots on the ground? You must also address causative factors of violent crimes. There needs to be more invested towards CCTV, improved lighting, and accessibility in the murder hotspots.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are disappointed that not enough funding is set aside for humanitarian relief in the face of rising child hunger and food poverty. The 2020 general household survey reported that 13% of child and 10% of the total population in the province lived in households reporting insufficient food.

This budget makes investment towards Community Nutrition Development Centres and soup kitchens as solutions to this. This will not bring sustainable solutions for poverty. We must continue making calls for the accelerated implementation of the Basic Income Grant, additionally. This Government should consider increasing the number of funded CNDC'S in the poor working-class communities, as only one CNDC per community is not enough.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, the shenanigans of Albert Fritz exposed a deep culture of abuse of females in this Provincial Government. It is disappointing Farrel Payne, and Wesley Baadtjies remain ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: ... in their jobs, while they have pending Court cases for alleged sexual assault. We are also disappointed that ...[Interjection.] despite our request, Robert McDonald is yet to appear before the Social Development Committee ...[Interjection.] to account for what he knows about the Fritz scandal.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, thank you, your time is up.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: This DA does not care about the plight of GBV victims. We call for increased funding for victim ...[Interjection.] empowerment programmes and for a transversal GBV and sexual assault policy ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member!

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: ... in the Western Cape. I thank you. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member, you obviously did not hear me. I did not want to cut you off, but please be mindful, those members that are connected virtually, that when your time is up you need to finish off. Thank you. I now recognise hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Ministers: as the Minister of Finance, hon David Maynier, indicated in his speech, this budget aims to push forward every aspect of jobs, safety and well-being.

Unfortunately, the ANC National Government has been putting numerous hurdles in the path to achieve this.

They are still undermining trust in the economy by proposing devastating amendments to expropriation legislation. This follows in the wake of damaging prohibitions on trade and service delivery over the last two years.

These include the ban on the sale of cooked food, cigarettes, certain clothing and certain beverages. Even the transport of bulk wine to ports for export was banned. In the process many lost their businesses, jobs and livelihoods. If the National Government genuinely cared for the youth, genuinely cared for the well-being of the poor, and genuinely cared about the levels of inequality, it would admit its role in damaging the economy, and it would admit its role in the deterioration of our ports, our trains, the police and the problems with the current census. The list is endless. These are just some elements of the growing failure of the National Government.

The recent attacks and violence in Robertson between contract workers from Zimbabwe and Lesotho clearly illustrate the failures of National Government. Where are the labour inspectors to check the working conditions of foreign nationals working in South Africa? Where are the immigration officials that should be inspecting work permits? Where is the border control to ensure that only people with the necessary documentation enter into South Africa? And where are the police that should protect innocent people from attacks?

We have also recently seen how the National Department of Agriculture, responsible for managing pests, failed to control the outbreaks of locusts, and as so often in the past, the Provincial Government had to come to the rescue by allocating R5 million. Again, this Provincial Administration pushed forward and funded the response.

The work on the Clanwilliam Dam is delayed by eight years and will now only be completed in 2026, if we can believe the Minister. Repeated delays with the construction work have cost us 9,000 jobs and are delaying investments in the sector, of an estimated R1,8 billion. Again, due to a lack of action from the National Government. It is the Department of Agriculture, in this province, that pushed forward to initiate the study on the increase of the capacity of the Buffeljags Dam near Swellendam. After years of provincial pushing, construction work on the feeder canal for the Brandvlei Dam eventually commenced.

Now we are pushing the National Department of Water and Sanitation to allocate additional water usage rights in time for next summer. I am not holding my breath that this will happen.

How ironic that the Leader of the Opposition this morning dared to criticise this Provincial Government on the National Government's failures of land reform. Land reform is the mandate of the National Government. Elandskloof, some 11 kilometres from Citrusdal, which I visited last Monday on Human Rights Day, can you see the irony in that, was lauded as the very first land reform project of the ANC Government. It is another failed initiative, and a once productive farm was allowed to go to ruin.

The Western Cape Department of Agriculture is ready and able to support beneficiaries of land reform, but it should be involved with these initiatives from the onset, including the identification and training of beneficiaries. In this way we can push forward with successful land reform and ensure that farms are not only allocated to ANC cronies.

Let me congratulate the Minister and the Department of Agriculture in this province for pushing forward on the cooperation agreement with the Department of Food and Agriculture of the State of California. This will allow us to push forward with climate smart agricultural practices.

Minister Maynier referred to the great natural beauty of our province. Cape Nature has pushed forward and therefore we have seen a huge upswing in the number of tourists. In this regard it has contributed and pushed forward our economic recovery in the province, and while we push forward, we have to deal with a failed National Government.

Minister Barbara Creecy was even forced to approach the High Court to review the poor decisions of her very own Department regarding fishing quotas. Her Department is ill-prepared to prevent the poaching of crayfish and abalone, putting these species that are so important to the Western Cape, at risk.

The Western Cape Government is also pushing forward to address climate change. Air quality is important, but air pollution knows no provincial boundaries. According to Section 24 (a) of the Constitution, we have a right to an environment that is not harmful to our health and well-being.

How ironic that the Court last week, and I quote:

“ ... lambasted National Environment Minister, Barbara Creecy, and her predecessor, Nomvula Mokonyane, for their failures, inordinate delays, and foot dragging in tackling the harmful and potentially fatal levels of air pollution in the so-called Highveld Priority Area.”

And where the Courts confirm what we all know, namely that the National Government is failing, it is the Courts and the very Constitution that the Leader of the Opposition quoted this morning extensively, that come under attack from ANC politicians.

Clearly the ANC has identified the conflicting views on the Constitution within its own ranks as a huge risk for the ANC. Fortunately, there is hope for the people of this province as Minister Maynier declared:

“Through the Western Cape’s Budget we are pushing forward to give hope and to achieve our strategic objectives. We are fortunate that the Department of Agriculture as well as Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, have a track record of creating jobs, improving safety and well-being.”

I thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Deputy Speaker, Minister, members: the Freedom Front Plus supports the Bill and Budget unreservedly. It is obviously a budget to manage and defeat a resurgence of the fifth wave of COVID-19. It is a budget of hope drafted by well-qualified officials. I therefore have no reason not to accept it.

It is also a budget intended to start an economic recovery, boosting tourism, create jobs, and improving community safety in the Western Cape. In spite of corruption and wasteful spending still existing at national level, the Minister and his officials therefore deserve unreserved praise.

I would have preferred a greater budget for community safety and policing in general because reports have shown that we have a maximum of 40% conviction rates in South Africa. Why arrest gangsters if they have a 60% chance of being freed because of poor investigative policing, poorly trained detectives? 26,3% of police stations have no holding cells. 68,4% of police stations have no access controls. 10,5% have no detention cells.

Police cannot even speak or address the public in their preferred language. So, when you go to Mitchells Plain and you cannot speak English, go home and do your own investigations. They do not know what you are complaining about.

We need more powers to control our own police force with investigative powers. We need more CCTV cameras in crime hotspots. We are in deep, deep trouble. I want to quote Bishop Tutu when he said, "Watch out, watch out."

The fight against crime, unemployment, corruption and COVID is far from over. These are chronic, destructive forces. Even our President has become a prisoner of his own Cabinet and his party. He cannot do what he likes. Nkosazana Zuma tells him what he must do.

Unless the Western Cape succeeds in receiving greater autonomous powers to decide our own future ...[Interjection.] we are doomed. We are like people who sit in a barge in stormy seas, singing ...[Interjection.]

†"Ou Wes-Kaapland, ou Wes-Kaapland, jou het ons lief bo alles," terwyl the water is over our heads already.

["*Ou Wes-Kaapland, ou Wes-Kaapland, jou het ons lief bo alles,*" while the water is over our heads already.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you.

Mr D PLATO: Hon Deputy Speaker and hon members: the past year has been difficult for our country and for our province. The COVID-19 pandemic continues not only to pose a serious risk to public health, but also to the economic and social security that underpin our citizens' collective well-being. Many in our province have found themselves sick as a result of the pandemic.

Many have found themselves hungry due to the destruction of their livelihoods, but hon Deputy Speaker, this budget ensures that those who are most in need will receive the assistance that they require, paving the way for an equitable and efficient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Social Development has allocated funding for a number of measures to ease the burdens placed on Western Cape residents by the ongoing National State of Disaster.

Unemployment in the Western Cape has risen by 5,4% since the start of the lockdown, with associated strains on the ability of the unemployed to maintain their food security. Under this budget the Western Cape Provincial Government will continue to provide meals at Community Nutrition and Development Centres and will partner with local municipalities and NGOs to keep these programmes running.

The budget has seen a substantial increase in monies allocated towards protecting and nurturing the province's youth, with an increase of almost R10 million in this area. We will expand the community-based early prevention and early intervention programmes. These programmes seek to protect those younger members of our society who too often find themselves at the risk of neglect and victimisation.

Initiatives such as the [Inaudible.] model and the "Eye on The Child Programme" ensure that children are adequately cared for and are free to enjoy their education while limiting the influence of social ills on their development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, for those who are approaching adulthood, the budget will further fund the Youth Café initiatives, which provide holistic skills development for those who are not employed or involved in further education. With these measures, hon Deputy Speaker, the Department will ensure that our youth, the future of our province and the future of our country, are given the best possible circumstances in which to achieve their doubtless potential.

Additionally, and in line with the President's announcement at the 2019 State of the Nation Address, the Provincial Government is on track with a transfer of the Early Childhood Development function from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education by 1 April 2022.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these measures will ensure that the social fabric of our province remains intact in the face of the pandemic, but we must also deal with the pandemic itself. Vaccination rates in the Western Cape are particularly encouraging, with almost 60% of citizens having received at least one dose of the vaccine, but we have done more than simply react to the pandemic.

The Department of Health has also ensured that funds are allocated for community health initiatives that once again focus on the protection of the most underprivileged in society. For the upcoming financial year, the Department will prioritise the funding of infrastructure development which expands our ability to care for those affected by TB, HIV and AIDS, and psychiatry issues.

These measures, in addition to our COVID response, move the Western Cape one step closer towards reaching its goal of patient-focused quality care for all.

While the battle to overcome the COVID pandemic in the Western Cape progresses steadily, our province faces another pandemic.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government has committed to eradicating the scourge of gender-based violence from this province and from this country, no matter where such instances may occur. Domestic Violence Prevention remains a key priority for the Provincial Government, and this budget provides the financial backing to achieve this task.

This budget allows for the further funding of the Department of Social Development's psychosocial care for GBV survivors, and the expansion of our province's dedicated GBV shelters, which offer a vital place of refuge for those who would otherwise have no option but to stay with their abusers.

That Department of Health will continue to train its staff to treat incidents of GBV at its facilities and will prioritise its emergency response to incidences of GBV when they occur. We understand, hon Deputy Speaker, that to truly end the GBV pandemic will require a seismic shift from all sectors of society and that there is no quick fix to resolve this complicated issue, but this budget allows us to begin to treat the symptoms of this disease and to provide relief to the millions affected by it.

To conclude, hon Deputy Speaker. We are confident that the allocations contained in this budget will allow this Government to fulfil its promise to the citizens of the Western Cape, to heal the sick, to feed the hungry, to nurture and protect our children, and to end the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and GBV. As we push forward from the pandemic, we cannot allow anyone to be left behind. With this budget, hon Deputy Speaker, the DA-run Western Cape Government reaffirms its commitment to the citizens of the Western Cape, no matter their circumstances, to ensure dignity, safety and well-being for all. I thank you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem: [In the name of Allah] the Al Jama-ah party reiterates its position that each of the 400 wards in the Western Cape Province should receive their own budgets. This will give wards in poor areas an advantage to redress the inequalities of the apartheid era.

A recent study by Stats SA reveals that the Western Cape upscale neighbourhoods such as Bakoven, Bantry Bay, Camps Bay, Clifton, Fresnaye, Greenpoint, Sea Point and Mouille Point, where the wealthy and the middle-class reside: all these upscaled neighbourhoods in the leafy suburbs while people on the Cape Flats, like Langa, Manenberg, Nyanga, Delft, Guguletu, Bonteheuwel, Elsies River and Khayelitsha, suffer daily from food insecurity, lack of drinking water, toilets disconnected from the sewerage system and an increasing crime rate.

The first step for a budget for each ward is to use zero-based budgeting, and Al Jama-ah looks forward to workshops on this. I would like to be part of a study group to do zero-based budgeting for one or more wards as a pilot project. That means every need, like an IDP for the ward selected, must be done. Nobody must be left out.

The next step is to find the money to implement this, and this may take 10 years.

Nobody must be left out. Hon Premier, you must set the vision and let us carry out the mission in our oversight role. Al Jama-ah does not support this DA budget. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet colleagues present and logged in virtually, but also members present in the House and also logged in virtually:

Hon Deputy Speaker, with the tabling of the budget for the 2022/2023 financial year, an allocation of R32,9 billion rand over the medium-term on infrastructure, the Western Cape Government is once again demonstrating its commitment to ensuring that spaces and places are created that will assist to improve the lives of all residents of our province.

†Hierdie begroting dui daarop aan dat ons daartoe verbind is om integrasie deur infrastruktuurontwikkeling te verseker sodat ons mense in veiliger, verbeterde en waardige omstandighede kan leef, leer en speel.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[This budget indicates that we are committed to ensure integration through infrastructure development so that our people can live, learn and play in safer, improved and worthy circumstances.]

This is particularly evident in our Conradie Park Development, where many people already enjoy the benefits of a real integrated development, access to affordable living, work, learning and playing areas.

†Hierdie ontwikkeling is beslis 'n uitstekende voorbeeld van hoe 'n dinamiese regering wat vooruit dink, politieke toekomsvisie laat realiseer.

[This development is definitely an outstanding example of how a dynamic government that thinks ahead, makes political future vision become reality.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, investment in infrastructure leads to a myriad of opportunities. These include the creation of cross-sector job opportunities, ensuring that residents can live in a safer and dignified manner while generally helping with their overall well-being.

†Dat die Wes-Kaap soveel klem plaas op infrastruktuurontwikkeling is daarom beslis nie per toeval nie, maar strategies omdat dit vooruitgang verseker in die kort-, medium- en langtermyn.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[That the Western Cape places so much emphasis on infrastructure development is therefore surely not a coincidence, but strategic because it ensures progress in the short, medium and long term.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is quite unfortunate that certain members in this House fail to fully comprehend what is meant by the advancement of infrastructure, and allow me to take you on a journey of our Welmoed Development, or commonly known as "Penhill", which is another excellent example of how infrastructure development will lead to improved living conditions.

This project, which has a budget allocation of R762 million, and will include a mixture of subsidised and affordable housing opportunities, along with land parcels for community facilities, schools and commercial uses, will empower approximately 8 000 beneficiaries from many different backgrounds and areas to live together in improved conditions.

We are waiting for the entire 200 hectares to be made available for construction so that we can start realising dreams. To date it has already created over 70 job opportunities and as it progresses it is estimated that it will create a further 100 local jobs over a 12-month period, incorporate 16 sub-contractors for civil works over an eight-month cycle, and a further 228 sub-contractors for top structures over another 12-month period. Currently the earthworks around the reservoir area and the bulk water supply line are underway and progressing at a rapid pace. The electrical substation is expected to be completed during this financial year.

The Bannerman Bridge construction has commenced while internal roads have already been concluded. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is but one of the developments where we are demonstrating our enthusiasm and the full spectrum of our ability to deliver projects where residents will be able to live integrated lives with access to economic, educational opportunities and recreational spaces.

†Mettertyd sal die volle prentjie gesien kan word en tasbaar wees, want ek weet sekere lede aan die oorkant van die vloer, agb Adjunkspeaker, het nie die vermoë om dit te kan visualiseer tans nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[In due course the full picture will be seen and be tangible, because I know certain members on the other side of the floor, hon Deputy Speaker, do not have the ability to visualise it at present.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the design of our human settlements infrastructure is developed in a manner where our residents feel safe within their immediate vicinity. In fact, we regard the creation of neighbourhoods that are safe to our residents as an important part of the sustainable human settlements mandate.

We are rising to the challenge of safe neighbourhoods because we can clearly not rely on the National ANC-led Government and the SAPS to provide the most elementary human right: safety.

To this end we have adopted a multi-dimensional approach which includes the spatial design of neighbourhoods. Amongst others these include courtyards that are secluded and surrounded by units that ensure a watchful eye can be kept on, particularly, the children while they are playing.

We are also ensuring when installing streetlights which improve visibility at night and help in identifying criminality and/or to combat any criminal intent.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we live in an era that cannot be divorced from the use of technology.

This is part of the reason why we have adopted a hands-on approach to ensuring that ICT infrastructure benefits citizens of the province in the most advantageous way.

For the 2022/2023 financial year we will ensure that existing systems become more user-friendly, which will result in better monitoring of projects and uptake by beneficiaries, while ensuring easy access for residents to register their housing needs by improving the WCG app.

We are also in the process of piloting “EDGE”, which stands for “Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies”, a certification project. This certification, which is a green building certification system, is used to optimise resource efficiency in the construction of houses and compliance thereof. 700 units in Fisantekraal, which is situated in the Cape Metropole, will be piloted as part of this initiative. This initiative marks the first time in the country that Government-subsidised houses will be certified as green, normally reserved mainly for houses constructed for high end users.

Furthermore, water-saving measures have been introduced in all human settlements projects and in this regard contractors are now exploring the use of groundwater, be it through boreholes or wellpoints, or other non-potable water sources.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, †daar is so baie voorbeelde wat nog ter tafel gelê kan word, maar ek wil egter aan lede voorstel om bietjie uit te kom en alle projekte te besoek sodat hulle kan sien hoe die infrastruktuurontwikkeling 'n massiewe en lewenslange verandering laat gebeur regoor die Wes-Kaap. Baie dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[there are so many examples that can be tabled, but I want to however suggest to members to come out and visit all projects so that they can see how the infrastructure development is making a massive and lifelong change happen all over the Western Cape. Thank you.]

Mr M XEGO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. The Budget tabled by the Western Cape Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities does not differ from the budgets tabled in this House in the past before, and to say the least, this recent one also does not inspire any confidence.

The Government continues to rely heavily on the private sector with the hope that it will provide meaningful jobs that will improve people’s lives for the better, and this has often proven to be false. It is high time that the Government assists individuals and groups with meaningful and adequate resources to start their own businesses.

The role of the private sector should be to assist these individuals with business plans and ideas so that they can sustain themselves and create employment opportunities for more.

Similarly, when it comes to the issue of agriculture in the province, we are tired of being told that the province is assisting existing black emerging farmers with resources, but there is nothing to show that. We want this Government to pinpoint and say that we have assisted so many emerging black farmers, and so many to acquire so many hectares of land, and we also assisted them with funds and resources in order to start operating their own farms from scratch.

Our people have been staying on the pavement for far too long, now in the areas of Observatory and outside places like Arcadia since 2019.

The situation has become even worse to the extent that the children are playing closer to the main roads, and they are risking their lives by being hit by passing cars.

We therefore appeal to the Government that their budget does not address the plight of residents of informal settlements such as Izwelethu, Ethembeni, Marikana and Soetendal. The areas of Dunoon and Kosovo are still going at a snail's pace in terms of their depopulation being addressed.

In terms of crime, we call on the Safety Plan that is not doing anything in areas such as Manenberg, Endlovini, Enkanini informal settlements and other areas where our people are subjected to serious challenges and lack of police patrolling.

In terms of health care, we still say that the Department is failing to absorb the very same people it utilised to curb the COVID pandemic during the serious lockdown of COVID-19, and now that they find themselves understaffed, they fail dismally to absorb such people. Communities in Macassar and Ceres have been up in arms against the Department due to the long queues which the elderly and disabled people are subjected to on daily basis. This budget does not address any of that ...[Interjection.] as well as in the education sector where we still have high numbers of children who do not find any place to call a school. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, it is important firstly to just dismiss some of the untruths, particularly when we started here, about what is happening in public transport, an area very critical for all of us in light of the developments we see and the safety issues around this.

It is important to unveil the untruth in this House that one of the things the Provincial Government is not telling us is that there is progress in the Central Line, which Mr Mbalula had already committed to by the end of July, with the Bellville, Cape Town route and Southern Line already having resumed. The delays in the Philippi, Langa and Khayelitsha route are due to the resettlement that is actually based on challenges of finding suitable land for those citizens. Something that was presented to us as the Standing Committee, and it is important that we tell citizens the truth, and again it is important that also we share that once again this DA Government is not telling the public that at this point, as they speak about efficiency of public transport and demanding that it be devolved into the City, that currently under the DA blue nose, the MyCiti is running at a deficit of about R40 million, let alone the impasse around how the permitting is done at this point.

In the taxi industry you find hundreds of taxis that are getting damaged in the sun at Ndabeni, where they are stored after being impounded. Last week in the debate of the Committee, the PRE became mum when the representative of the Dunoon Taxi Association once again exposed untruths about them not having any backlog regarding operating licenses, but the DTA has waited since last year November for about 57 applications that, to date, have not been concluded, even though the requirements are 30 days to process an application.

Then the question is where is the Red Tape Reduction Unit to ensure ease of doing business? Or is ease of doing business a function and an effort and investment of this Government for only big commercial businesses instead of those that predominantly come from businesses that are of the poor? And we ask this question because this ease of doing business and the red tape continues with the likes of the informal traders that are taken to task and taken to Court, instead of being allowed to trade; the same issue of the second pandemic that the Premier always speaks about, of ensuring livelihoods and opening the economy.

It cannot be only a purview of the few and we are calling for this Government to actually be very honest when it talks about opportunities, to be opportunities that are enabling for all citizens, not only a few.

The ANC welcomes the National Budget of the Minister Enoch Godongwana a month ago. Amongst others, Minister Godongwana indicated that as far as the domestic outlook was concerned, our country would have revised the economic growth estimate for 2021 from 5,1% when the MTBPS was announced, to 4,8%. This revision is because of the impact of the global environment on our national economy.

Commodity prices, which were on the rise in the first part of 2021, would have slowed down by the latter part of the year, and real GDP growth of 2,1% is projected for 2022, with a projection of 1,8% for the outer years. We had none of these kinds of analysis of projections for the Western Cape from the hon Minister Maynier.

All we hear instead is that R5 million will be allocated to the study of future fiscal sustainability, which once again does not indicate how this particular province will utilise this initiative of future fiscal sustainability to directly challenge wealth and income inequality, which are some of the challenges that are written on the wall and studies have been concluded around this. Even the PERO and MERO are paid scant attention to by a Provincial Government that simply makes an announcement without the necessary plans and budgets, and this says little about this Government that always claims to be evidence-based.

At the SOPA we had to listen to the Premier's announcement of new departments, and this was also referred to by MEC Marais this morning. This budget completely ignores that announcement. Hardly any of the budget votes that we dealt with in the Standing Committees last week, took cognisance of the fact that the Premier had actually made this announcement.

We asked questions about the budget implications, the programming implications so that we start to see movements around the actual money. We were told that if these were effected, they would maybe be considered during the Budget Adjustment or in the next financial year.

So, this is the typical DA *modus operandi* we have come to learn of this Provincial Government, a stuntman leadership style, where you announce big plans, but there is nothing that comes of it.

The Municipal Energy Resilience Programme was announced with the same amount of fanfare, but when we asked for details, we got little.

The Premier's Safety Plan was announced with great fanfare, and we asked for details in this House and the budget, we had to wait.

The R800 million announcement to procure vaccines for the Western Cape, another stunt, knowing such was not feasible and no evidence of any grand shortages at the time to this particular province.

Finally, the DA, which has been governing in the Western Cape for more than a decade, and nearly two in the City of Cape Town, announced with the same fanfare their housing policy, but this housing policy is all talk and no plan, with no budget. Actually, the Cape Flats have seen and experienced repeated challenges of violence, gender-based violence, rapes, murders, whilst under this Government. We see no improvement in those communities, including the economic situation which remains the same, and we would like to see what we are told by the DA; their ability to ensure a society where there is equal opportunity.

Please start here in the Cape Flats so that you can speak about the evidence of the work you have done to ensure that the kind of challenges experienced by those communities are something that the DA Government is able to do.

The hon Minister Maynier announces with great glee the amount this Provincial Government is cutting on cost of employees and to ministerial offices. When will we see a cut to the consultant budget of this Provincial Government, as well as that of training?

In 2021/2222 the Main Appropriation was nearly a billion rand for consultants. In this budget the appropriation is still astronomically too high at R856 million. This Provincial Government spends seven times more on consultants than it does on this Provincial Legislature. It spends twice as much as it does on consultants than on the Community Safety Department, and nearly three times than what they spend on the Local Government Department.

At the same time this DA-led Provincial Government spends R711 million on training. While the ANC certainly welcome employees in core departmental programmes receiving training, the challenge is that 100% of the training budget in the Provincial Legislature Budget is going to Programme 1, which is Administration, a non-core function of the Legislature.

100% of the training budget of the Local Government Department is going to Programme 1, Administration, a non-core function of the Department ...[Interjection.] The ANC wishes to thank and acknowledge the numerous grants allocated to this Province by National Government. This budget lacks the foresight to deal with the second pandemic ...[Interjection.] that the Premier so often talks about, and as the ANC we cannot support this budget, I thank you. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon member Marais, I hear you from here. If you could just lower your voice. I can hear you from here and it is quite loud.

Mr P J MARAIS: I am so sorry. I am really soft-spoken, you know. [Laughter.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as always, and I would like to say this in Afrikaans because I think maybe the Afrikaans language is a bit more outspoken in this regard, †maar die Opposisie sit die pot weer mis. [but the Opposition is missing the mark again.]

They could have proposed new ideas on better processes and procedures to better spend the money for the people of the Western Cape, but all of the items raised either fall squarely within the mandate of National Government, or within the mandates of Local Government, and as custodians we are charged with spending the people's money to the benefit of the people in the best possible manner, at the lowest possible cost, and at the closest to the people.

In terms of infrastructure, this budget will capacitate the Provincial Government in pushing forward to see true recovery and growth for residents. R19,6 billion will be allocated over the next three years on various programmes and initiatives aimed at creating an economic ecosystem, which will see support to all sectors.

More than this, R30,3 billion rand set aside for infrastructure development is an investment in the economic and social well-being of all residents in the Western Cape.

R870 million over the next three years will be spent on road infrastructure, and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

A further R1,2 billion has been allocated over the medium-term to upgrade and build new health care facilities and schools in our province, and while we are seeing great innovation and responsible fiscal management by the Provincial Government, in real terms provincial budgets will not be increasing, and every cent will need to be stretched to continue to deliver the best possible services to residents.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there are some matters that cannot go unchallenged. The Opposition attempted to compare the treatment of the Provincial Government of Government employees to elected officials, but Government employees are appointed in terms of labour laws, and politicians are elected, and these labour laws are the same labour laws that are implemented by the very same ANC National Government.

So, if we want better labour laws then the Opposition need to please assist us by WhatsApp'ing their national counterparts.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the member Brinkhuis indicated that he does not understand zero-based budgeting and that he wants workshops on the matter, but I think member Brinkhuis thinks that today is an IDP meeting, †want hy het niks gesê oor die *provincial* begroting nie, [because he said nothing about the provincial budget,] and, hon Deputy Speaker, on zero-based budgeting he attended the workshops of the Budget Committee. There were presentations on zero-based budgeting. He has the presentations. He does not even realise they are exactly what he is asking for in terms of a million rand per ward, it is exactly what you are not supposed to do in zero-based budgeting.

He asked the exact same question to the Provincial Treasury and the National Treasury and the FFC, and they gave him the exact same answer: †dit gaan nie werk nie. Hy val van die wal af in die sloot, agb Adjunkspeaker [it is not going to work. He is falling from the frying-pan into the fire, hon Deputy Speaker.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, when it comes to law and law-making, it is important for legislators to ensure that we do not duplicate legislative mandates. In respect to the Environmental Commissioner, the first and most important question we need to ask ourselves is does the current mandate exist within the legal regime?

If the answer is yes, and it is, but if the answer is yes, then we need to ask ourselves what would make the Environmental Commissioner mandate different to the mandates currently held by the Courts, by SAPS, by the Hawks, by the Green Scorpions, by Provincial and Local Government spheres? Should there be such a different legislative mandate?

Then the final question we need to ask ourselves is how much will this cost and are we able to spend that amount on it in comparison to, for example, education or even health budgetary constraints?

In these questions, in and of itself, it is not always easy to answer or as straightforward as one might believe, and even the ANC, during its term of the Provincial Government, did not want this particular office. So, hon Deputy Speaker, what is the difference now?

On the Children's Commissioner, hon Deputy Speaker, it seems that you are damned if you do and you are damned if you do not, if I am allowed to use that phrasing. The ANC wants to claim this office as a success of their party, but no such Commissioner exists in any other province other than the Western Cape. It is the Western Cape that has established this office and allocated budget to it. †Hulle moet gaan regeer in die provinsies waar hulle regeer. Hulle moet dit ordentlik doen en dan kan ons gesels. [They must go and govern in the provinces where they are in government. They must do it properly and then we can talk.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the reason why the ANC cannot brag about its successes is because there is nothing to brag about.

The Zondo Commission is riddled with stories of corruption under the ANC watch. At Transnet regiments received contracts without ever going through a procurement process with China South Rail, Transnet even changed the requirement that China South Rail needed a triple BEE certificate because they would have scored zero in this regard.

At SAA, the former chief procurement officer was instructed to sign letters for Swissport and Engen, amongst others, for contract renewal and set aside 30% of the contract value for triple BEE entities, which was not lawful or in line with open tender procurement procedures.

In fact, the corruption runs so deep at SAA that BidAir, a 63% black-owned company, was informed that they must set aside 30% of their contract, to quote, “an unspecified SAA nominated black-owned small business”.

In the City of Johannesburg, EOH received a heads up and confidential information whenever tenders went out and specifically asked to donate funding to the ANC before and after the tender. In this regard, the Zondo Commission established what they said was, “regular solicitation of donations coupled with the award of tenders.” This is how they lead us †van die wal af in die sloot [from the frying-pan into the fire.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, if you could just take your seat. I have a hand up here. Hon member Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, mine is not a point of order. Is the hon Deputy Chief Whip willing to take a question about the City of Johannesburg when Herman Mashaba was Mayor, because she seems to be ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no, do not ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ... placed in Johannesburg now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not tell us the context. Hon member Baartman, would you take a question?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am still busy replying to some of the other stuff that they have indicated, so I am not sure I will be able to get to the extra question. Let me first try to get through the other stuff.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, you can proceed. Hon member Sayed, your answer is technically no. You may proceed, hon member Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member Dugmore indicated that President Ramaphosa is leading this country and he is right, he is leading this country, †maar hy lei van ons van die wal af in die sloot [but he is leading us from the frying-pan into the fire.]

The ANC complains about unemployment in the Western Cape, but the Western Cape has the lowest unemployment figures in the country, despite the economy-destroying lockdown regulations implemented by the ANC National Government. We have 99% unqualified audits, the most in the country. This is the evidence. This is the data.

They complain about budget cuts, but the National Government is the government that decides how much money the Western Cape gets. So, the less we get, the less we can spend.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Opposition asked for detail on the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, but when the detail is given, it is ignored. The ANC thinks that money grows on trees. They do not know that if you have a cost study for a MER project it costs money. Technical expertise costs money. Supply studies cost money. Money does not grow on trees.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in the Western Cape we believe in accountability and because of this we allocate the majority of our budget to that which matters most. We value education, we value health, and we value our economy. The State is funded by the taxpayer through various taxes, be it income tax, VAT, fuel levy, and the beneficiaries of this, hon Deputy Speaker, are the people of South Africa, and in the Western Cape it is the people of the Western Cape, because it is the people's money, and the ANC National Government does not do us a favour in giving the Province money, it is the people's money. It is not the ANC's money, it is not even President Ramaphosa's money, who it seems hon member Dugmore, hon Deputy Speaker, is now #Besties with. He was also #Besties with the former President Zuma.

It is not Minister Godongwana's money, it is the people's money, and the DA will continue to fight for the rightful fair for the people of the Western Cape. I thank you. [Time expired.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank all participants, participants from Government; participants from the governing party, and of course participants from the Opposition, for their contribution to the Second Reading Debate on the Main Budget for 2022/23, and I would like to especially thank the hon member Deidré Baartman for responding to many of the points raised by Opposition members in this debate.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to respond to some of the points made particularly by Opposition members.

I would like to begin with the hon member Shaun August. The hon Shaun August says that this budget is a rehash. Well, this budget is not a rehash. Our budget to push forward is in fact a budget that allocates a massive R10,1 billion more over the medium-term. R6,1 billion to Education; R2,4 billion to Healthcare; R136 million more to Social Development, and R2,6 billion more over the medium-term to infrastructure in the Western Cape.

On the whole question of underspend, yes, we need to be careful to a monitor underspend, which is of course precisely why we will be providing bespoke quarterly reports on infrastructure spending performance to the relevant committees in the Provincial Parliament. But I think when it comes to education, we always need to be mindful of the fact that we are dealing with a big department with a big budget, and the underspending to which he refers amounts to less than 2% of the total budget for Education in the Western Cape.

The hon member Ferlon Christians, on the whole question of the pandemic: the pandemic, with respect, has cost 20,000 lives and almost 275,000 jobs in our province. It is precisely for that reason that we believe that we need to be prepared, and why we have provided the necessary funding, particularly to the Health Department, and that is why we have in fact gone beyond and provided for a reserve of R200 million in the Provincial Reserves, so that we can be prepared and ultimately win the fight against COVID-19 in the Western Cape.

The hon member Bakubaku-Vos is concerned about food relief, and contrary to what she suggests, we have in fact made a significant contribution to food relief, including R15,2 million in 2022/23; R15,9 million in 2023/24, and R1,6 million in 2024/25, to support our Community Nutrition Distribution Centres in the Western Cape.

The hon member Peter Marais, I must thank him for his compliments, especially to Provincial Treasury officials, who I like to refer to as our “behind the scenes heroes”, but I would also like to thank him for his unreserved support of our budget.

I share his views that we need greater investment, over time, in safety in our province, but I hope that he recognises that this Province, under the leadership of Premier Alan Winde, has done more than any other province, with a massive investment of R1,1 billion over the medium-term, to support more than 1,000 additional law enforcement officers to fight crime, especially violent crime in the Western Cape.

To the hon member Brinkhuis, I appreciate of course your passion to support communities, and I appreciate your idea that there ought to be direct allocations to the 406 wards in the City of Cape Town, but with respect, hon member, it seems that you have the wrong sphere of government, and I would suggest that you consider putting your ideas to the Municipal Council in the City of Cape Town.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, can you just take your seat. Hon member Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Chair, I rise on a point of order. Can the MEC please speak to hon member Brinkhuis through you, Chair? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you for that very significant and profound point of order from the Chief Whip, the Leader of the Opposition. I really am, hon Deputy Speaker, quaking in my boots.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon member Xego. He claims that the budget does not inspire. Well, I have to ask, this budget allocates an additional R10,1 billion over the medium-term to Education, to Health, to Social Development, to infrastructure, and if that does not inspire, I have to ask the hon member what will inspire him?

We of course are in agreement that we need to allocate resources to allow entrepreneurs to start up businesses, which of course is precisely why we have allocated R78,5 million over the medium-term to support businesses, particularly small businesses both in the formal and in the informal sectors in the Western Cape.

Then, the hon Nomi Nkondlo suggests that on particularly the Municipal Energy Resilience programme, that we provide too little detail. My concern, to be frank, was that we provide too much detail and at the risk of once again, being accused of repeating myself, I think we should go back to my original speech and I will share some of the detail with you, hon member.

The programme, as she should be aware, is now focusing on supporting foundational energy studies, including electricity masterplans and costed supply studies aimed at providing a technical and financial basis for energy generation procurement and, of course, trading and municipalities. The programme is focused on supporting pioneering municipal energy projects by providing transaction advisory support to ensure that projects are financially, technically and legally sound ahead of the procurement process. And, of course, we are focusing on supporting wheeling to enable the private sector to buy and to sell, and to trade electricity across municipalities in the Western Cape. I trust that that is sufficient detail on the Municipal Energy Resilience programme here in the Western Cape.

Which then brings me to the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition, hon Cameron Dugmore. On the investment: yes, we welcome the R1,2 trillion in investment, but of course, what the hon Leader of the Opposition does not acknowledge is that a significant proportion of that investment, of course particularly in healthcare and health tech, is in fact, landed right here in the Western Cape.

On the whole question of land reform, what does not seem to be of concern to the hon member is the fact that National Government owns about 726 000 hectares of land in the Western Cape. Of those 726 000 hectares, 132 000-odd hectares comprise of vacant stands and vacant farms with the value of about R1,68 billion.

So, when it comes to land reform and the ownership of assets, it seems the problem is that National Government is clinging to 132 000-odd hectares of vacant stands and vacant farms worth a value of about R1,68 billion in the Western Cape, which should be of concern to the hon Leader of the Opposition.

On the whole question of expenditure, the hon Leader of the Opposition remarkably claims that we are reducing expenditure on Education and Health.

He often accuses me of repeating myself, but it is quite clear that I am not repeating myself frequently enough and so, give me an opportunity to remind him that this budget allocates R10,1 billion more over the medium term, including an additional R6,1 billion over the medium term on education and an additional R2,4 billion on healthcare in the Western Cape.

The hon Leader of the Opposition also mentioned the whole question of inequality and the hon Bakubaku-Vos drew our attention to a report on the same subject by the World Bank. Of course, what is ignored – what is ignored by the Opposition is the report's recommendations on how to accelerate the reduction of inequality.

So, first the report recommends promoting equality of opportunity, especially by strengthening the provision of Early Childhood Development services. Well, we have allocated R3,2 billion to Early Childhood Development over the medium term in the Western Cape, so that we protect the rights of children and develop children in the Western Cape.

Second, the report recommends, and I quote:

“Addressing the highly skewed distribution of productive assets, especially by removing barriers to entrepreneurship and self-employment.”

Well, we have allocated R64 million to accelerate the ease of doing business and R288 million to expand the number of work opportunities over the medium term, so that we make it easier to start a business and so that we make it easier to expand a business, and so that we can provide work experience so that young people can get their first jobs in the Western Cape.

Thirdly, the report recommends enhancing the impact of social spending, especially by improving the targeting and efficiency of spending on Education and Health. Well, we have allocated R83,8 billion, including an additional R6,1 billion over the medium term to Education; R84 billion over the medium term to Health, including an additional allocation of R2,4 billion, so that we have more teachers, more teaching assistances and more classrooms and so that we can fight the pandemic, tackle the backlog in surgeries and deal with mental health in the Western Cape.

Fourth, the report recommends strengthening resilience to climate risk and economic shocks. Well, as I mentioned earlier, we have allocated R36 million over the medium term to the Municipal Energy Resilience Programme, which of course, will support municipalities to generate, and to procure, and sell their own power to build resilience and to withstand economic shocks like loadshedding in the Western Cape.

Of course, we can always do more, but it seems to me that according to the recommendations to accelerate the reduction in inequality, which are largely ignored by the Opposition, we are making progress in the Western Cape.

Finally, the hon Leader of the Opposition suggests that I am undermining the whole concept of the development state.

Well, the truth of it is that National Government and the zombie State Owned Enterprises that have consumed R308 billion in bailouts, is what is undermining and shattering the reputation of the development state in South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, finally, I think that it is appropriate under the circumstances to end with the whole question of the war of aggression in the Ukraine which, of course, is going to have negative effects on the economy in the Western Cape. When thousands of people are being killed, when millions of people are being displaced, when artillery shells are raining down on cities in the Ukraine, when Opposition members are being jailed, when protestors are being arrested in their thousands, when people who oppose the war ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... are being dismissed as traitors and scum in Russia, we have to ask ourselves the question: how is it, how is it that some Opposition members, some Opposition members spend their evening sipping champagne with diplomats from the Russian Federation and singing the praises of the Russian Federation. ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: It is a scandal and we are now ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We are now ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... a House divided with this side of the House opposing the war of aggression and some members of the Opposition on that side of the House, supporting the war of aggression. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: With this side of the House supporting open, diverse and tolerant societies and some members of the Opposition on that side of the House, supporting narrow nationalism, populism and xenophobia. With side of the House supporting ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Please, a point of order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... free markets and some members of the Opposition ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... on that side of the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Marais, what is your point of order?

Mr P J MARAIS: I just want a correction: This side of the House do not all support Russia.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. No, no, no.

Mr P J MARAIS: The Freedom Front does not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need any explanation, that is not a point of order. Hon Marais, please take your seat, thank you. Hon Minister, please proceed and conclude. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the hon member for confirming his position.

We have members of this side of the House supporting free markets, but some members of that side of the House supporting the development state, master plans, job reservation and localisation, and we have this side of the House supporting compassion and tolerance, and most members of that side of the House supporting intolerance ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... and often, hate, in South Africa. ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: So, hon Deputy Speaker, let us push forward by standing up for freedom, by standing up for the open, diverse and tolerant societies, by standing up for free markets, and by standing up for compassion and tolerance in South Africa because if we do not do it, nobody else will in South Africa. I thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill. Are there any objections to the approval of the Principle of the Bill? No objections?

Agreed to. The House will deal with the separate Votes on the 28th, the 29th and 30 March 2022.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

**WESTERN CAPE ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL
(2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR) [B 1-2022]**

(Consideration of Principle)

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I have been advised by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority had agreed that there will be no Speakers List. However, an opportunity has been made for the declaration on the Vote, for a maximum of no more than three minutes per party. I will now afford the political parties the opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I will start with the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Speaker, the ANC welcomes the reallocation of the Conditional Grant for the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant as another example of how the ANC National Government continues to prioritise service delivery and the investment in the infrastructure. We welcome our National Government's commitment to ensure our peoples' lives are changed for the better and how it leads in cooperative governance.

In his State of the Nation Address, hon President Ramaphosa prioritised investment in infrastructure. In his Budget Address, hon Minister Enoch Godongwana pledged the necessary funds to this investment priority as announced by our hon President Ramaphosa.

The ANC uses this opportunity again to appeal to this DA-led Western Cape Provincial Government to ensure that these additional allocations made to our Province by the ANC-led National Government, reach the people that need these grants the most. We commend where we must and so, we commend the Provincial Department of Transport and Public Works for identifying in particular, the road between Ashton and Swellendam, as well as the N2 stretch in the vicinity of Villiersdorp as the projects that this additional allocation is made for. However, hon Speaker, we must demand that these roads and transport needs of the poor in Ashton, Swellendam and Villiersdorp also benefit from the good roads that it will hopefully bring about. I thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS (FF PLUS): Hon Speaker, I want to salute, for once, the National Government for having given these extra funds. It shows there is enough goodwill for us to be a successful country if we look beyond which party it is, and look which citizen it is. I appreciate this money. I just hope that we will spend it where it is most urgently needed.

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, according to the Province's most recent Road Asset Management Plan, 73 percent of all surfaced roads have surpassed their design lifetime of 25 years. This is the result of cumulative budget cuts from National Government, which puts further strain on the road infrastructure and daily commuting of the people of the Western Cape. Even though this does not pose an immediate threat of general safety to our road users, it does mean that the cost to replace our roads' infrastructure will increase exponentially over time, if left unattended.

Hon Speaker, it should also be noted that despite those realities, the systematic approach of the Department of Public Works and Transport, coupled with its inhouse capacity and capabilities, have ensured that the majority of the Western Cape road network is still in good working order. However, the delayed maintenance of our roads in the short term will only significantly increase the costs in the future.

Hon Speaker, the National Government Roads Maintenance Grant is the primary source of funding for road maintenance in the province. While the Provincial Government does allocate additional funding to this, the dedicated grant funding supports governments in the costly exercise of maintaining our roads.

So, hon Speaker, despite the fiscal constraints and decreased allocation from the National Government, the Provincial Department has ensured that long term projects continue unhindered by smoothing out expenditure over the financial years. Whilst our good governance means that our roads still remain safe, the only solution is if more money is allocated through the Provincial Road Management Grant.

This is underscored by the recognition of the National Government of our ability to spend our money on road maintenance and infrastructure, by allocating the Western Cape an additional appropriation for the 2021/2022 financial year of R43 396 000. This is money that other provinces were unable to spend. [Interjection.] This much needed additional allocation will be used for the resealing of the Ashton/Swellendam Road R15 million, N2/Villiersdorp Road R27,7 million and Holgaten in the Garden Route. We welcome the Additional Appropriation and urge the House to support the Bill. Thank you. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon America, thank you very much. Hon members, that concludes the declaration on the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill. Are there any objections on the approval of the Principles of the Bill?

Agreed to.

**WESTERN CAPE ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL
(2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR) [B1-2022]**

(Consideration of Vote and Schedule)

Mr D AMERICA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I would urge the House and the parties present to support the additional allocation. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections, hon members, so Vote 10?

Agreed to.

**WESTERN CAPE ADDITIONAL ADJUSTMENT APPROPRIATION BILL
(2021/22 FINANCIAL YEAR) [B1-2022]**

(Finalisation)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I move that the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill [B 1-2022] including the clauses and short title, be finalised. Hon members, as there is no Speakers List, are there any objections to the Bill being finalised? No objections – agreed to. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill (2021/22 Financial Year) [B 1-2022].

The SPEAKER: The opportunity now, hon members, has arrived for us to say this Bill is concluded and therefore, it will be sent to Premier for assent.

That concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will end the session as it stands. †Ndiyabulela kakhulu. [Thank you very much.], †baie dankie, ek is baie dankbaar [thank you, I am very grateful] to all of you, hon members, virtually and those who are in the Chamber, and also to thank the hon Deputy Speaker.

The House is now adjourned.

The House adjourned at 12:33.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

FRIDAY, 25 MARCH 2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. Report of the Budget Committee on the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill (2021/22 Financial Year) [B 1–2022], dated 25 March 2022, as follows:**

The Budget Committee reports that it has concluded its deliberations on the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill (2021/22 Financial Year) [B 1–2022], referred to it in accordance with Standing Rule 188.

Having considered the Standing Committee's Report on the Vote in the Schedule to the Bill, the Committee reports that it supports the Bill.

Minority view

In accordance with Standing Rule 90, Al Jama-ah expressed its minority view that it does not support the Bill.

2. Report of the Budget Committee on the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2022], dated 25 March 2022, as follows:

The Budget Committee reports that it has concluded its deliberations on the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2–2022], referred to it in accordance with Standing Rule 188.

Having considered the various standing committee reports on the Votes in the Schedule to the Bill, the Committee reports that it supports the Bill.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

[Hybrid sitting held with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams.]

The House met at 10:00.

The Temporary Chairperson took the Chair and read the prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLING AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see p. 5137

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order hon members, good morning. Before we proceed: hon members, as you know our practice to date, as hon members will be participating in this sitting of the House both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table staff, and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid sittings of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

If an hon member of this Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, it is such hon member's responsibility to ensure that he or she has a good quality data connectivity for good quality audio and video, and that there are no disturbances. The hybrid system has been functioning well and poor audio and/or video are not attributed to this system, but rather the quality of data connectivity.

Hon members are at this point also reminded that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sittings and in this regard, I draw the attention of all hon members to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules. Hon members, we will now proceed to the Orders of the Day.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2-2022]

(Debate on Vote 3 – Provincial Treasury)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon House Chairperson, good morning and good morning to all the hon members who have joined us here in the Chamber this morning.

Last week, we tabled, as the hon members will know, *A Budget to Push Forward*, so that we can get up, so that we can get out, so that we can push forward and so that we can do even better in the Western Cape.

Today, we table the Main Budget for Provincial Treasury, in the amount of R321,6 million for the 2022/23 financial year, to deliver on four strategic objectives and those are to the:

Integrated Provincial Governance;
Efficient Infrastructure Investment;
Strategic Supply Chain Management; and of course,
Effective Local Governance.

Provincial Treasury continues to strengthen governance in the Western Cape through a:

Rigorous strategic budget process;
Integrated management information;
Improved audit processes; and of course,
Integrated assurance.

Provincial Treasury is leading from the front to strengthen governance in the Western Cape, which is why in the last financial year we had 84% of departments and public entities achieving clean audits, and why we remained top of provincial rankings when it comes to having the least irregular expenditure, and the least fruitless and wasteful expenditure in South Africa. Provincial Treasury works hard to support departments and public entities, and the results are testament, I think, to the strong financial governance in the Western Cape.

Provincial Treasury have developed a rigorous strategic budgeting process, which is focused, not just on the immediate spending pressures, but also on anticipating and accommodating future spending pressures and risks. Which is why our Fiscal Futures Project will evaluate the best options available to maintain the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Provincial Government in the Western Cape. And which is why we have allocated R1,8 million to better understanding the future fiscal trends to ensure fiscal sustainability in the Western Cape

To deal with spending pressures through proactive restructuring measures, we have established a Fiscal Transition Support Facility, which provides fiscal support for the once-off, upfront costs of investment in new service delivery approaches and technology that will achieve long-term savings and improved outcomes over time.

To support the implementation of specific departmental interventions that will achieve long term savings for the Department and improve outcomes, we have allocated R30,5 million over the medium term in the Western Cape.

While we are in a better fiscal position now, there is, of course, a question about how long this will last because there are very serious downside risks to the economic outlook in South Africa. Yes, we have been hard hit by the pandemic, but we do expect a gradual recovery, but of course, there are significant downside risks and provincial budgets are unlikely to increase in real terms, despite the huge spending pressures building up in provinces across South Africa.

A major risk to the South African economy over the last decade has been rising Government expenditure without corresponding growth in economic output and productivity or efficiency.

Which is why we will continue to conduct expenditure reviews to assess the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of selected programmes in the Western Cape.

To drive economic growth and create jobs, Provincial Treasury continues to support the efficient delivery of infrastructure in the Western Cape. The short-term benefits of expanding our infrastructure investment programme will include jobs associated with investment activities, while with longer term benefits coming from greater productivity and, of course, competitiveness. Which is why we have allocated a total of about R10 billion for investment in infrastructure in 2022/23 in the Western Cape.

To push forward and achieve ambitious infrastructure growth, we must invest in the preparation of infrastructure projects so that we have a pipeline of shovel-ready infrastructure projects in the Western Cape. Which is why last week, I announced that we will allocate R87,7 million through the Project Preparation Facility over the medium term with about R34 million allocated in the 2022/23 financial year.

To push forward, we must also get the infrastructure management system right, which is why we are now preparing to withdraw Provincial Treasury Instruction 16B which will make the Department of Transport and Public Works the preferred, but not the exclusive, implementer of infrastructure in the Western Cape, which of course, will bring much needed competition into the infrastructure space.

Of course, because committees of this Parliament play a critical role in monitoring infrastructure expenditure in the Western Cape, we will:

Provide consolidated quarterly reports on infrastructure performance, but not just to the Budget Committee, but to other relevant committees, including:

The Standing Committee on Education;
The Standing Committee on Health; and of course,
The Standing Committee on Transport and Public Works.

We hope that these reports will support the Committees to monitor infrastructure spending so that we can push forward in the Western Cape.

Supply Chain Management reform obviously continues to play a critical role in sustaining financial capability maturity, driving value for money, and strengthening compliance with governance requirements in the Western Cape. Which is why Provincial Treasury continues to support strategic procurement in the Western Cape by constantly evaluating our supply chains for opportunities to increase value for money, while also ensuring compliance.

To support and execute Supply Chain Management reform, the Provincial Treasury has allocated an additional R3 million the 2022/23 financial year, and a further once-off allocation of R1,5 million in the 2022/23 financial year for Supply Chain Management reform to drive value for money in the Western Cape.

Additional technology support will focus on the enhancement to an automated Procurement Planning Toolkit, and the enhancement of data processing and business intelligence capabilities to provide insight into provincial procurement and therefore, improve value for money in purchasing.

Provincial Treasury, hon House Chairperson, also continues to lead the way in procurement transparency by being the first provincial government to disclose detailed information about COVID-19 related expenditure.

We now: Publish a detailed monthly Procurement Disclosure Report; a detailed quarterly Procurement Disclosure Report; and we publish detailed annual Procurement Disclosure Reports on COVID-19 related expenditure in the Western Cape. This week, we expect to publish our twenty-first Procurement Disclosure Report on Covid-19 related expenditure in the Western Cape.

To push forward, and of course, remain the most transparent province when it comes to procurement, we will also:

Be exploring publishing approved procurement plans to provide potential suppliers with information about opportunities available to supply goods and services to Provincial Government;

We will be exploring publishing detailed information of transactions on more commodities; and

We will be exploring implementing our own dashboard system, for the disclosure of detailed information on procurement, to supplement the system already utilized by National Treasury.

Hon House Chairperson, Provincial Treasury continues to support effective local governance, working closely with vulnerable municipalities to manage risks and improve their financial stability.

A good example of this is the Financial Recovery Plan for the Beaufort West Municipality.

The Plan, which was prepared by the Municipal Financial Recovery Service at National Treasury, is the result of extensive consultation. The Plan adopts a strategic, focused approach which is time-bound and comprehensive enough to ensure that the underlying causes of the financial crisis are adequately addressed.

To achieve this objective, the Plan presents a phased approach to recovery, differentiating between issues to be addressed in the short, in the medium, and, of course, in the long term.

The Plan is divided into three distinct, but independent phases.

Phase 1, which is a rescue phase;
Phase 2, which is a stabilisation phase; and then, of course
Phase 3, which is the sustainability phase.

We anticipate that the Municipality can achieve a cash-backed funded budget position within three years, provided the measures outlined in the Financial Recovery Plan are successfully implemented by the Beaufort West Municipality.

Hon House Chairperson, in conclusion I am always so impressed by the professionalism, the dedication and the innovation of Provincial Treasury. So, I would also like to warmly congratulate one of our Provincial Treasury employees, Jenine Mostert, for winning a Gold Award for the 'Inspirational Support Employee' in the 'Best Researcher of the Year' category at the recent 2022 Batho Pele Excellence Awards this week. [Applause.]

Jenine Mostert has been instrumental in contributing to the now regular production of the monthly, quarterly, and annual procurement disclosure reports, which is the gold standard, we believe, for procurement transparency in South Africa. She has also been the lead team member who designed the dashboard for the procurement disclosure reports, which will soon to be launched by Provincial Treasury.

I would also like to thank the Provincial Treasury's Head Official, David Savage, and all the Provincial Treasury officials from Team Finance, for their incredible effort to deliver *A Budget to Push Forward*, so that we can get up, so that we can get out, so that we can push forward and do even better in the Western Cape. I thank you, hon House Chairperson. [Applause.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon member and Speaker for our session this morning. Addressing the 13th Nelson Mandela Lecture now almost seven years ago, the French economist, Thomas Piketty, said and I quote:

"The fact that inequality today in some dimensions is higher in South Africa than what it was 20 years ago in terms of concentration of income, is partly due to international factors which are not completely under the control of the South African Government. The international community, broadly speaking, has a big responsibility for the situation of inequality in South Africa, in Africa and the world in general."

I end quote. In turn, Joseph Stiglitz writes in his book *The Price of Inequality*, and I quote:

"Markets by themselves, even when they are stable, often lead to high levels of inequality outcomes that are widely viewed as unfair."

For Stiglitz, the consequences of not taming and tempering the markets are serious because within meaningful democracies, where the voices of ordinary citizens are heard, we cannot maintain an open and globalised market system, at least not in the form that we know it if the system, year after year, makes those citizens worse off.

For its part, the Provincial Economic Review Outlook for 2021 commissioned by this Provincial Government, states that between 2012 and 2020, the Western Cape Gini Coefficient increased from 0,60 to 0,63. In other words, a deepening of inequality in this province.

Hon Speaker, all of this comes in the aftermath of the World Bank report of inequality and the naming of South Africa as the most unequal society in the world.

Every single public representative must, therefore, be seen with the urgency of addressing this manmade curse. We must not become defensive nor denialist. We must acknowledge that inequality is explained by both Piketty and Stiglitz, is caused by unfettered markets and we must recognise that.

Based on the data, inequality indicates serious cases of race and gender in this country and province. Therefore, it becomes extremely challenging when a Provincial Government led by the DA, want us to deny a race. It becomes exceptionally difficult when a Provincial Government wants to deny that the people of Bonteheuwel, Elsie's River, Lingeletu, Kwanokuthula, Khayelitsha and Gugulethu are worse off today than they were in 2009. Yet, these communities are exclusively Coloured and African.

Damaging impacts of geographical inequalities in opportunity and income, are a critical discussion in today's political mainstream. Even worse still, we have an MEC of Finance who stands up in this House and in his Budget speech, no less defends the free market, free market condemned by international economist such as Thomas Piketty and Joseph Stiglitz, and a litany of literature around traditional economics.

This House, as elected representatives of the people, must be entrusted in the inquiries questioning the benefits, distributional consequences and pivotal interlinkages of growth strategies, with a wider socio-economic environment, which are never adequately specified in GDP accounts and/or GDP.

Where is the Fiscal Futures Project? Where is the Economic War Room to help us understand geographies of uneven development and inequality, their adverse and damaging impact to social and labour market inequalities? How do these help us explore any new scale of governance and regulation that can reinforce, rather than resolve the problems of uneven development and socio-spatial inequalities?

These are the questions that we need to be asking as post our economic recovery, post COVID-19 environment. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Provincial Strategic Plan 2019 to 2024 states that the country's triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment has a disproportionate impact on women with close to 42% of females living below the lower bound poverty line, compared to 38% of males. Even more so, the Provincial Strategic Plan declares, and I quote:

“The structural nature of our economy means that inequality is itself a major challenge facing our economy. This means that concerted efforts need to be placed on ensuring that economic growth is inclusive, both in terms of gender and other demographics, and is targeted at both the formal and informal economy.”

It is therefore concerning that this Budget Vote in particular, does not speak to the need to bring about mechanisms that will track in real terms, progress made in the fight against poverty and inequality in this province. We received an explanation from the Provincial Treasury officials on their ability to create data, but we have yet to see the real and tangible outcomes of this mapping and tracking of the success of this Provincial Government's fight against poverty and inequality.

Again, the poor of this province have become poorer in the last decade. That is the reality, but there seems to be no consideration from the Provincial Treasury to ensure that this increasing inequality or poverty is monitored and measured. In other words, what this tangibly means is that the word 'inequality' appears 32 times in the 2021 PERO, but only once in relation to the Western Cape. There is simply no readily available data on poverty and inequality in the Western Cape and if it does exist, this Provincial Government does not warrant it necessary to include it in the PERO.

We find it absolutely necessary to insist on budget performance measures that are able to track and map interventions made by this Provincial Government in the fight against inequality and poverty. Without this budget performance mechanism or monitoring tool, or tracing the interventions made by the Provincial Government, the hon August will be right that we are simply repeating the same budget year after year, and not necessarily ensuring that what has been done is actually having an effect on the ground.

On Friday, a member of the DA criticised the ANC for not giving concrete proposals and for missing the point when it sits on it. Well, here are two tangible proposals to this Provincial Government: make available the data you have on the interventions against poverty and inequality in this province.

Using your mapping and tracking, report to us how much of the provincial funds are going per month into places such as Manenberg, into Khayelitsha, into Mitchells Plain, into Kayamandi, into Kwanokuthula, Kwanonqaba, et cetera. Develop models and strategies for sustainability that will mitigate risk emanating from the international market, which has the potential to impact negatively on the provincial economy and that will likely deepen inequality and poverty, if not mitigated. We were told of these risks, but we have yet to hear of the sustainability strategies or models that will mitigate these risks.

In the light of this lack of reporting on poverty data here in the Western Cape, the ANC welcomes the envisaged quarterly reports on infrastructure investment and development starting in the new financial year. We look forward to contributing to these, ensuring that they become relevant to our communities and our people. As such, we ask for data regarding each skill transfer for the skills development per project.

Report on the participation of Grade 1 to 3, Grade 4 to 6 versus Grade 7 to 9, as per CID grading, so that we can see how, indeed, there is a distributional benefit of this infrastructure and catalytic project to actually contribute to this issue of levelling the playing fields and dealing with uneven development and geographies in our province.

Hon Speaker, the ANC remains deeply concerned that the Provincial Treasury indicates very little commitment to redress and ensuring that the past injustices are corrected. The reality is that long before the Constitutional Court judgment on preferential procurement, this Provincial Treasury and Provincial Government have rejected the racist determining factor in preferential procurement, even though statistics in terms of poverty, wealth inequality, income inequality, asset inequality prove that race is, indeed, a factor in as far as this phenomenon is concerned, even in this province.

While the ANC continues to also insist on local content procurement and the need for Provincial Treasury to espouse these principles, in the face of whether it is practical or not, we also note that the Provincial Treasury does not seem to be an attractive workplace for African women. We do not need to ask ourselves why, we know why.

The hon America, for once, is right. The under expenditure across this Provincial Government and in our municipalities must remain a critical issue for the Provincial Treasury. It is unacceptable that Provincial Treasury throws their hands up in the air when, for example, municipalities find it hard to access grants coming from National because of again, red tape. Provincial Treasury, as far as artificial intelligence is concerned, is so willing to teach National a thing or two and it must be willing too, to ensure that municipalities are able to easily access grants, especially when these grants benefit the poorest of our communities.

In fact, we are told that grants allocated for infrastructure development, in particular, infrastructure so crucially needed by our poorer communities, are being clogged in red tape and therefore, not accessed by our municipalities. The ANC will be following the developments in Beaufort West closely.

We note that the DA is concerned that Provincial Treasury does not commit the same mistakes that it did in Kannaland. Provincial Treasury officials acknowledged that the Court judgment in the Kannaland matter insisted on the leading role of the National Treasury and it having the prerogative. The hon MEC for Local Government must therefore heed the sounds coming from Provincial Treasury, and not get ahead of himself in thinking that he can commit the same misgovernance that he did in Kannaland, in Beaufort West.

The ANC will certainly be watching this space and liaise with its national colleagues, to ensure that the people of Beaufort West and not the DA, benefit from this intervention. As we have learnt from Kannaland, the DA, led by the MEC for Local Government who also happens to be the Chairperson of the DA in the Province, uses this intervention to score cheap political points and destabilise municipalities where the DA is not leading. The ANC will insist, as it did in Kannaland, that the DA-led Province respects the constitutional functions and integrity of our municipalities, as they would claim those under the DA and those not, including in Beaufort West.

Hon Speaker, the DA cannot just play around with our municipalities as it does and deal willy-nilly with them. In fact, already last year, the ANC raised the need for Provincial Treasury to develop methods in mitigating political interference and instability within our municipalities. Arrogant as they are, the DA-led Provincial Treasury did not deem it necessary to do so because they arrogantly thought that they would win all 30 municipalities in the Western Cape.

Well, on 1 November, they got a blue, bloody nose and now, we are sitting with at least ten municipalities, if not more, that the DA is continuously causing instability in because the people of those municipalities rejected them at the polls.

The instability definitely has an impact on service delivery and budgets. The Provincial Treasury only now sights this political instability as a risk, which should be mitigated. Yet, they can simply mitigate this risk by asking their DA political leaders not to cause instability in collusion-run municipalities.

The ANC remains convinced that the new Department announcement by the Premier remains a hollow one. The MEC was at pains to describe on Friday past, how he had spoken too much about the Municipal Economic Resilience Programme when, in fact, he is a year late. The Municipal Economic Resilience Programme was not announced in his latest Budget speech, it was announced last year and we had to wait a year for the detail he comes to present this year.

In the same way, we are told by the HOD of Transport and Public Works, that the developments in the new departments and reforms will only be affected next year and so, like the MERP and the LEAP, the people of the Western Cape will have to wait a whole year before we can know how the peoples' monies will be spent in the Western Cape.

The ANC rejects this hollow Budget and we are saying, as the ANC, we do not support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo, you are well within your time. Hon members, may I please ask: from where I am sitting, hon member Marais, I cannot exactly hear your conversation with hon member Brinkhuis, but your voice does echo to the front. So, may I please ask that you refrain from doing that?

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, sorry, are you saying that members in this House must be as quiet as a mouse?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: All I am ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: They cannot even speak to a colleague? Is that what you are ruling?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Marais, can you please take your seat?

Mr P J MARAIS: Is that why the Speaker should be.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: What I am saying is that your conversation is creating a disturbance in the House because if I can hear your voice, certainly other hon members can do so. So, if you wish to converse, you may do so, but please not to disturb the House. Thank you very much.

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Agb Speaker, die Vryheidsfront Plus ondersteun die Begroting se geheel. Ek spreek ook my dank uit teenoor die Provinsiale Tesourie vir hulle puik werk en neem kennis van die mildelike ekstra R43 biljoen wat voorwaardelik aan ons toegewys is deur die Nasionale Regering en Tesourie.

As die Oposisie vandag die begroting in sy geheel verwerp en dit sou afgestem word, sal dit beteken dat geen onderwysers, geen verpleegsters, dokters en polisie volgende maand hulle salarisse sal ontvang nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus supports the Budget as a whole. I also want to thank the Provincial Treasury for their excellent work and note the generous extra R43 trillion allocated to us conditionally by the National Government and the Treasury.

If the Opposition today rejects the Budget in total and should it be downvoted, it will mean that no teachers, no nurses, doctors and police will receive their salaries next month.]

Let us not elevate the rejection of budgets to a principle. It should be constructive and creative. We need to break with tradition and enter a new error of constructive engagement and new ideas.

†Ek wonder of LPPs besef dat sou die Begroting nie goedgekeur word nie, ons ook nie salarisse as LPs in hierdie Huis sal ontvang volgende maand nie. Dit sal beteken hulle stem teen die Conditional Grant wat die Nasionale Regering aan ons ook gegee het.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[I wonder if MPPs realise that should the Budget not be approved, we will also not receive salaries as MPs in this House next month. It will mean that they vote against the Conditional Grant that the National Government also gave to us.]

I hope that the hon members of our Opposition could break with tradition and support the Budget, leaving any reservations they may have for the inter-video vote that is to follow. Let us face it: the new South Africa is a failed project. Poverty eradication is a national fiscus responsibility. Provinces cannot eradicate poverty, that is a National fiscus responsibility. We need to establish the Western Cape as pseudo secondary public, if we are to save ourselves and our descendants from being ridiculed by future historians for repeating the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. I thank you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, hon Madam Chair. Hon Madam Chair, the core purpose of the Provincial Treasury Department should be to assist other provincial departments in the Cabinet to attain good financial governance. The Department's core function is administrative in nature, with 65% of its budget going into the compensation of employees. Moreover, this Department also has a duty to play an oversight role against other Provincial Government departments and to a certain extent, municipalities.

Hon Madam Chair, however, under their watch and every year, almost each and every department will spend less of their allocated budget and therefore underperform when it comes to their service delivery duties. All this is done with the aim of allocating these funds to the Provincial Revenue Fund.

So, what is the purpose of allocating budget, knowing very well that their core aim is for it to end up in the Provincial Revenue Fund and not being used to execute service delivery in communities?

Hon Madam Chair, the province has a housing crisis and instead of money being spent to alleviate the crisis, we will actually see budget cuts in the Provincial Department of Social Settlements in particular, with the rest of the money being channelled to the Provincial Revenue Fund. Moreover, we are also being told that the Safety Plan will be tackled with a whole societal approach in which every provincial department will be involved. However, it is hard to see contribution coming from this Department in that respect. Moreover, it is not clear how effective the role of the Department is in promoting good financial governance in municipalities, if the City of Cape Town together with other municipalities in the province, still experience irregular expenditure amounting to millions of rands.

Hon Madam Chair, the municipalities in the province also experience inadequate preventative controls on compliance and it is not clear how the Department aims to assist with that. For that reason, hon Madam Chair, the EFF will not be in support of this Vote. I thank you.

Mr G BOSMAN: Good morning, hon Speaker, colleagues and the people of the Western Cape. As we meet today, South Africa is currently struggling under the pressure of an uncertain post COVID-19 world, the international order has been thrown into chaos due to a war in the Ukraine and in turn, this has added to the uncertain environment we find ourselves in.

The people of South Africa are in deep trouble as the fiscal constraints caused by years of mismanagement of our national economy, are now making our lives a lot harder. There are vulnerable, desperate and destitute people across this province whose only hope is the work of this Government.

We are grateful for the *Budget to Push Forward*, a budget that allows us to continue our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic corruption free, a budget that allows us to help the Western Cape Government focus on the strategic priorities as outlined by the Premier in his State of the Province Address a few weeks ago, with a special focus on jobs, safety and wellbeing. A budget that allows us to continue to make sure that the Western Cape has the best frontline services, including those in health, education and social development.

This *Budget to Push Forward* allows us to spend more on infrastructure that actually grows the economy of the Western Cape. The vision of the Provincial Treasury is to be responsive and inclusive, and to enable positive change in the lives of citizens. They do this by building capacity in the public sector, by being adaptive, innovative and supportive through integrative management and partnerships that enable the delivery of quality services in a sustainable manner across the province. They thus ensure the efficient and effective management of provincial resources, as well as municipal resources, something that shines in a country where that does not happen.

The Provincial Treasury provides policy direction, they facilitate and enforce the management of provincial financial systems, and supply chain and moveable asset management systems within the province, as well as municipal spheres. This Treasury promotes accountability and financial governance within departments, entities and municipalities.

Hon Speaker, as we know, the Western Cape Government has been faced with unprecedented levels of fiscal uncertainty over the medium term and the Provincial Treasury is able to provide an agile, responsive and multi-phased budget process, coupled with efficient and compliance supply chain management support, and financial governance support that provide guidance and oversight to respond to the current changing regulatory requirements and to focus on getting good audit outcomes.

Hon Speaker, in this Budget Vote, the Provincial Treasury has an allocation of just over R321 million for the 2022/23 financial year. This funding allocation will go a long way in ensuring that they continue to play a pivotal role in ensuring cooperative governance across the province, by providing support and training to municipalities. By prioritising the upskilling and capacitation of local authorities, this Department helps local municipalities to continue to provide effective service delivery.

The ability of local governments to function effectively is an important priority for the Western Cape. We know it is not a priority for the ANC and the rest of the country. They have plundered local authorities and they sit here criticising our successes, and the programmes and plans we have in place to support municipalities. The support to Western Cape municipalities in the form of subsidies and transfers are to the value of over R21 million. This is an increase of more than 29% from the Revised Estimate in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Hon Speaker, this is the Western Cape putting its money where its mouth is. This support to municipalities will go a long way in helping the most vulnerable municipalities in this province. It will come as no surprise to the House when I say that the three most dysfunctional, corrupt and financially dire local authorities in the Western Cape are run by the African National Congress. This political party has mastered the art of looting, of breaking, and of making empty promises.

The citizens of these municipalities must now rely on the Western Cape Government to provide the most basic services. The support from the Provincial Treasury will ensure that this takes place because we cannot rely on the ANC to get this right. Hon Speaker, we read in the weekend papers that the ANC is as good as dead in the Western Cape. They are not able to even build three branches in this province.

The aim of funding local government is to strengthen their capacity to deliver services and a key part of this is to spend public finances in accordance with the legal framework outlined in the Municipal Finance Management Act. Thus, I am happy that the Provincial Treasury has increased the MFMA coordination funding by more than 35% because this is critical to ensuring that municipalities spend public funds appropriately, thus getting better audit outcomes.

What we also see is a redesigned Western Cape Financial Management Support Grant and the Western Cape Management Capacity Building Grant. These grants have now been consolidated to avoid the duplication that comes with the structure of conditional grants. This makes the awarding of these grants much more effective.

Over the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, nearly R17 million has been allocated to aid municipalities where conditions for such interventions exist, such as Beaufort West. Almost R9 million has been allocated over the MTEF to the infrastructure subprogramme to provide much needed support and capacity to municipalities, to support infrastructure development at a local level. This is key to also aligning the work of municipalities to the infrastructure programme of the Western Cape Government, as outlined by the Premier during SOPA.

Key to managing resources, hon Madam Speaker, and the assets, is knowing how to manage those assets and resources effectively. Thus, it is encouraging to see that money has been set aside for a project to review, improve and formulate an asset management system of governance and capacity building training for local government. These commitments in the budget are testimony to the commitment this Government has made to creating a local government system that enables our citizens to thrive, ensuring that we create jobs, build safe communities, and create an environment of wellness in this province, something we know the ANC wants to emulate, but they have not been able to get the basics right.

It is my hope that the interventions planned in the ANC local authority of Beaufort West will be successful because the only way to save this municipality is for our Provincial Treasury to use the tools at its disposal to get them back on track. The Department continues to prioritise research, analysis and planning. This includes giving us not just the Provincial Economic Review and Outlook, but the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook, as well as the socio-economic profiles for local government. The Department has completed research into the financial viability of district municipalities, and we are encouraged by the work being done to review the gambling policy of the Western Cape, which informs the development of a Green Paper on gambling policy.

The Department continues to guide and advise infrastructure procurement across the province. It monitors the infrastructure spending of designated departments and it has supported the Western Cape Ministerial Infrastructure Coordinating Committee, thus helping to improve efficient and effective delivery. The R87,7 million for the project facility for preparation of infrastructure ensures that infrastructure is, indeed, shovel-ready.

The practice of building capacity also works inside the Provincial Treasury, where the Chartered Accountants Academy has been allocated R5 million to make sure that more graduates are able to enter the public service, as well as the private sector. Thus, we are creating a pipeline of skilled and ethical finance practitioners. The demand for this Academy is growing and there are conversations with municipalities to ensure that this programme can also be of benefit to them.

Hon Madam Speaker, in the Western Cape, competence and capability thrives, but we know that nationally corruption and maladministration is the order of the day. I was dumbfounded by the irrational decision by the National Minister of Finance through the National Treasury, to suspend all procurement within Government, effectively, halting Government spending. I am glad that this panic decision has now been revised into an advisory, but still, it leaves a lot to be desired when the Supreme Court of Appeal, before the Constitutional Court judgment, gave National Treasury a year to remedy the 2017 Preferential Procurement Regulations.

It is important for the State to have certain principles by which it procures, taking into consideration that the beneficiaries of this procurement are the people of South Africa. Public procurement sets out the rules by which the State is allowed to use the peoples' money to buy goods, works and services. Our Constitution requires a public procurement system that is fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost effective, and that national legislation must prescribe this framework. In my view, the Constitutional Court creates an opportunity for provinces to draft their own Preferential Procurement Policy.

So, I urge through you, hon Madam Speaker, I urge Minister Maynier to take up this opportunity to again become a leader in public procurement, just as he has put the Western Cape far ahead of all the other governments in our country, through publication of State procurement for all to see in the Public Procurement Disclosure Reports.

Hon Madam Speaker, we know that public procurement is at the heart of the work of Government. Of the country's gross domestic product, 22% comes from public procurement. Therefore, it is important that we get it right.

The recent revelations at the Zondo Commission, through its report, has brought to light the fragmented landscape of which public procurement exists then, and it shows how preferential procurement has been abused within the procurement cycle. Justice Zondo outlines that evidence shows that the ideals of the empowerment were grossly manipulated and abused to advance the interest of a few individuals, and we can all guess from which political party those individuals come from.

But once again, hon Madam Speaker, in the Western Cape, competence and capability thrives whilst nationally, we face a sea of corruption and maladministration. In this Province, we produce procurement disclosure reports on COVID-19 expenses and with a now annual procurement disclosure report, you will find 67% of small and medium and micro enterprise suppliers have been supported; 60% of BBBEE suppliers have been supported; and 63% of suppliers within the Western Cape province have benefitted from COVID-19 funding from provincial departments and entities. They have benefitted, they were not robbed of.

However, despite the Western Cape over-achieving on the benchmarks and targets set by National Government, we are currently limited by a fragmented legislative environment. In 2020, the much-anticipated draft Public Procurement Bill was published for public comment by the National Treasury, with the aim of consolidating the current fragmented legislative environment in South Africa. This Bill will amend substantive provisions of the current BBBEE legislation.

In its current form, the draft Bill is very vague on various matters, these include the independence of the Regulator, electronic procurement, rules for local government procurement when they are repealed, and it essentially repeals, then centralises all of the power for regulating preferential procurement in the hands of the Minister of Finance nationally.

The Western Cape Provincial Treasury's comments on the draft Public Procurement Bill, a 255-page document, indicated in brief that in its current form, the Province cannot support the draft Bill. One comment on the submission sums up the concern that the Western Cape holds. The draft Bill loses sight of the point period of obtaining value for money in public procurement. It does not provide for any systems or approach on which value for money can be transparently assessed, relative to other procurement objectives.

Now that the Afribusiness Constitutional Court case has been concluded, where it was confirmed the unconstitutionality of the 2017 Preferential Procurement Regulations, the National Treasury has issued new draft regulations in this regard. The Western Cape Budget Committee has requested that our Provincial Treasury submits inputs regarding these new regulations.

The Constitutional Court has found that each organ of State is empowered to determine its own preferential procurement policy and the National Minister cannot make regulations that covers everyone. So, we are now between a rock and a hard place, with vague draft regulations and vague draft Bills, repealing or amending all of the procurement and almost all of the BBBEE legislation. It is being debated with an already fragmented public procurement legal regime, which favours corruption and nepotism over transparency and cost effectiveness.

So, amongst this turmoil, it is important to ensure price and functionality remain the most important factors within the legislative framework. After all, we are spending the peoples' money and in spending it, we need to ensure that we deliver services at the lowest cost closest to the people because that is how we alleviate poverty and inequality.

Whilst this will not be an easy task or an easy road to walk, it is up to each and every one of us to focus on achieving the values set out in our Constitution, not just fairness or equity or transparency or competitiveness or cost effectiveness, but a balance of all five of them.

With this in mind, I can say that as a province, we are immensely proud of the Provincial Treasury's Provincial Disclosure Reports which disclose COVID-19 procurement on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis. These reports are available for anyone to access the details of, to look at the procurement transactions online on the Provincial Treasury dashboard. Please show me another province that has this.

This innovation, in particular, speaks to the constitutional value of transparency. In a country mired with corruption scandals, it is of the utmost importance that residents are able to interrogate the transaction of the Province because this is

not the Government's money, nor the Provincial Treasury's money, this is the peoples' money and we are well on our way to manage the peoples' money effectively. This budget is key to ensuring that this practice continues across Government.

But hon Speaker, we must also make sure that the people of the Western Cape get their rightful allocation. The State is funded by taxpayers, be it via VAT, income tax or the dreaded fuel levy. It is the people's money. We are not getting an allowance from a buffalo or the ANC, it is our money and the people of the Western Cape are currently not receiving our equitable share. As resolved in the Budget Committee workshop, we need to see the calculations that make up the equitable share formula because believe it or not, nobody seems to be able to share this Excel spreadsheet that determines how we are able to fund services. It is better guarded than Nkandla.

In order for the Western Cape Government to continue leading the country in our world class service delivery such as health, we need to get our rightful allocation because as we know, hon Speaker, people move to places that provide them with opportunities and services. Migration into our province has increased significantly, thus putting pressure on our ability to continue to deliver services to the standards we have set ourselves. I therefore urge all members of this House to continue to ensure that our equitable share is achieved.

Hon Speaker, through you, I would like to advise my hon friend, member Nkondlo that she should read the rest of the Joseph Stiglitz' work where he actually argues that inequality leads to lower growth and less efficiency. He continues to argue that a free and competitive market is highly beneficial to society at large, but he cautions us in handing over control largely to the private sector.

But as we know and as member Nkondlo knows, through you, hon Speaker, in the Western Cape we have not done that. This Budget Vote actually incorporates key programmes that assist this Government to alleviate poverty and inequality. It monitors spending on key service delivery projects in education, health and social development and it includes clear programmes for infrastructure-led growth.

Hon Speaker, it is easy to count how many times a word appears in a document, but we should actually look at where money has been allocated. To see where money has been allocated to alleviate poverty, the hon member should just read the budget documentation.

Hon Speaker, I wish to congratulate Minister Maynier, the Head of Department, Mr Savage, and Team Finance for once again, delivering a Provincial Treasury budget that is actually something that can be held as an example. They have done this under a severe and a fiscally constrained environment. I would also like to thank the Finance Committee, as well as our Procedural Officer, Ms Adam, for their work in making sure that effective oversight happens. Hon Speaker, I can proudly say that the DA supports this Vote and I thank you.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon House Chairperson, I would like to begin by thanking the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, Gillion Bosman, for his response to many of the issues raised, not least his deep dive into the work of Thomas Piketty and his consequences for economic growth.

But there are some points that I would like to respond to, principally raised by Opposition members. I would like to start by thanking the hon Peter Marais, again, for his compliment †‘die puik werk’ [‘the excellent work’] done by Provincial Treasury. I also look forward to and support his concept of constructive engagement and the debate about new ideas in the Provincial Parliament in the Western Cape.

Hon Makamba-Botya: I think it is very important to understand that it is only because we held the line on our spending, particularly our spending on compensation of employees, that we have balanced, been able to balance our budget and are now able to allocate R10,1 billion more over the medium term, in order to support delivery, particularly in education, health and social development in the Western Cape.

Which brings me to the comments made by the hon Nomi Nkondlo. On the infrastructure performance reports, I would like to thank the hon member for welcoming our initiative to furnish committees with infrastructure spending performance reports, which we will commence in the 2022/23 financial year.

On the whole question of measuring the impact of spending, Provincial Treasury of course, does measure the impact of spending through expenditure reviews, which are designed, obviously, to scrutinise the effectiveness of spending on programmes and in fact, these expenditure reviews have been piloted on the Learner Transport Programme commuted over time, transfers to non-profit institutions, skills programmes and of course, Broadband in the Western Cape.

On the whole question of local content, we of course, are concerned about the impact of localisation on the prices of commodities, especially steel and cement in the Western Cape. It is precisely for that reason that we have allocated R2 million to put systems in place to monitor any premiums that will be paid for commodities, which have been designated for localisation by National Government in the Western Cape.

But hon Chairperson, I think it is important to realise that our concerns and our reservations about localisation are not confined to the Western Cape. Consider the comments made by Popo Molefe, Chairperson of Transnet, who said and I quote:

“Part of our challenges arises out of local content requirements. Our understanding initially was that local content requirements would mean that we should procure products that are manufactured in South Africa, but in its application, local content requirements have now included compelling State-owned companies to procure through middle persons who buy goods outside the country and then, put their own markup.”

So, and he says:

“Before you acquire equipment, you have already lost a significant proportion of your budget.”

The final point that the hon Nomi Nkondlo makes is the curious point of blaming the international community for inequality in South Africa. Now, in my reply to the Budget debate, I dealt extensively with the World Bank report to which she refers and I made the point that on the recommendations, for example promoting equality of opportunity and the provision of Early Childhood Development services where we have allocated R3,2 billion over the medium term, on addressing the highly skewed distribution of productive assets and removing barriers to entrepreneurs and self-employment. Here we have allocated R65 million over the medium term on making it easier to do business and support all, an enabling entrepreneurship, enhancing the impact of social spending, especially on education and health where we will be spending roughly R83,8 billion and R84 billion over the medium term and, of course, strengthening resilience especially in relation to climate change where we will be spending about R36 million over the medium term on the Municipal Energy Resilience Project to enable our municipalities to procure, and to sell, and generate electricity from independent power producers so that they can withstand shocks.

So, the Provincial Government is making progress when it comes to the kind of solutions proposed in the report to which she refers, here in the Western Cape.

However, it is not the international community, I am sure hon members would agree, that is causing inequality, but National Government’s disastrous management of this economy, which has resulted in stagnant economic growth and stratospheric levels of unemployment, leaving households with no income, which is precisely what is driving up inequality in South Africa.

Of course, hon Chairperson, to the extent that the international community may be driving up inequality, then surely, surely exhibit A must be the hon members best friend, Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation, whose aggression in the Ukraine is driving up petrol prices, driving up energy prices and driving up food prices, putting pressure on households and making the poor poorer, and therefore, driving up inequality in South Africa. I thank you, hon Chairperson. [Applause.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 12 – Economic Development and Tourism)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you House Chairperson. I am a double act this morning. Hon House Chairperson, today we table the Main Budget for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in the amount of R514,7 million for the 2022/23 financial year to deliver on five strategic objectives: accelerating the ease of doing business; boosting private sector investment and promoting exports; enterprise development; scaling up work opportunities and ensuring economic resilience.

To push forward we will spend R23,5 million in the 2022/23 financial year on accelerating the Ease of Doing Business, so that we make it easier to start a business or to expand a business in the Western Cape.

Last week, House Chairperson, I had the pleasure of visiting Shonaquip Social Enterprise, a local business which manufactures and supplies equipment to help disabled children and adults become mobile so they can be part of their communities.

Through the Ease of Doing Business hotline, the Executive Director of Shonaquip approached us for help with an outstanding and overdue payment owed to her business for goods delivered. Following our intervention, Shonaquip received the outstanding payment and was able to pay the salaries of 84 staff members and stay open for business.

Shonaquip is just one example of hundreds of businesses that our Ease of Doing Business Unit has helped to overcome inefficient government bureaucracy that is restricting economic growth. This financial year alone, the Ease of Doing Business Unit has dealt with over 600 cases and has maintained an overall resolution rate of about 88%.

And to build on the good work already done, last week, we launched the Western Cape Government's R10 million Municipal Ease of Doing Business Fund, which will provide capacity and funding support to municipalities to make it easier for businesses, especially for small businesses in both the formal and informal sectors, to do business in the Western Cape.

One of our major focus areas when it comes to ease of doing business of course, is the Port of Cape Town. We know that removing obstacles to exports is a critical lever in our strategy to grow the economy and create jobs in the Western Cape. We know that to become the most competitive region in Africa, we need the most competitive port in Africa.

While the Western Cape Government does not have a formal mandate or jurisdiction over the port of Cape Town, we could not sit back and do nothing. That is why we have created a Port Task Team, including key stakeholders and decision makers across the port logistics chain, to address the numerous challenges at the port.

A big part of the issue at ports across South Africa is massive capital under expenditure – which of course translates into a shortage of equipment, poor maintenance of equipment, which in turn has severe consequences for the port's ability to manage inevitable breakdowns.

Over the last three years, House Chairperson, Transnet Port Terminal's capital under expenditure amounted to R2,3 billion or almost 30% of its capital budget. The situation is even worse when it comes to the Transnet Port Authority with capital under expenditure amounting to R4,2 billion over the last three years, or 57% of its capital budget.

Which is why it is now time to privatise port operations in the Port of Cape Town. Because at the end of the day, when the port works, our economy works in the Western Cape.

Hon members will be interested to hear that I will be meeting Portia Derby, the Group Chief Executive of Transnet, later this week to discuss what is going to be done about the Port of Cape Town, which is frankly a disaster one, evidenced by screaming headlines in this weekend's *Rapport* which read: †“Tonne vrugte vrot weens hawe-chaos” [“Tons of fruit rot because of Port chaos”] and risks of course of the port compromising economic recovery in the Western Cape.

House Chairperson, to push forward, we will also spend R127,6 million in the 2022/23 financial year on boosting investment, trade and tourism promotion so that we attract investment, expand trade and scale up tourism.

Growing exports, primarily through trade promotion and the removal of obstacles to exports, is a critical lever in our strategy to grow the economy and create jobs in the Western Cape.

On Wednesday the 16 March 2022, we celebrated the one-year anniversary of the US-Western Cape Trade and Investment Promotion Partnership. The United States is a key tourism and business market for the Western Cape. The US was the Western Cape's largest export market for the first time in 2021. The United States was also the largest investor in the Western Cape and through our regular engagements we have seen the impact of this partnership in its securing of investments in the health sector, the tech sector, an increase in agricultural exports to the United States, as well as the significant growth in tourism from the United States to the Western Cape.

House Chairperson, to push forward we will: spend R41,9 million on the Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone and to push forward we will spend R39,1 million on the Atlantis Economic Zone. We are very pleased that after significant work by the Atlantis Special Economic Zone team and the Western Cape Government, the National Minister of Finance gazetted the Atlantis Special Economic Zone as a 3D public enterprise in December last year which at the end of the day, is good news we think for the Western Cape.

House Chairperson, to push forward we will also spend R23,5 million on enterprise development to support businesses, especially small businesses in the formal and informal economy in the Western Cape.

We will facilitate the provision of financial and indeed, non-financial support for small businesses, create an increased demand for small businesses products and services and support small businesses in retail, particularly in townships in the Western Cape.

We have allocated R17 million to the SMME Booster Fund to support interventions implemented by organizations and municipalities that are geared towards supporting small businesses in the formal and in the informal economy in the Western Cape.

House Chairperson, to push forward we will spend R96,2 million in the 2022/23 financial year for the coordination, facilitation and implementation of skills development initiatives.

To push forward, we will spend R32,9 million for Skills Development in the Business Processing and Outsourcing sectors. This will enable candidates to participate in a 12-month training and internship programme to obtain the necessary skills to be placed permanently in a job market here in the Western Cape.

We will invest in the development of competitive skills, particularly among young people, as a response to the persistently high levels of unemployment which has been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Our “Work and Skills” Programme incentivises companies to offer experiential work opportunities to unemployed youth. This work placement programme allows youth to gain experience first-hand, develop technological skills and gain softer skills such as teamwork and interpersonal skills that will make them more rounded and attractive candidates for any employer in the Western Cape.

House Chairperson, to push forward, we will spend R12 million in the 2022/23 financial year to diversify our regional energy mix and improve energy resilience in the Western Cape. Our Municipal Energy Resilience project is a bold and ambitious project to support municipalities to generate and to procure and to sell their own power so that we can beat load shedding in the Western Cape.

Pre-feasibility studies have been undertaken on five pioneering projects of which four are embedded in municipal networks and the fifth is a municipal pooled buying mechanism for larger projects. This work has involved detailed technical, legal, and financial analyses.

The focus is now on working with the municipalities in a phased manner to further develop the pioneering projects, including the provision of transaction advisory and other advisory support, to ensure that the projects are financially, technically and of course legally sound before embarking on any procurement processes.

The Western Cape Government is currently providing grant funding to 13 projects across 18 municipalities to undertake foundational energy studies. These include electricity master plans and cost of supply studies that are aimed at providing a technical and financial basis for increased penetration of renewable energy on municipal networks. This will help of course to unlock both private and public sector energy generation, procurement and trading.

We are also providing in-depth wheeling support to seven municipalities which is aimed at enabling private sector players to sell, buy and trade electricity across municipal grids.

We recognize that enabling the implementation of renewable energy at scale will of course require major grid strengthening and expansion and so we are working with both municipalities and national stakeholders to identify needs and to develop different ways of how infrastructure may be delivered and financed.

In conclusion, House Chairperson, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that Mr Velile Dube will join us as the new Head of Department of the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise from his long career in the private sector and State-Owned Enterprises, and he will join us and commence work as Head of Department on 1 May 2022.

House Chairperson, we will of course soon be saying goodbye to our outgoing Head of Department, Mr Solly Fourie, and I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and to thank him for leading the Department for more than a decade and contributing immeasurably to driving economic growth and job creation in the Western Cape. I thank you. [Applause.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me also just follow suit from where the Minister has ended to bid farewell to HOD Solly who has been with the Department for some time and welcome Mr Dube, as announced, to join and take over the reins from 1 May and all the best to him in that Department.

As the ANC, we would like to register that we do not support this Budget Vote and also within our right as a party in this Provincial Government within the constructive realm raised by other members from their standing of their own parties and position, that the ANC is no different in raising its own opinion, based on its views on this particular Vote.

As our country and province emerges from three years of suffering under the global pandemic, the ANC, in this House, remains unconvinced that this Budget Vote places the correct emphasis where it should be.

From the beginning of this Sixth Parliament, the ANC side of the House has sought to ensure that small businesses, and in particular those in the informal economy, remain its priority as far as the Economic Development and Tourism of this province is concerned. We believe that it is in these communities where the informal economy exists, that inequality, unemployment and poverty must be tackled. Instead, what we have seen from the ruling party in the province is experiment after experiment when it comes to this vital factor.

The emphasis and priority in this Department is placed on foreign investment instead of supporting domestic investment and cultivating domestic supply. I would like to further invite the MEC, and I think, our new Chair of this Committee, for further discussion and I am hoping also in the House so that we have got clarity about the understanding of the political economy in general but also insofar as understanding international relations, so that we can understand the varied inter-relationship and inter-connection between the international or global economy and domestic economies. It is very much a worry that at that highest level such new ones are really not understood.

It places emphasis and priority on Delta Airline flights and speaks to declare an inter-governmental dispute instead of attending to the legitimate concerns of taxi operators in this province. The Department places emphasis on big business and supports projects funding big companies like Pick 'n Pay more than ensuring the sustainability of enterprises in our townships.

And we are on record, as the ANC, having called for a balance between the investment and the efforts of this Provincial Government in ensuring business and international investment versus those that are emerging and small businesses. That is all that we are calling for as the ANC. Yet again, we have a case of lofty announcements and plans by this Provincial Government instead of implementing what they had planned.

For example, the Provincial Strategic Plan of 2019-2024, says:

“We will also reflect on our own internal processes that could be hindering growth and investment and will similarly work with the Metro and municipalities to cut down on unnecessary administrative burdens for business. An important area in this regard is examining where existing by-laws and beaucocratic systems could be hampering SMMEs, particularly in the informal economy.”

This is in the Western Cape, the Provincial Strategic Plan 2019-2024.

While the ANC welcomes the repurposing of the Red Tape Unit to the Ease of Doing Business Unit, let us also note that in his maiden speech in 2019, the Premier of this province, Premier Winde, said:

“We will also help to establish Red Tape Reduction Units in all our Municipalities and provide them with the support they need to succeed.”

This was said three years ago and now the unit has been repurposed, but red tape and a rigid and inhumane regulatory environment persists in municipalities against many in the informal economy pursuing their livelihoods.

We call for a changing of mindsets in the entire Provincial Government, especially with respect to small businesses and the informal economy, and such must start in this Department of Economic Development. A member of the public asked the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, during a debate in our Committee, how he or she could open a call centre and the response was a long-winded analysis of the sector instead of telling the person what practical steps to take in order to make the goal a reality. Eventually the MEC had to intervene and ask the person's details.

Another example is a question asked in the Standing Committee about the support given by municipalities to encourage small businesses. This question was also asked in the Standing Committee on Local Government. The answers received continuously referred to compliance, compliance, compliance, by small businesses and so the very units charged with cutting red tape have a compliance mentality instead of an invigorating and encouraging one, that brings some kind of innovation to enable businesses to try and especially small businesses in our municipalities.

They must strive to assist in establishing the small businesses at all costs and not only to ensure that the small business is compliant. These are two very different goals, and the Department is simply not getting it right.

The other response was on the digitisation that was achieved by some municipalities and the support to small businesses, yet one wonders if this was responsive to the needs of small businesses and whether the Department thinks this is important. In this respect, the ANC is worried about the time and resources spent by the Department in partnering with big companies such as Pick 'n Pay on their individual or independent market stores as they named them.

What was the theory of change behind this project? How did this project manage to secure R5 000 per store owner from public funds towards this venture, which is actually R4 million from the State; store owners that were supported by this Provincial Department? How was this project considered if you think of the CSI and ED elements of the BBBEE score card of Pick 'n Pay, that could have been sufficient as capital injection for this partner project?

How was the Competition Commission market study about the uncompetitive behaviour of the big retail giants, including Pick 'n Pay, factored in to consider how this model would move away from such behaviours? But also, how did this model not have a place in townships as the battleground of these retail corporates for the township markets as they changed their ventures between [Inaudible.] usage etc. and collapsing local enterprise capacity?

The Department informed us that five years later it has exited the programme to consider other interventions, and this is said against our caution repeatedly about the bouquet approach as a response to the township and informal economy in the province. As DEDAT exited this Pick 'n Pay market stores project, we must note that Gauteng Province when it started, also exited the programme. The MEF and FIFA are also no longer funding this particular model. The challenges of the operational model of this venture are not reflective of its responsiveness to local supply and demand needs. We shall be following the effects of this venture that have left some of the enterprises with huge debts.

After following this initiative that promised to revitalise the township economy, as lauded by the Premier when he was the MEC of Economic Development then, we discovered serious concerns as already two stores from the reported eight terminated their contract of operations under the model.

One was in Gugulethu and the other in Delft and the one in Delft actually just opened in 2019. Both stores are left with debt from loans around three million and above, and of concern is that one of the stores was operational for only 11 months and the project failed and the other, for only three years, four months. This is of concern as to what is behind the failure.

In our initial enquiries the response from the Department was to place the blame at the door of the store owner. This is against what we were told was a rigorous recruitment and selection process that all applicants of this project go through, including the involvement of communities to finally decide on the successful candidate.

In addition, the programme we were told provides constant mentorship and training to enable early warning on challenges for the business. We were also told that some of the stores that are still in operation also experienced tremendous strain particularly on internal matters and relational issues with the model. This includes issues of flexibility that allows store owners to respond swiftly to market needs from the township environments they operate in, some of which are not always part of the traditional operations of the formal retail giants and brands like Pick 'n Pay.

Since this model was said to be different to a franchise and called independent store owners, some level of flexibility and independence of decision making by the store owners was expected but the experience of the store owners leaves much to be desired, as some feel this model is as stringent as a franchise structure.

Again, the absence of a dedicated strategy to township economy, small rural towns and the informal sector remains a glaring policy failure of this Provincial Department.

In the last budget, R27,1 million was allocated to the DEDAT Enterprise Unit to run individualised projects such as this Pick 'n Pay Market Store Project, the SMME Booster Fund 2021 and the Western Cape Entrepreneurship Recognition Awards. These projects can only be used fully, and impact driven if embedded in a clear strategy to serve those markets that fall outside the mainstream economy. But it is our communities, our people and our economies that are experimented with with such patronising imagination. As if our people cannot run their own businesses. This Department lacks innovation or interest to use bottom-up innovation from these townships and rather decides to fund big corporations in trying to teach local and township enterprises how to do business.

Speaker, the ANC is often criticised for not providing alternatives by a governing party which does not listen to it, so again we hope that the DA members are listening when we point them to the ANC Gauteng-run Province which last week announced the Township Economy Bill. This Bill seeks to promote inclusive human settlements by bringing people closer to economic opportunities; develop a real commuter economy that uses taxi ranks and converts them into minibus and commercial districts; integrates unused land, abandoned buildings and forgotten industrial estates into township value chains and turbo charges the economic growth of the Gauteng city region and creates a new economic geography through the township zones.

The MEC for Economic Development in Gauteng, Parks Tau, said, "What is equally important to note is that this Township Economic Development Bill enables the Township Economy Partnership Fund to become legally binding for all future Gauteng governments."

He continues to outline that this "presents policy certainty and legal continuity to support SMMEs" which are the lifeblood of the economy. The Partnership Fund is an instrument to support SMMEs, through blending Government money with private sector money, working with smart platforms or intermediaries to run portfolios of loans to SMMEs operating in the township economy.

The ANC in this House will soon commence the process of sponsoring a Private Member's Bill on the Township and Rural Towns Economy and this is an all-round bid and more of a comprehensive response to townships and the small rural towns economy than the individual and bouquet interventions that are said to be supporting the township economy.

Speaker, this Provincial Government's own PERO, a document they seem to consistently ignore, highlights and I quote:

"The informal sector plays an important role in absorbing the relative lower skilled workforce into employment and making the labour market more flexible towards employers and entrepreneurs. In the Western Cape the African and Coloured population provide a relatively larger contribution to informal employment than to total employment."

The PERO goes on to note that:

"Between the second quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, the informal sector in the Western Cape gained back 53,2 per cent of jobs lost. In comparison, the formal sector recovered by 34,5 per cent."

It is however important, Speaker, to hasten to add that the ANC, a champion for the informal sector, does recognise the vulnerability and exposure experienced by those who are operating in the informal sector.

We will never encourage casualisation, but we do recognise the lack of access to healthcare benefits, pension funds, protection from exploitation and instability experienced by owners or workers in the informal sector. While on the one hand we encourage the informal sector, we dare not encourage the proliferation of labour brokers and casualisation. Our workers must be protected.

It was therefore refreshing to hear the hon Baartman applauding the ANC initiated labour laws in our country on Friday and encouraging us to encourage our national comrades to ensure more security for workers which is something that we always do, and we have forever done as the ANC.

Another proposal the ANC wishes to make is that we should have more funding ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Nkondlo, can you please finish your sentence.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Chairperson. In conclusion we know full well that the DA is not interested in respecting the constitutional competencies of the national and local government spheres when it comes to ports. For these reasons Speaker, the ANC cannot support this Vote. I thank you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Chairperson. The Economic Freedom Front in the Western Cape is shocked at the budget allocation of R517,7 million in the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in this province.

This budget allocation, Chairperson, does not inspire confidence when one measures it against what has been achieved in the province so far as the Economic Recovery Plan and employment opportunities are concerned. The provincial economy is not at the level where millions of skilled employees are working meaningful jobs and earning decent salaries. What we see daily are young skilled workers who are forced to take any job coming their way, with the aim of making ends meet and providing for their families with the little that they receive.

Chairperson, every year this Department boasts about the province having the least number of unemployed people when compared to other provinces which is basically a lie. The majority of these so-called employed people are actually people doing internships and some low paying jobs for call centre agencies. These are not the type of jobs that can change people's lives.

The provincial economy is still battling to absorb qualified graduates in the province. This Provincial Government, Chairperson, is failing dismally to absorb qualified nursing staff in clinics and hospitals even though these health institutions are experiencing staff shortages which affect service delivery in the province. This is so because the Government is guided by some irrational economic policy that it is not the duty of Government to provide employment but that of the private sector.

Chairperson, our people have still not recovered from the effects of hard lockdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in them losing their jobs and sources of generating income because most companies could not survive, and they closed down.

This Department should play a strategic role, Chairperson, in assisting individuals to create their own businesses and the budget allocation for the Department should be increased so that people can be assisted with funding.

We are all aware of what the Department has embarked on, this issue of the Township Economy Initiative by the Department through the Pick 'n Pay model. This was just another smart strategy to destroy the black economy. It was just a window-shopping and tick-box exercise to show that the Western Cape Provincial Government is driving township economic development, which turned out to be the opposite, as these Pick 'n Pay shops in the townships are in deep debt and owing millions of Rands to Pick 'n Pay.

So we are shocked by what the Department is doing. The Department, Chairperson, must not only preach economic development but must make sure that the emerging black farmers are allocated land and resources in order to farm and be empowered. The income gaps and inequality ... [Interjection.] [Inaudible.] colour. White people must also be addressed. I thank you, Chairperson. [Time expired.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Deputy Speaker, I support Vote 12, but Minister I wish to appeal to you, help us to preserve the Cape culture. You are making Cape culture increasingly part of your marketing the Western Cape. Make a project of visits to places where the culture of the Khoi, the Griqua and other indigenous peoples are displayed.

The Western Cape could be mistaken for a derelict Zimbabwean town, with Spaza shops and shacks on every open space, beggars at every traffic light. Who has utilised most opportunities in the informal settlement areas? Certainly not the original Western Cape people. Ask yourself Minister, who utilises most opportunities? Who is working in our supermarkets? Who is trading on Greenmarket Square? You do not find any of our people there.

No, it is Zimbabweans, Nigerians; they are on Greenmarket Square. They took over the Grand Parade. The only thing they have not taken over is the flower sellers here in Adderley Street. We are creating jobs for people from Africa's failed states but be careful we are on the road to a failed state and where are we going to run to? We cannot run to Zimbabwe, we cannot run to the Congo, we have nowhere to go, and we cannot even run to Table Mountain, the sea blocks us. [Interjection.] Cape Town is becoming a disaster, Minister. Look at our small fishermen at Hout Bay, look at our flower sellers, the garment industries. Make hawker stalls in the townships another feature in cooperation with the municipality. And look at the Grand Parade. [Interjection.] I thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you hon Chairperson. Hon Chairperson, the Western Cape economy has suffered from floods, fire, inefficient ports, crippling load shedding, a national economic recession, a global health pandemic and now a locust outbreak. As a young person I tremble at the age we are living in. It is almost as if we have been cast as extras on a biblical movie set but the director has not given anyone the script for the next scene. We wait.

In fact, who could ever forget the infamous flip-flop prohibition during the hard lockdown when the Minister of Trade and Industry banned us from buying open-toe shoes. Despite our provincial economy having grown by 4,3% in 2021, recovering 46 000 jobs in the third quarter of 2021, having created the most jobs in South Africa year on year – and yes, through you hon Chairperson, to member Makamba-Botya, that is a fact borne out in statistics – the Western Cape has the lowest youth and expanded unemployment rates in this country, our province certainly has not been exempt from the national economy destroying lockdown regulations these past two years.

In order to recover and bounce back, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, our jobs department, has focused on the ease of doing business; boosting investments and exports; developing enterprises and scaling up work opportunities and skills initiatives as well as securing the energy resilience of this province.

Three of the biggest export users are the Cape Town terminal who were assisted during this time to integrate their container dispatch data and map their logistics supply chains. This has prevented bottlenecks and the loss and value of cargo and as the Minister just reminded us, we have got fruit literally rotting in the Port.

In a province with the biggest agriculture sector and that contributes the most to exports, particularly in relation to fresh fruit and vegetables, these are items that need to get from farm to table as quickly as possible.

It is critical that we continue working together to decrease the turnaround time at the Port of Cape Town.

The work of the Department has decreased import duties on manufacturing imports; officially secured market access in China for the export of pears and they have unlocked the exports in the aquaculture sector. This has been done through truck booking systems; real time communication and the weekly coordination meetings that take place within the Department.

It is thus important to note and to welcome the appointment of the former Transnet COO and the CEO of the Transnet port terminals as the new head of Department and we welcome Mr Velile Dube and we hope that this will signify an increased focus on the breakdown of trade barriers and increase our exports and investments in the province. Welcome to the Western Cape, sir, welcome to the province that gets things done.

In the Western Cape, we believe in efficiency and even simply, targeted methods that can assist with the elimination of obstacles specifically in Government, very much like David in front of Goliath. The Department assisted four municipalities to automate seven business facing services that affect the construction industry including improvements in land use applications; a property development tool and heritage resources inventory and a heritage digital tool, thus speeding up development in local communities.

In tourism, exports and investments, we have further seen that Wesgro has facilitated almost R5,8 billion committed investments and 4 203 jobs that have come into this province. The Trade Promotion Programme facilitated 49 signed trade agreements with an estimated value of R958 million estimating in almost 236 jobs up until quarter three in the current financial year. Three outward foreign direct investment declarations have also been signed.

Chairperson, Rome was not built in a day but in the Western Cape we lay the bricks for progress every hour of every day, every single day of the year. And in building this foundation towards recovery of our provincial economy, the Department updated its draft ten-year tourism strategy, the Tourism Blueprint 2030, as this outlines the destination Western Cape's vision to assist the industry in recovering the 2019 base figures during 2024.

In December of 2021, recovery and domestic arrivals at Cape Town International Airport were at 66% of 2019 figures, slightly below the 70% target. The November 2021 recovery at International Arrivals at Cape Town International Airport was the highest for the season, at 38% of 2019 figures. In December this dropped to 27% but recovered to 35% on the 2019 figures.

The Get That Far Away Feeling campaign reached almost one million views on the Bali Tiktok video and our never-ending tourist campaign to attract UK, German and Dutch tourists, had reached one million views before the end of November and was chosen as part of Facebook's best in class globally.

In fact, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism won a bronze award from the National Government for its economic response to COVID-19.

One of the ways in which the Department has done this is through support provided to 15 tourism products across the Western Cape, through the Tourism Product Development Fund which leveraged R13 million worth of investment and 300 jobs in the sector in this industry. In order to restore access, movement and confidence we have fought for removing travel restrictions; improving airlift and reopening our cruise markets because the Omicron travel ban saw the cruise ship cancellations coming to this province.

We have developed and implemented an integrated Season Readiness Plan in consultation with Metros and with the districts and this has seen 300 tourism monitors deployed and 10 tourism law enforcement officers deployed in the City of Cape Town. We fought for unblocking delays in the UIF TERS pay-outs, and we have lobbied for a second round of tourism relief aid from National Government. We have also secured R18 million for the Western Cape through the National Tourism Infrastructure Maintenance Programme which will invest in the tourism infrastructure maintenance at the Cedarberg Nature Reserve, De Hoop Nature Reserve, Kogelberg Nature Reserve, Goukamma Nature Reserve, Wolwekloof Nature Reserve and Lookout Hill in Khayelitsha.

We have launched the Western Cape Business Events Support Project and Wesgro has funded 47 regional events in support of the events industry. The Department implemented a domestic campaign for remote working to build confidence in the Western Cape as the destination of choice to do business in remotely. It is thus critical that we introduce a remote visa for international travellers. International best practice shows that this kind of visa encourages long term stays and supports local economies and critically for South Africa, it can give the tourism and hospitality sector a much-needed boost for the recovery of jobs.

The greater good of our tourism and hospital industry needs innovative solutions that will lead true recovery and sustain growth in the future. Throughout the pandemic, remote working has become the norm across the globe and as more international travellers combine their love for travel and their work, South Africans should be throwing their doors open to welcome them. We need to see quick responses from National Government when it comes to administrative changes that could see real support for an industry which has lost one million jobs since 2018 and has suffered a decline of 70% from international travels since the start of the pandemic. We need to protect and claw back our market share as an accessible and affordable international tourist destination. We should be keeping pace with other countries who have taken advantage of remote work visa solutions and put themselves on the map. Countries like Estonia which has become a hub for digital nomads the world over.

As the mandate for immigration lies squarely at the feet of National Government, we urge and I repeat, we strongly urge the National Ministers of Tourism and Home Affairs to urgently respond to the proposal from the Western Cape Government. It is time for decisive and quick responses from the Union Buildings to support the tourism industry, not only in the Western Cape, but across the country.

The National Government thinks it can do whatever it wants without consequences and that provinces will follow its instructions with unwavering faith and the bravery of Rachel who patiently waited to marry Jacob after being cruelly deceived. In the Western Cape, we govern with open eyes, and we will not be conned into believing words that are not accompanied by actions.

As always, the Saldanha IDZ continues to perform as one of best IDZs in our country. Having concluded new leases, completed additional investor facilities, increased the occupancy of the Access Complex which is now up to 45% and continuing to achieve major progress with the feasibility of pre-financing work of the marine infrastructure expansion, that includes being profiled as a sustainable infrastructure development symposium of South Africa priority project, the SB IDZ Co-Lab facility has received more than 1 500 SMME visits and the High Schools Development Initiative has trained 18 local teachers in digital teaching software and skills for Grade 8 and 9 mathematics. The Project Leasing Facility aims to create more than a thousand jobs for 2021/2022.

Chairperson, the Atlantis Special Economic Zone company finally attained listing as a Provincial Government Enterprise in the past financial year after the request was gathering dust on the desk of the Minister of Finance Nationally, delaying investment and infrastructure growth in our province. This is a major milestone for the project as it can now unlock investment into the Atlantis Special Economic Zone. This infrastructure build programme was not allowed to commence until it was listed as a Schedule 3D entity, but the work to build Rome does not stop.

The Western Cape Government continued to focus on concluding infrastructure related work in the last financial year. This included the commencement of an investigation into the reactivation of the rail link between the Atlantis industrial area and the Port of Cape Town, a project that is likely to enable the transportation of goods for industrialists beyond the Atlantis boundaries. Investment in the existing ASEZ businesses, over the past financial year, amounted to R142 million with 50 new jobs being created.

The Atlantis Special Economic Zone will now activate its Build Programme for at least two investors in the 2022/2023 financial year to the value of R150 million. And it is anticipated that 225 direct jobs will be created in just the construction phase. Technical training in areas such as renewable energy; workshop operation; basic welding and competent assembly for individuals as well as support to science and mathematics education at High School level, will reach more than 120 individuals.

In support of Enterprise Development, as part of the Western Cape Recovery Plan, the SMME Booster Fund supported SMMEs in the Western Cape, growing and enhancing their sustainability with particular focus on rural, urban and township-based youth, people with disabilities and women-owned small and medium and micro enterprises. Ten organisations and municipalities were assisted to support 358 businesses. An aim was to create between 300 and 400 jobs. The project has been successfully implemented to date.

Further, the Western Cape Entrepreneurship Recognition Awards recognise and support the province's most deserving and inspiring high potential entrepreneurs. The 12 winners received both financial and non-financial support valued at approximately R1 million and thus enhancing the capacity of these businesses. The Long Street Kiosks enabled ten small and micro enterprises to access new market opportunities in the Central Business District of the City of Cape Town. And we also support the construction industry with contractor information sessions in conjunction with agencies and organisations such as SARS, Local Municipality and the Construction Industry Development Board. Workshops were held in Parow, Gouda, Villierdorp and George.

In terms of Skills Development, this Department has done one of the most cost-effective employment creation programmes, securing sustainable youth employment at an average of 30 000 a job. The Skills Development Programme secured more than a hundred million in leverage funding from private sector and other funding sources. More than 4 100 beneficiaries benefited or are benefiting from these Experiential Learning Programmes that provide a combination of structured, accredited or vendor skills programmes.

Experiential learning of up to 12 months and a Departmental stipend of up to R3,000 per month was being topped up by a further R3,000 by the private sector. The Skills Development Programme resulted in further employment, subsequent to the Department Experiential Learning Programmes of up to 80%. Because these Departmental funds are used yearly exclusively for stipends, the programme supported household income during the devastating impact of the pandemic on household incomes.

Unlike the unsustainable Presidential Youth Employment Initiative that simply gives us a once off money allocation, this programme helps to ensure that youth have options available to them upon the completion of their internships. The Department has also assisted entrepreneurs scaling up Spaza stores, and we were fortunate enough to visit some of the Pick 'n Pay supported Spaza stores in Langa. The Nozinga Market received a R250 000 grant from DIDAT and almost R3 million was leveraged from the private sector.

The Ndwamba Market received R362 million from DEDAT and almost R5 million leverage from the private sector. Something Nice received R171 000 from this Department and almost R3,1 million leveraged from private sector. We also saw Mbekweni Market receiving R650 000 from this Department with more than R4 million leverage from the private sector.

Thembe's Market, Nwabe's Market, the Lusikile Market as well as Wabo's Market all received almost more than R2 million from DEDAT with much more being generated from the private sector. This shows, Chairperson, that we do not only just support small enterprises and growing the informal economy, but we also make sure that we are able to leverage access to private sector funding as well.

On the energy front, like Moses parting the Red Sea, the Western Cape Government has clarity of vision with its Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative which aims to make the Western Cape Province the first load-shedding free province in South Africa.

This programme facilitates supporting and positions municipalities for the implementation of energy infrastructure development for economic growth and energy affordability. It aims to contribute towards the target of 500 megawatts of new generation capacity by 2025. Already a detailed roadmap for five pioneering projects in the candidate municipalities has been produced during Phase 1 of this initiative. During Phase 2 we established a fund to undertake the foundational work towards municipal renewable energy project implementation. This meant the establishment of a panel of service providers to assist the procurement of transaction advisory and other services that may be required for pioneering and other project implantation.

The Department also continued to drive the update of rooftop solar PV in the province, providing 20 municipalities with support and service around small-scale imbedded generation, wheeling and/or utility scale energy matters. So far, 24 municipalities in the province allow private rooftop PV connections to the grid with 19 of these municipalities allowing households and businesses to be compensated for feeding this back into their networks.

These efforts have resulted in the installation of approximately 49 megawatts of registered rooftop PV in the Western Cape in the first two quarters of the 20/21 financial year, representing R490 million worth of investment and around 120 jobs. Direct support was provided to 462 businesses and organisations on water and energy matters with more than 9 805 downloads of the four 20/21 Market Intelligence Reports covering energy services, utility scale renewable water and vehicles. These MIRs allow for the positioning of market players in the growing energy and water sector.

So, Chairperson, we know that this Government is able to deliver because it has a department that creates economic opportunities and through you Chairperson, I would like the hon Marais to join the next cluster visit where we will again visit programmes that support the development of tourism projects that showcase Cape culture.

The Standing Committee visited the !Khwa ttu Project on the West Coast where it was shown how through support from this Department, tourism innovation took place to share the culture of the Khoi and the San people by also showing how jobs can be created in a sustainable manner. Not only do we support municipalities to support local economic development growth, but the Province actually gets involved in directly funding some of these catalytic projects to enable our township economies to grow, not just in Khayelitsha, in Langa, but also in townships across the province. Because we know, we do not need just one Bill to cover township economic growth because in the Western Cape our townships are part of the Western Cape and not separate entities that require separate legislation.

Chairperson, once again we are grateful to the Minister and his team for their hard work that creates jobs to grow the economy of the Western Cape. I want to thank our Minister and more importantly also, thank the retiring Head of Department, Mr Solly Fourie, for his hard work and commitment to the Department.

We wish him well on his retirement and we welcome the new HOD, and we look forward to working with him and continuing the good work that is being done by this Department. Chairperson, the Democratic Alliance supports this Vote and I thank you very much.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Bosman and now in conclusion to Vote 12, I recognise the hon Minister.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Madam Chair?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Makamba-Botya?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Sorry to interject. I would like the House to note and put on the record that the EFF does not support this Vote.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Duly noted. Thank you, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, House Chairperson. Again, I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Standing Committee for his contribution. But again, I would like to respond to a few matters raised by Opposition members.

I would like to begin with the hon Peter Marais, and I would like to assure him, that we of course are committed to spending more on the marketing of the Western Cape. In fact, we have allocated R7 million more for the marketing of our province in the 2022/23 financial year. I will certainly undertake to pay attention to how we can showcase our very diverse Cape culture in our marketing campaigns to mobilise investment and to mobilise trade, and of course to mobilise tourism in the Western Cape.

Which brings me then to the hon Makamba-Botya. I would like to assure the hon member that our commitment to youth development and skills development goes far beyond and is certainly not confined to the R517 million allocated to my Department, or indeed to the R32,8 million allocated to the skills development in the BPO sector.

I would like to refer the hon member to page 171 of the Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure which cites 17 separate programmes traversing youth development and skills development, which are implanted across our province, and which have been allocated hundreds of millions to develop the skills and to develop our youth and I think demonstrate the very strong commitment of this Government to young people in the Western Cape.

Which then brings me to the hon Nomi Nkondlo. I would like to begin by recognising and thanking her for her gracious comments, both welcoming our incoming Head of Department, Mr Velile Dube, but also saying goodbye and paying tribute to our outgoing Head of Department, Mr Solly Fourie.

On the whole question of mindset, we are certainly very proud of the work that we are doing driving foreign investment and trade and the fact that we will be spending R127,6 million just in 2022/23 on boosting investment, boosting trade and boosting tourism so that we attract more investment, expand our trade and scale up tourism precisely because that is what drives economic growth and job creation in the Western Cape.

On the question of Delta Airlines, I would have thought that the member would have welcomed our inter-governmental dispute with National Government because there is absolutely no rational explanation to deny the application which ultimately is costing jobs because there is a simple formula, more tourists, more tourism jobs for people in the Western Cape.

On the whole question of red tape reduction and municipalities, I would remind the member that last week we launched a dedicated Western Cape Government Municipal Ease of Doing Business Fund and will allocate R10 million this year to provide capacity and funding support to municipalities to make it easier for businesses, especially smaller businesses in both the formal and the informal economy to do business in the Western Cape.

On the question of the Pick 'n Pay Market Store Programme; the Department has not walked away from the programme and in fact remains committed. The fact is that Pick 'n Pay is in the process of reviewing the Market Store Model which has been put in place in provinces across the country, including in the Western Cape. And of course, provided a new Pick 'n Pay Market Store Model is approved, we hope that that new model will be in fact be piloted right here in the Western Cape.

We are aware, as the hon member mentioned, we are aware that some of the existing Market Store owners are in trouble, and we of course are committed to doing everything we can to support them together with Pick 'n Pay.

[Business of the House suspended at 12:08 and resumed at 14:00]

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Good afternoon to our hon members, our guests in the gallery, as well as on the side of me. We will now continue with our Votes. Right, we are beginning with Vote 13. Hon members, I now recognise hon Minister Marais.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2-2022]

(Debate on Vote 13 – Cultural Affairs and Sport)

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Deputy Speaker, today I present the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's Appropriation Budget for the 2022/23 financial year, acknowledging that the 2022 MTEF Budget is premised on prioritising the recovery of our sectors by aligning it to the Western Cape Recovery Plan in the areas of Jobs, Safety, and Wellbeing.

At the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport we take our mandate of creating a socially inclusive, active, connected Western Cape seriously and have made great strides in our commitment to keep hope alive during difficult times. In the coming financial year, we will build on our successes; learn from our experiences and together with our partners focus on our priorities which include: creating a shared future and sense of belonging through collaborative efforts to forge social inclusivity and cohesion; offering youth a sense of purpose and pathways to become productive citizens and creating opportunities to address wellbeing by foregrounding youth and mental wellbeing and ensuring new operating models within the context of the new way of work and culture of the Western Cape Government as we proactively respond to the needs and demands of those we serve through cultural affairs and sport.

Deputy Speaker, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's budget for the 2022/23 financial year increased by approximately R37,8 million from an adjusted budget of just over R900,1 million in the 2021/22 financial year to R937,9 million in 2022/23. As the Department did not receive additional funding for the impact of the 2021 Wage Agreement, the Department absorbed the impact of the Wage Agreement at a total cost of R4,279 million.

With youth development at the heart of the Department's plans, we received an additional R15 million to mitigate the risk of youth disillusionment in the Western Cape, mainly brought about by COVID-19 and its consequential impacts. With the additional funding, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, through its Year Beyond Programme, plans to address youth unemployment by providing more than 3 000 young people with first work opportunities while they build their work readiness skills so to transition into studies or work. Linked to this allocation is an additional R2 million, to conduct a review of current youth programmes relevant to skills and employment programmes in the Western Cape Government and this will inform our priorities within the youth strategy going forward.

Deputy Speaker, the Department also received an additional R15 million for the implementation of Holiday Programmes in vulnerable communities to keep children engaged in productive activities during school closures. The aim of the Holiday Programme is to provide fun, engaging activities for children over the festive holiday break as a way of addressing the various risks facing children and youth, focusing on psychological, physical and educational aspects, while at the same time creating first work experiences for youth aged between 18 and 25.

†Dit is vir my aangenaam om aan te kondig dat 'n bykomende toewysing van R1,5 miljoen ontvang is om 'n uitvoerbaarheidstudie vir die toekomstige bestuur van die Kangogrotte te onderneem ten einde inkomste te genereer om toekomstige volhoubaarheid te verseker. Hierdie toewysing sal ook die geleentheid bied om 'n kosteberekeningstudie uit te voer om die hoeveelheid befondsing te bepaal wat benodig word vir die kort-, medium- en langtermyn instandhouding van die Kangogrotte en omliggende infrastruktuur.

'n Bykomende R1,5 miljoen is vir die kultuurfasiliteite in ons sorg ontvang om 'n haalbaarheidstudie vir 'n potensiële openbare-private-vennootskap by Melkbos Oppiesee Kultuurfasiliteit en Schoemanspoort Fasiliteit wat in Oudtshoorn is, te doen.

In die proses word die moontlikheid van 'n dubbelgebruiksmodel ondersoek wat beide die openbare en private gebruik van hierdie fasiliteite gaan inkorporeer. Die model sluit tans slegs openbare gebruik in en die potensiaal daarvan om groter hoogtes te bereik word beperk.

Adjunkspeaker, bykans R16,5 miljoen is vir die Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Argief toegewys om sy Aanlyn en Digitale Diensteprojek te implementeer om toegang en 'n kultuur van bewaring te bevorder, en hierdie mylpaalprestasie te bereik. Die befondsing sluit die verkryging van masjinerie en toerusting in om provinsiale argiewe te digitaliseer om aanlyn-toere moontlik te maak, wat voorsiening maak vir 'n wyer spektrum van toegangspunte, nie net in die Wes-Kaap of Suid-Afrika nie, maar ook na die wêreldgemeenskap. Ek kan met sekerheid sê dat ons die internasionale terrein gaan betree.

Ons gaan die totale toewysing van ongeveer R376,5 miljoen vir die 2022/23-boekjaar gebruik om voort te gaan om ons status as die voorste Biblioteekdiens in Suid-Afrika te verbeter. Ons het beslis die mees deernisvolle staatsamptenare wat die volhoubaarheid en uitstekende bestuur van die Wes-Kaapse Biblioteekdienste implementeer.

Die agbare Marais sal bly wees om te hoor dat daar tydens die proses waarin ons streef na taal-demokrasie, bykans R5,8 miljoen aan Taaldienste toegeken is om al drie die provinsiale amptelike tale, Suid-Afrikaanse Gebaretaal en die Nama-, Khoi- en Santale in die Wes-Kaap te bevorder om almal wat die Wes-Kaap as hul tuiste beskou, welkom te laat voel.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[It is a pleasure to announce that an additional allocation of R1,5 million was received to undertake a feasibility study for the future management of the Cango Caves to generate income to ensure future sustainability. This allocation will also provide the opportunity to conduct a cost analysis study to determine the amount of funding required for the short, medium and long term maintenance of the Cango Caves and surrounding infrastructure.

An additional R1,5 million was received for the cultural facilities in our care to do an attainable study for a potential public-private partnership at Melkbos Oppiesee Culture Facility and Schoemanspoort Facility, which is in Oudtshoorn.

In the process the possibility is investigated of a dual use model that is going to incorporate both the public and private use of these facilities. The model currently includes only public use and the potential of it reaching greater heights is limited.

Deputy Speaker, almost R16,5 million has been allocated to the Western Cape Archives to implement its Online and Digital Services Project to promote access and a culture of preservation and reach this milestone achievement. The funding includes the acquisition of machinery and equipment to digitise provincial archives to enable online searches, which provides for a wider spectrum of access points, not only in the Western Cape or South Africa, but also to the world community. I can say with certainty that we are going to enter the international terrain.

We are going to use the total allocation of about R376,5 million for the 2022/23 financial year to continue improving our status as the foremost Library Service in South Africa. We surely have the most dedicated public servants implementing the sustainability and excellent management of the Western Cape Library Services.

The hon Marais will be pleased to know that during the process where we strive for language democracy, almost R5,8 million was allocated to Language Services to promote all three the provincial official languages, South African Sign Language, and the Nama, Khoi and San languages in the Western Cape to make all those who see the Western Cape as their home, feel welcome.]

An amount of R5 million as also been allocated for major events to unlock economic and social opportunities on a local and regional level. This Appropriation will be informed by the Western Cape Events Forum (WCEF) following the Cape of Great Events Conference held earlier this month to explore events as an economic catalyst for the Western Cape.

One of the major social benefits of events are their ability to bring people of various cultures together, thereby building social capital which is important for social cohesion. This social capital is built over time after many years of consistent investment and being in tune with the needs of host communities. So, the events we support need to see themselves more than just events but rather part of a journey to build trust, cooperation and innovation.

To share some insight, delegates explored strategies around creating a more streamlined event ecosystem and going beyond raising the profile of Destination Western Cape. During the conference it was noted that from 2011, the Integrated Events Strategy has paved the way in providing a guide to decision-making for supporting events in the Western Cape. However, key outcomes of the conference included and is not limited to the need for the strategy to be refreshed, and that the roles of the public sector and that of the private sector need to be clear and focused to strike an optimal balance.

Together with academia and representatives of the private sector within the events and business events landscape, the conference indeed provided the platform to review and engage on strategies to maximise opportunities for recovery and growth, in recognition of events as catalysts for economic growth and social cohesion.

Highlighting the whole of society and whole of government approach needed to increase opportunities for all those we serve, the WCEF is an interdepartmental committee comprising of the Department of the Premier, Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), Western Cape Department of Economic Development & Tourism (DEDAT) as well as Wesgro: the Tourism, Trade, Investment and Film and Media Promotion Agency for the Western Cape. The provincial entities serve as the custodians of the Integrated Events Strategy (IES) for the Western Cape and provides a shared vision and shared ownership in delivering events in the province. The Cape of Great Events strategy aims to provide a single point of entry for event organisers to engage the Western Cape Government (WCG), build partnerships with the broader event ecosystem and increase the impact of events in the province, while seeking innovative ways of promoting events tourism.

Partnerships within the broader events eco-system to increase the impact of events within the Western Cape must be explored. A refreshed look at the Integrated Events Strategy will be necessary to consider better alignment of the role of the public sector as well as internal alignment between the various entities involved within the events space in the Western Cape. The benefits of sport and event tourism for the Western Cape's visitor economy are evident in the amount of support provided by all the entities involved. The Department of Cultural Affairs provides annual funding allocations to over 146 sport federations across all six districts of the Western Cape. In 2020/21, the activities of these federations contributed to an economic impact of over R8.8 billion per annum which translates to 2.2% of the Western Cape gross domestic product since 2012.

In addition, it was established that the sport sector supports 60 000 jobs in the province. The Department also annually funds art and culture organisations and practitioners, as well as professional non-governmental organisations such as the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra and flagship events like the Suidoosterfees, to name only a few.

Deputy Speaker, this was pre-COVID-19 and goes a long way to show in real terms that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's alignment to the Recovery Plan will contribute to increasing its economic impact.

Another successful conference, hosted by the Department earlier this month, to note, Deputy Speaker, was the 2022 Women in Sport Conference. A culmination of over two years of conceptualizing, including initial discussions with each district and different federations at the trilateral engagements, a series of webinars, changing our ways of thinking and doing, the Conference indeed made great strides to progress the agenda of women in sport in the Western Cape. The Conference, the valuable inputs from all those who attended, the discussions, actions and resolutions taken to develop the first of its kind Provincial Policy to safeguard women in sport in South Africa is the personification of this progress and for this we are eternally grateful.

One pivotal outcome of this Conference was the unanimous acknowledgement that for far too long we have been engaging on equality as if women are on the same footing as men, when in fact systematic and institutional patriarchy are still perpetuated in our society today.

As the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport we are bound as public servants to act for not only equality in sport, but equity. Following the Gen-xx presentation on menstrual cups to introduce the uncomfortable conversations and redressing that needs to take place, I concur that a period should end a sentence, not a woman or girl child's potential. I am then also proud to announce that through our Club Development Programme's Equipment Budget, funds will be allocated to menstrual cups and other necessities our women and girl children require to perform at their optimal best. I then also challenge all Cabinet colleagues, to advocate for Cultural Affairs and Sport, particularly for women, farmworker inclusivity and those living with disabilities on every agenda, on every budget decision, at each engagement with municipalities to appropriate the necessary funds, resources and facilities needed.

Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, evidently, in a dismal national fiscal environment, adopting a whole of society and whole of government approach inculcating collaborative efforts through sustainable partnerships is much needed to achieve our mutual goals to enable safer and cohesive communities through cultural affairs and sport. As the trusted partner of our sport and culture stakeholders, those affecting dynamic change in behavioural trends at grassroots level are our most valued partners and we remain committed to empowering them and the various structures through innovative assistance and interventions as the need and demand transpires.

As I said previously, under the visionary leadership of Premier Alan Winde, the Western Cape Government firmly believes that innovation is always on the agenda and I look forward to collaboratively embracing new ideas and always doing the right thing with competent integrity, always mindful of the people we serve through Cultural Affairs and Sport. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon MEC and hon members, I think through you, Deputy Speaker, let me first once more congratulate member Bans, and welcome her newly-born beautiful daughter, Azania... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hear–hear!

Mr M KAMA: ...as we wish her well before she comes back to do what she does best, which is to hold the Executive accountable. I think the first other point that we want to make, Deputy Speaker, is that it is our observation that there is a very abusive relationship between the Executive authority and the officials of the Department because the expectations that we have in terms of what this Department should deliver in the province are not backed by the sufficient funds for that to be realised.

The Department's total allocation for the 2022/23 financial year increased by R77,632 million from an indicative baseline allocation of R860,281 million to the final allocation of R937,913 million. While we welcome the increase, we remain hurtful and mindful of the need for additional budget. There is consensus amongst members of the Standing Committee that the budget for the Department is not enough. The Department's demands and changes in services, as outlined in the estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, as well as the performance target as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan, prove that the budget allocated to this Department is not enough.

The Western Cape remains the last bastion of racism and white privilege. In terms of the vision-inspired priorities of the Provincial Government this Department is interested with the implementation of Priority 6, Social Cohesion and Safe Communities.

It is this Department that should come up with programmes and policies to deal decisively with the demon of racism within the DA first, the Provincial Government and the province at large. Our people on the ground are growing tired of this Provincial Government's backward policies and are yearning for change. It does not make sense for the Department to continue providing a grant in aid to museums in response to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic when no similar provision is made for struggling artists and athletes. It will take years before these athletes and artists fully recover from the impact of this pandemic and some will never recover. It is for this reason that we are calling for continued support to the athletes and artists.

Deputy Speaker, Priority 6, Social Cohesion and Safe Communities, if implemented correctly, can go a long way in terms of promoting social cohesion and there must be more funding for this.

President Nelson Mandela continues to remind us about the power of sport that:

“It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks truth to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”

We need more funding to make this possible. The MEC must go to Provincial Treasury and make the case for additional funding for this purpose. The ANC will also call on the National Government to review the current Sport Focused Schools Funding Model as it benefits more the privileged who attend former Model C Schools that are inaccessible to the poor majority.

Deputy Speaker, sport play a vital role not only in uniting societies across racial lines but it also has the power to end wars and address crime.

Just in 2017 Didier Drogba ended a five-year or halted a five-year civil war in his country, Cote d'Ivoire, by scoring the last goal that helped them win a match against Madagascar. If enough resources could be pumped into sport in the province, then we could end the raging gang wars in the Cape Flats. We can silence the guns in Manenberg, Elsies River, Nyanga, Khayelitsha and Delft. The White Paper for Sport and Recreation 2012 highlights the importance of sport in efforts to reduce crime. This can be made possible if we can get enough investments for sport.

The R292 million for Programme 4, Sport and Recreation, is ridiculous and it makes a mockery of sport development and recreation. The total budget for sport in the entire province is a mere R69 million. The budget for school sport is just over R45 million. The allocation for recreation is under R20 million. This is simply not enough.

It is because of this kind of budgeting that we continue to fail our youth and promising athletes.

In the Standing Committee, Deputy Speaker, I reminded members of the impact of this on young people across the province. I related the story of a young man from the Cape Flats who had a promising sport career. He could not get enough funding to go to the National School Championships. Out of anger and resentment he gave up on schooling and sport. He later joined a local gang and was murdered by the rival gang. This is not an isolated case. There are many thousands of young people from poor backgrounds who suffer the same fate. This was well captured in the *Weekend Argus*' article earlier this month, titled "Cape Flats teen miss out on sport due to poverty." The article exposed how talented Cape-Flats-youngsters miss out of participating in sport because they are poor. It narrated the story of how a Hanover Park teen almost missed out of an opportunity to compete in the Western Cape in the Western Province Athletics Competition due to not having funds. Mr Peter Hendricks, a teacher and sport coordinator at Mount View High in Hanover Park said the 15-year-old boy was one of the thousands of youngsters from the Cape Flats, talented but poor, thus missing out on opportunities.

Deputy Speaker, we must laud local heroes like Mr Hendricks who continue to mould our youth from poor communities who are pushed into gangs because of lack of opportunities. To Mr Hendricks we say thank you, wherever you are, you must know that we are proud of the great work you do.

Deputy Speaker, in the Standing Committee for Social Development a question was posed regarding the Youth Development Policy in the Western Cape and the response offered was that this Department is responsible for its implementation.

In this budget there is an allocation of R66 million for youth programmes. The Department has said the focus will be on programmes that provide opportunities for dual beneficiaries and pathways into the world of work or studies for youth in the Western Cape. This is a new allocation and we must welcome and appreciate it as a step in the right direction. However, it must be stated categorically that this is not a Youth Development Policy, certainly not enough to address youth challenges in the province. The Western Cape needs a Youth Development Policy which will outline clear objectives for youth development, to respond to the growing youth challenges of unemployment, drugs, substance abuse, gangsterism and the rising Not in Education, Employment and/or Training (NEET) rate.

We are fortunate in the Western Cape, even in this House, Deputy Speaker, to have the former National Youth Commission Chairperson as a member. I think the Department and the office of the MEC can tap into the experience of member Nkondlo's advice on drafting and implementing a Youth Development Policy and not only rely on these stop-gap measures like the Year Beyond Programme. This Department plans to address youth unemployment by providing 3000 plus young people with first work opportunities. An additional R15 million has been allocated for this purpose.

While we welcome it in principle, we ask the Premier, the MEC Maynier and the MEC Marais if they think this is enough to address the challenges of youth unemployment in the province.

What about skills development for other young people and those who are in the NEET rate. We want this to also benefit people in the rural regions. It must not be used for the benefit of the City of Cape Town alone, like it has been the case with other programmes. However, members and Deputy Speaker, through you, the MEC committed in the Standing Committee that she will find ways to assist close to 1 000 safety ambassadors who have been fired by the Department of Community Safety. Not only are their contracts terminated, but some of them have not been paid their salaries. This is tragic and places the spotlight on these stop-gap measures for youth unemployment. While we welcome the effort to assist the displaced safety ambassadors, we also call on the Provincial Government to find ways of bringing sustainable programmes for youth employment.

We note the additional R2 million allocated to conduct a review of the current youth programmes relevant to skills and employment programmes in the province. We hope that this will not be outsourced to DA friends and funders who are consultants. The Department should have the capacity to do this in partnership with the Department of Economic Opportunities. Again, an emphasis must be placed on the need for the Youth Development Policy. Use these funds for that purpose only and not just a review of programmes.

Hon Deputy Speaker and members, Albert Einstein once said:

“The only thing that you need, that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.”

The budget for Library and Archives Services is reduced from R454,9 million in the 2021/22 Main Appropriation to R445,8 million in this budget. The budget for Library Services decreased from R408 million to R376 million. The Department’s Budget is not even half the City’s Budget for Library Services. In actual fact, Deputy Speaker, this budget with all the expectations that we have in this Department, the total budget of this Department is even less than what we spend on your LEAP Officers in the Department of Community Safety, and it is not enough to want to further reduce that of this Department. It will lead to further collapse of libraries especially in the poor rural communities. It is regrettable that the Department plans to close down a number of libraries in our communities. We call upon the MEC and her Department to stop the City of Cape Town from closing the Plumstead Library. This decision makes no sense, and absolutely no sense. The decision is not an act of provocation, but it is also an insult to that community. We know the crucial role that libraries play in our communities as spaces to access reading and studying. If the City finds it rough to sustain having the library in the current facility, surely it can be shifted to a cheaper venue. We wish also to take this opportunity, Deputy Speaker, to commend the leaders and activists in Ward 63 for championing this matter and we call on them not to lose sight and continue to fight so that we ensure that we protect the interests of the people of that particular ward to access libraries.

Deputy Speaker, we want an urgent implementation of the Traditional and Khoisan Leadership Act of 2019. While the Department of Local Government is taking the lead on this, it is disappointing that not much progress has been made in establishing the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders in the province. It is disappointing that this Department has not set aside funding to support the implementation of this Act in the province.

Deputy Speaker, the R5 million allocated for major events is cautiously welcomed but we need more resources to support grassroots sport recreation and arts and culture, and it is on those bases that we cautiously welcome that R5 million because we do not want it, Deputy Speaker, to just be spent on the big events without a substantial benefit to the grassroots level athletes and your sport young people. We remain disappointed that the budget does not make additional funding for sport infrastructure upgrades. Our sporting infrastructure across the Cape Flats rural regions, are dilapidated. The Philippi Stadium which was developed as a practice venue and fan park for the 2010 FIFA World Cup is one good example. We need a revised strategy for the implementation of the Municipal Infrastructure Grant for Sport and Recreation Infrastructure. We are not convinced that in the current form it serves the purpose. What we see is the unwillingness of the DA municipalities to also use this Municipal Infrastructure Grant optimally to ensure that it responds to the infrastructure challenges especially in the poor and marginalised parts of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker and members, I want to conclude by calling for the Department to provide more additional funding for the legacy project for the 2023 Netball World Cup. Many young people, especially in the rural regions, are passionate about netball but lack opportunities. I have been raising the case of the West Coast where there is a serious lack of netball facilities in poor working-class communities. We are aware of the funding that the Department gives to the whites only West Coast Netball Union but this does not translate into development in poor working-class communities.

The ANC, Deputy Speaker, for the reasons provided above, and the mere fact that we are not convinced that this budget would be able to address or respond to Priority 6, does not support this particular Vote.

Thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member, and all the best to hon Bans on the birth of her baby. I now recognise hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Whilst the Department claims that a large portion of their budget is spent on the provision of Library Services and the purchasing of library material, like the hon Kama has said, as the EFF we are also concerned with the decision to phase out Mobile Library Services providing services to 28 stops within the City of Cape Town. We are also concerned about the potential closure of libraries in Plumstead and Tyger Valley, which are proposed to close sometime in April 2022. The closure of these libraries will affect the elderly, the unemployed and the disabled, who depend on these Library Services. Most unemployed people do not have resources such as access to WiFi, which is important when it comes to online job applications.

Staff members from these libraries have been very helpful to people from low-income communities as they have been able to assist them with their creation of CVs as well as accessing other important reading materials.

Now people in these communities are forced to travel long distances to other locations in order to access library services. Some of the people merely depend on the R350 that Government grants for the COVID-19 period. Now they must spend this money on transport in order for them to access libraries.

Another issue that is concerning is the fact that the Department does not support and promote access to different sporting codes in townships. The Department just pays lip service that they support and promote access to different sporting codes in lower income communities.

However, such initiative is not even allocated a budget in order to establish facilities to that effect, similarly to schools in townships that lack these facilities. How will children in townships have passion in swimming, cricket, rugby, hockey, and other sporting codes, if they do not have facilities to train and participate and partake in such activities?

We are a factory of gangsters. We are a factory of seeing to it that we manufacture the criminals that are looming and roaming in our streets. It is for this reason that the EFF will not support this Vote, and we further appeal, also on the Premier, we have seen what he has done with the cycling tours and everything else, promoting of certain sporting codes that will never be found in townships and in that regard, we want to see him leading up the very same kind of sporting codes and promotion of such sporting codes in our communities. We must go to the people of Kosovo, Dunoan, we want to see him in Philippi, Marikana and other areas, which are part and parcel of his constituency, and stop hiding in the leafy suburbs, where he can be able to roam around as much as he wants without any potential upliftment of the previously disadvantaged. For that reason therefore, Deputy Speaker, we do not support this Vote. Thank you very much.

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Baie dankie, Speaker. [Thank you very much, Speaker.] Minister, you are so good that you have a multiplicity of portfolios – sport, culture, and even community safety, but sport is an integrated activity, not limited to a specific ethnic group, whereas culture is unique to one group, so the two of them must be viewed differently. It defines my identity as a person within the community and that is why I am making a call on you for recognition of my people, the Griqua.

†Die Griekwa, hulle was die kinders van die Hollanders wat hier gekom het in die Kaap en by die Khoekhoe-gemeenskap vrouens gehad het. Ons het getrek voor die Afrikaners. Ons het ons eie Groot Trek gehad. In hierdie boek het ek vir die Minister 'n kopie van gegee nou net om dit te lees - die geskiedenis van my mense. Ons het getrek en ons het grond besit. Campbell, Douglas, Delpportshoop, Prieska, Kuruman, Daniëlskuil, Niekerkshoop, Pella, Riemvasmaak, Kokstad, Philippolis. Dit was almal ons grond. Dit het aan die Griekwa behoort. Ons het ons eie volkslied. Ons soek erkenning.

Ons wil hê ons moet 'n wet hierso die lig laat sien wat erkenning gee in terme van die nuwe Wet van 2015, *Traditional Leaders and Khoisan Bill*, dat ons Wes-Kaapse erkenning kry vir die Griekwa-koningshuis onder Messelaar en vir die Griekwa Nasionale Konferensie onder mnr Le Fleur. Hulle is die direkte afstammeling van ons leiers Waterboer en Kok en ek vra dat ons asseblief ernstig daarna kyk. Ek wil vir u sê ons het selfs ons eie volkslied. Ons het ons eie volkslied, en as ons die reg kry sal ons ons eie volkslied graag hierso in hierdie land wil sing.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The Griqua, they were the children of the Hollanders who had come here in the Cape and had wives in the Khoekhoen community. We trekked before the Afrikaners. We had our own Great Trek. In this book, I gave the Minister a copy just now to read it – the history of my people. We trekked and we owned land. Campbell, Douglas, Delportshoop, Prieska, Kuruman, Daniëlskuil, Niekerkshoop, Pella, Riemvasmaak, Kokstad, Philippolis. That was all our land. It belonged to the Griqua. We have our own national anthem. We seek recognition. We would like to see us here create an Act that gives recognition in terms of the new Act of 2015, *Traditional Leaders and Khoisan Bill*, that we receive Western Cape recognition for the Griqua Dynasty under Messelaar and for the Griqua National Conference under Mr Le Fleur. They are direct descendants of our leaders Waterboer and Kok and I ask that we please look at that very seriously. I want to tell you we even have our own national anthem. We have our own national anthem, and if we acquire the right, we would like to sing our own anthem here in this country.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie, agbare lid.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Ekskuus?

[Mr P J Marais: I beg your pardon?]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Jou tyd is nou op.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has run out.]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Die Griekwa se tyd gaan aan, maar my tyd is seker op. Ek vra net dat u tog asseblief dat ons tyd aangaan. Dankie. [Tyd verstreke.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Mr P J MARAIS: The Griquas' time continues, but my time has probably expired. I just ask that our time must please continue. Thank you. [Time expired.]]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare lid.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem: [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

There are too few facilities within the reach of the people on the Cape Flats. Recreational facilities play a crucial role in the development of youth. Numerous researchers have revealed that sport and fitness centres, parks, libraries and cultural centres play a crucial role in keeping young people away from crime. Yet we find that libraries are being closed and one particular library in Strand has burnt down, but no allocation in this budget to repair that library is mentioned. A call is made to the MEC. Maybe the MEC can include the Strand Library that has burnt down in next year's budget.

There should be a greater call from the Province to the private sector to serve the needs of youth in the sport arena. Not enough is being done to stop youth from being part of recreational facilities due to economic constraints. The Province must invest more into recreational facilities for youth, ensure these facilities are well managed and a drawcard to the youth to occupy themselves with constructive facilities. Thank you, Speaker.

†Mnr R I ALLEN: Goeie dag, Adjunkspeaker. Ek ag dit 'n voorreg om deel te neem aan hierdie debat,

[Mr R I ALLEN: Good day, Deputy Speaker. I regard it as a privilege to participate in this debate,] †and allow me to formally welcome, I would want to say, good day, †goeie dag [good day], †molweni nonke. [Greetings everyone.] I might want to even go further and say †Molweni nonke, ngegama lika Yesu Krestu. [Greetings everyone, in the name of Jesus Christ.]

Because, like member Brinkhuis said, whether you believe in what member Brinkhuis believes or what others believe or even if you do not believe, it has been a difficult time. It has been an extremely difficult time for so many people and member Kama is right when he says that we need to continue to help struggling artists. So, I will appeal to member Kama, to please speak to National. Let us be clear that we are sending a message, the DA in the Western Cape, the ANC in the Western Cape is sending a clear message to National that our struggling artists should be supported. I firmly believe that the increase should happen, and I will get to my speech now. I have sufficient time this afternoon. So, I want to say that I wanted to see that we breached the R1 billion rand, but later on I will touch in that regard on what I mean. But I think it will be helpful if National's budget is managed properly. We have seen that instead of benefiting artists and sport people it has benefited a few at National. They are lining their pockets, which means that our artists would not be able to stand on the podiums. Our artists will not be able to do what they are excelling in all because monies are being lost or stolen.

Also, to member Kama, you rightly noted budgeting and racial divisions, and I was keenly listening to member Kama because it is a direct result of National's punitive measures that we put on sport people and put on artists in terms of quota systems, so we would want to appeal to member Kama to work with us. We would stand fully behind you, as we send a clear message to the ANC at the national level, but also, Deputy Speaker, I want to say that it is often said in sport, the more you prepare, the luckier you become. The more you practice, the luckier you become, and I would appeal to some members of the Opposition: read the Annual Performance Plan, prepare, practice, so that your contribution will be meaningful.

I will put that appeal because we want that from our artists, we want that from our sport people and they expect it from us as members of Parliament, to be prepared when we come here, so that we do not sing from the same hymn book year in and year out and not recognise the good work that this Department is doing. Those that are sitting to my left are doing amazing work ably led by Mr Guy Redman, and we have seen it constantly, constantly. So those that wear red, you often see red in the face of not ever supporting anything; not even supporting anything at the national level, but we do know they do not even support artists. They support no one. And we know they are only supporting themselves. They have a leader that is clear to only support himself and those that are close to him. So let me say this – last week the Provincial Minister of Finance, the hon David Maynier tabled *A Budget to Push this Province Forward*, and, Deputy Speaker, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in particular has seen the impact of the ongoing state of disaster over the last two financial years.

They imposed physical distancing, they cancelled events, the limiting of spectator participation – all of these measures, Deputy Speaker, have impacted the Department's ability to implement its far-reaching mandate. But this Department has also showed that it is willing to evolve and it is willing to re-imagine the present and the future and in doing so, we have seen that this Department has tabled a budget that will indeed push this province forward and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the Western Cape will move forward, but before I get into the detail of Vote 13, because many do not prepare, Deputy Speaker.

I believe it will be prudent to look to the past year, the loss of income and opportunities for the sport community together with the limited opportunities for those in the creative spaces, it has had a profound and lasting effect on the sport, arts and culture sector, like member Kama rightly indicated, but much of this Department's work over the last financial year has focused on mitigating these effects and ensuring that those who participate in these sectors remain able to do so, but let us firstly consider the after school programme.

The Department extended its programmes to no and low-fee learners across the province. The Department was able to professionalise the sector by upskilling practitioners and develop quality programme norms and standards in the sector. I have engaged a number of those practitioners and I am happy to report that the Department has been able to support 411 schools with various after-school programmes. This is an achievement which represents an increase of 165 schools, 11 more than what was originally planned, all because the Department planned.

Furthermore, these programmes do more than simply help and occupy our young people. They provide a safe space for our young citizens to grow and develop without becoming subject to social ills which would otherwise threaten them. Deputy Speaker, in terms of Community Safety, and member Kama touched on it, member Kama was in Local Government this morning. Member Kama, I saw you in Community Safety, so please allow me to also touch on a bit of community safety beforehand.

In terms of community safety, many believe that policing is the only answer. This could not be more incorrect. Preventative measures aimed at reducing antisocial behaviours such as these programmes, represent a crucial component of our efforts to keep our communities safe and to protect our children from patterns of gangsterism and crime, but by making sure that the youngest members of our society are able to grow and develop in a safe environment. This budget does that to move us forward, but secondly, let us further consider programmes under the Library Services, which came up quite a lot this afternoon.

The Department provides library services points across the entire province from the City of Cape Town, right to the smallest rural communities in our province. In the last year, the Department has gone one step further, and has ensured that the blind and visually impaired people across the province would also have access to internet and reading materials, free of charge. But more so, Deputy Speaker, I have visited one of these mini libraries for the visually impaired and I have been amazed by how this initiative allows for those with dyslexia, blindness, or limited literacy skills to access educational resources and to enjoy the literature.

Initiatives such as these ensure that the differently abled are able to push forward with us, but finally, Deputy Speaker, a multitude of other programmes seek to develop our citizens through the avenues of culture and sport. These include the Yebo Programme, which provides young people with experience and training in these fields and the MOD Centres, which we as a Committee have visited.

Furthermore, we continue the promotion of healthy and active lifestyles, lifelong activities and environmental awareness, and of course, Deputy Speaker, our young people are increasingly exposed to next level participation and talent identification through school leagues and the growth of our Neighbouring Schools Programme. But like I have said, I will take my time, because many have clearly not prepared, and I may also at this time say that I also welcome the birth of baby Azania or Azanya, and I may or may not be a godfather at this moment in time. [Laughter.] But these interventions, Deputy Speaker, together with the work done in terms of sport and recreation, school sport and club development programs, all play a role towards pushing our province forward.

Against this backdrop, I firmly believe that the Department will be able to continue and expand its excellent work in the coming year. I am sure that many in this House, as well as those in the Department would have liked to see the Department reach the R1 billion allocation for the financial year. Believe me, I do.

However, I welcome the R937 913 000 allocated. This is an increase of over R37 million or 4,2% from the estimate contained in last year's budget. I will go through a list and clearly state that each and every programme has increased from programme one, Administration, Cultural Affairs, Library and Archives Services and Sport and Recreation, all increased.

But, Deputy Speaker, but like I have mentioned the previous year will allow the Department to push forward with the new financial year. With this the Department's budget is still influenced by the COVID-19 recovery, which is aligned to the Western Cape Recovery Plan. The "how we push forward" excites me as this Department, despite the effects of COVID-19, remains committed to their vision. That is why they are even here today as a senior management, and this is to encourage excellence and inclusiveness in sport and culture through the effective, efficient and sustainable use of its resources because even with less than a billion rand if you spend the money correctly, you will be able to see the value.

†Wat baat dit, ons het R10 biljoen maar ons spandeer nie die geld reg nie? [What is the point, we have R10 billion but we do not spend the money correctly?]

So, we would want National to spend the money correctly so that the Western Cape can also be reached in that regard. The Western Cape is not an island, National need to play their role. Imagine three people living in the same house, for example member Kama, member Mackenzie and member Dan Plato are all living in the same house and at this particular house each one of them have a responsibility. Member Kama is responsible for utilities. Member Plato is responsible for food and member Mackenzie is responsible for the rent. If one of them does not bring their share, if one of them steal – I do not know who will steal. [Laughter.] But I doubt anyone in this House would want to steal, because we have fostered valuable relationships. So, I do not think any of those members would want to steal, but if one of them does not bring the share it is going to cause friction in the household. The electricity will be switched off. Lack of opportunities will present itself, all because one did not play his role. So, when we talk about the City of Cape Town as a sphere of Government, they are bringing their part. When we talk about the Western Cape Government, we are bringing our part to push this province forward. But when we talk about the ANC at the national level, needing to play the role, †niks maak nie! [does nothing!]

So that is why we would want the House, if you want to call a caravan "house" because we are on the move and we are pushing forward or whatever we want to call it, it is to the benefit of everyone in our province.

Deputy Speaker, if I consider youth unemployment, in our province and in South Africa, we all know that it has skyrocketed in the country. And to move forward, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport will continue to champion three important economic sectors, namely Sport, the Creative Arts sector and the Culture sector, which together create a substantial amount of jobs and work opportunities.

But let me pause there quickly. We have always been clear, in terms of creating those work opportunities. It is never ever to keep any young person stuck in one of those job opportunities. That can never be because we would want to see people excel, those are created so that people get experience, they are exposed to work, and they are finding their feet so that they do become more employable.

So it is never to keep someone only in Sub A or in Sub B, but it is always to strive for excellence always to push forward, because that is why DCAS is also the champion for youth development and has woven addressing the needs of the Not in Education, Employment and/or Training (NEET) into several of its programmes, and for those that have not prepared, allow me to take my time, because in a soccer match, you would want to enjoy the game. You would want to take your time because people are listening. There are people that pay attention to what we do in the Western Cape, all because we are mostly measured at a different standard, and because of that, we know that we need to do so much more. We know that we need to not only pull up our socks, but we need to do and do and do and that is what we are willing to do basically. So for those that did not prepare, funding public library staff and creating jobs through the upgrading and building of new libraries, member Brinkhuis, during the Committee meeting when you mentioned the Strand Library, that was ventilated and addressed in the Committee and I am looking forward to getting that feedback from the Department so that we can send it on to all the members and address that particular issue. But also the Department is contributing to the creation of opportunities for growth and jobs by facilitating the rollout of broadband and expansion of free internet connectivity and technology resources in public libraries in rural communities, so not only the City of Cape Town, but each and every community here in the Western Cape because we know libraries provide job seekers with opportunities to create their CVs on computers, look for jobs in newspapers and online and do online applications. Also, we know that public libraries also provide computer and internet access points used by small business entrepreneurs for developing business plans, accessing tenders and other administrative duties.

Furthermore, there are work opportunities that are created through the establishment of new interpretation centres and sites linked to the Cradle of Human Culture Tourism Route.

Deputy Speaker, furthermore, to empower people, the Department provides platforms and training to give communities a voice and with its libraries, oral history, arts and youth programmes it empowers people stories by also providing education. For those in the sport and in the arts sector, DCAS provides exposure and a pathway to mastery. DCAS focuses on youth through programmes such as the MOD Centres and the Year Beyond provides them with a sense of purpose, dreams and future.

I would be more than happy to share some of those bullet points that I have here for those that have not prepared, so I will skip that one part to get to the juicy bit, and I know many will be wanting to clap hands, but before you get there, member Kama, let me go.

Deputy Speaker, through its Mobility and Spatial Transformation Priority the Department is present in every town in this province. For example, social infrastructure such as libraries, sport facilities and museums and archives, so we do know, and even the previous HOD said to us as a Committee that DCAS touches every fabric of society, and we have seen that so we would want that to continue as a Committee and see that the good work continues.

But, Deputy Speaker, again, like I have mentioned, this budget is aligned to the Western Cape Recovery Plan and this is how the Department will contribute to the COVID-19 Recovery Plan by promoting jobs recovery to the ease of doing business by the Heritage Western Cape, and by providing work opportunities through Year Beyond and the EPWP. But also by prioritising wellbeing recovery by building a culture of citizenship, service and community with the focus on young people, volunteerism, safety and jobs, supporting the first 1000 days and ECD interventions and promoting physical, emotional and spiritual wellness through nutrition, exercise and physio support across all ages.

But, Deputy Speaker, in closing, I wish to further highlight that the Year Beyond Programme aims to give more than 1000 young people between the ages of 18 and 25 their first work opportunity in order to address youth unemployment; an additional R15 million has been allocated to this program, as well as an additional R2 million to review current youth programmes in our province.

Furthermore, R15 million has been allocated for holiday programmes, which keep vulnerable young people occupied during school closures. Also, the Department will continue to expand the Western Cape Community Arts Centre Programme. This excites me because I know with a limited budget we do continue to push forward. The Cultural Centres, as mentioned by the Minister, in Melkbos, Oppiesee and Schoemanspoort are being assessed for their viability for private use. These assessments are being undertaken at a cost of R1,5 million, but, Deputy Speaker, this cost will be recouped, as I have no doubt that the private use of these facilities will contribute towards the fiscus.

Furthermore, the Museums and Heritage Western Cape will continue to receive funding from the Department, and I can go on and on and share this once I am done. But in my second closing, Deputy Speaker, and as I mentioned earlier, that I would have liked the Department to reach the R1 billion allocated amount, and although we are close this budget will allow for those in the various sectors to work their magic, to reach those milestones, to break those records to represent our country and to create and to ultimately see a return on investment, which will be way, way above the R1 billion rand mark.

So, Deputy Speaker, hereby again, I wish to express my support for the Vote and ensure that the residents of the Western Cape, including those that were invited by the Opposition to continue, and that we will continue our rigorous oversight over the Department. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. †Dankie vir elke lid wat deelgeneem het. [Thank you to every member who had participated.] Thank you for your contribution. I really appreciate your input, your constructive criticism. It all makes the Department better.

Thank you, Chairperson Reagen Allen, hon Reagen Allen, †vir u leiding en konstruktiewe oorsig [for your leadership and constructive oversight.] Then my sincere appreciation to HOD Redman and our team, your team, and our entire Department for your dedication to provide world-class services to our communities under trying circumstances and thank you for your patience in the Chamber today. I really appreciate that.

Then I am going to say, member Xego, have you ever heard of Nicholas Dlamini? That is all that I am going to ask. We developed the 16 National Priority Codes over the province.

†Dan, agbare Marais, baie dankie dat u so passievol is oor u Griekwa-wees en ek wil net noem, ek wil dit nou net kry, wat ons sal moet kyk na Nasionaal, en ek gaan dit in Engels vir jou lees.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Then hon Marais, thank you for being so passionate about your Griqua ancestry and I just want to mention, I just want to get it, that we will have to look at National, and I'm going to read it to you in English.]

“Provincial constitutions are guided by the National Constitution and may not be inconsistent with it as per Section 104.1. For the Griqua to be in a Provincial Constitution a guideline must be sought from National so that it is not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Republic. We will seek advice from the Constitutional Review Committee of the National Assembly who may also check with ConCourt.”

†En dan wil ek net volgende noem, die Nasionale Huis van die Khoisan sal gestig word na die Kommissie hulle werk voltooi het. Hulle het 'n vergadering gehad op 25 Maart, en die Deputy Minister van Tradisionele Sake was daar, mnr Obed Bapela.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[And then I just want to mention the following, the National House of the Khoisan will be established after the Commission has completed their work. They had a meeting on 25 March, and the Deputy Minister of Traditional Affairs was there, Mr Obed Bapela.]

And the applications for recognition will open on 30 March 2022. It will open for two years and will close on 29 March 2024 and the Commission will be conducting an awareness campaign in each province starting with the Northern Cape on 5 April, †en hulle sal by ons wees, [and they will be with us,] 10 June, the venue to be confirmed but it might be the Castle of Good Hope. †Dit is dalk net ter inligting. [That is just for information.]

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Ter inligting!
[Mr P J MARAIS: For information!]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Then I want to say to member Kama. Oh, first I want to say to the member from Al Jama-Ah, Mr Brinkhuis, facilities fall within the ambit of the local municipality, and we can give you more detail, but it falls in the ambit of the local municipality. Thank you.

Member Kama, it is concerning that you politicise this debate on the racial lines when Sport and Cultural Affairs in the Western Cape tries its utmost to break these barriers.

Then about our artists, we have moved into recovery phase, and are providing support to Gig Economy as well as support to our Community Art Centres and I do have a list of that, and I do have all the budget to our Gig Economy. I can provide that to you.

About the Netball Legacy, we have transferred funds to the West Coast for netball facilities for upgrading and the construction of new courts. We do have an extensive Netball Legacy Programme and maybe we can do a presentation at the Standing Committee one or other time, that reaches each district and promotes development in the code, in the Netball code.

Then about our youth. There is no silver bullet to solve our youth crisis. The Western Cape Government focuses on parenting with its First 1000 Days Programme. It focuses on ensuring every child gets access to a good education through the Western Cape Education Department and its partners, through programmes like the MOD programme, DCAS provides schoolgoing youth with a chance to find a positive gang and belong to a team. There are 181 MOD Centres in the Western Cape. This work is strengthened via our Neighbourhood Programme which provides support to a further 134 schools. The Western Cape Education Department through its Teacher Assistant Programme, DOTP via the Pay Programme, DCAS via our Year Beyond and DOCS via Chrysalis and the LEAP Programme provides school-leavers with a first work opportunity and I can go on with all this, I can provide this to you as well and DCAS has directly supported about 100 000 school going learners and 3 000 plus out-of-school youth through its various programmes. In Khayelitsha we provide 113 youth Year Beyond opportunities, 37 work opportunities for coaches and support almost 5 000 learners through these programmes. 50% is outside of the Metro, and the Western Cape has a Youth Policy which guides the work of all departments, focuses on strong foundations and parenting, education, economic opportunities, creating opportunities belonging and opportunities for second chances or reconnection, and I will address the Youth Safety Ambassadors in Vote 4 because that is under that Vote.

Then the last thing that I want to mention is then school athletics. I know it is a concern and I just want to mention that our Department has a mandate to work with and support the Federation structures, and we support Provincial Championships, the accommodation, the meals, the extra ablution facilities, medical support, transport, human resources with DCAS staff volunteering to assist at both the high and primary school events over the two weekends. A full debrief will take place in April / May 2022 to address all challenges regarding school athletics and all the various stakeholders will be part of this debrief, including the Western Cape Provincial Sport Confederation, the Western Cape School for Athletics Federation Delegates and the Western Cape Education Department.

I think that is everything so far. Thank you so much and thank you again for everyone participating.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on Vote 13, Cultural Affairs and Sport, Western Cape Appropriation Bill. Mr Stemele, please will you read the fourth Order of the Day please.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 4 – Community Safety)

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Today I present the Western Cape Department of Community Safety (DoCS) Appropriation Budget for the 2022/23 financial year, acknowledging safety as a key priority of the Western Cape Government as we bring into fruition the provincial Safety Plan. -

I am indeed honoured to have been entrusted with this significant role as acting Minister to ensure the continuity of the pivotal programmes of the Department of Community Safety.

The lack of safety in our communities is one of the foremost challenges we face as a country and with this Appropriation Budget to now be presented, the Department will fulfil its constitutional mandate of oversight to improve safety for all who call the Western Cape home.

To create safer communities and to further promote professional policing through effective oversight as legislated, and to capacitate safety partnership with communities and other stakeholders, the total budget allocated to the Department has increased from just over R559,3 million from the Adjusted Appropriation 2021/22, to approximately R776,1 million in the 2022/23 financial year.

The increase of 38,7% to the Appropriated Budget is indeed welcomed as it mainly relates to the allocation of R400 million to the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, or the LEAP officers, of which the previous allocation and Adjustment Budget for 2021/22 was R165,2 million.

Regardless of political affiliation, I am sure we can all agree that the LEAP Programme has made significant strides in the Western Cape's Safety Plan in its efforts to half the murder rate by 2029, informed by evidence and implemented using data and technology to create safer communities in the Western Cape.

To emphasise the successes of the provincial Safety Plan interventions in response to the all round under-resourcing within the South African Police Services in the Western Cape, I call to mind the recent release of the quarterly crime statistics for the third quarter of 21/22.

Hon Deputy Speaker, covering the period of October to December 2021, the statistics show a 6,9% decrease in murder, and 24,5% decrease in attempted murder, compared to the previous quarter in the province. It demonstrates clearly that our provincial Safety Plan interventions are making a difference.

We have seen decreases in the murder rate at Kraaifontein at 40,5%; Harare at 14,5%; Khayelitsha at 21,1%, and Nyanga 24,1%. These account for the most significant decreases in murders among the top 30 murder stations in the country and are also areas in which we have deployed significant LEAP resources as part of our plan to reduce the murder rate by 50% by 2029.

Since the inception of the plan, 1,056 LEAP officers have been deployed to crime hotspots. The working hours of these LEAP members were also extended to a 24-hour shift system, which resulted in an increase in deployments over weekends when murders increase, according to our data.

Furthermore, a reaction action unit consisting of LEAP members was established to urgently respond to outbreaks of violence when it occurs. Decrease in the criminal activity in the Western Cape over the past quarter were further recorded for sexual offenses at 10,7%; assault/gross bodily harm at 5,6%; common assault at 1,22%; common robbery at 8,9%, and robbery with aggravating circumstances at 10,9%.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there are of course areas in which we have seen increases in criminal activity, which include attempted sexual offenses, bank robbery, malicious damage to property and commercial crime. This Department will, with the budgetary investment of R700 million over the next two years for the LEAP Programme, play its part to give effect to its constitutional mandate of oversight, ensuring that gaps are identified to address them, making the province safer for all who live in it.

As outlined by Premier Winde in the State of the Province Address, the Department intends to take this oversight role even more seriously not only at a national level, but at a local level as well because the whole of society and our whole of government approach is pivotal to creating safer communities.

Going forward the Department will significantly expand its monitoring of police stations across the province, with a focus on GBV and domestic violence responses, police conduct, visible policing and crime investigation efficiency. The Department will also accordingly be renamed to the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety in the Western Cape.

Guided by this collaborative approach, the Department will implement an evidence-based and holistic transversal response to violence in our society with a sense of urgency. The purpose is to achieve safe and cohesive communities in the Western Cape. Its realisation is an imperative as crime and fragmented communities reduce the life chances and opportunities of individuals, further destabilising communities in a vicious cycle, and hinder socio-economic and personal development.

To strengthen our partnership in relation to the provincial Safety Plan to afford safer spaces, the expansion of the Chrysalis Academy will receive R25,2 million over the MTEF period of 2022/24. To further roll out the Safety Plan at a district level, R6 million will be provided in the 2022/23 financial year. The EPWP will receive R26,1 million, of which R3,8 million is a conditional grant. That Neighbourhood Watch resourcing will receive R5,7 million.

I am happy to announce that the Department is currently looking to increase this support as the budget and capacity allow.

To boost the Department's support to municipalities for K9 units, R8,8 million has been allocated. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am indeed proud of the commendable efforts successfully executed by the canine units across the province. This weekend past, on 25 March 2022, the joint operations between the Malmesbury SAPS and the Swartland K9 Unit led to the arrest of four adult females and one adult male for dealing in Tik and for possession of ammunition.

The following day, on 26 March 2022, the joint operation between the Malmesbury Crime Prevention Unit and the Swartland K9 Unit, led to the arrest of nine adult males for the possession of an illegal firearm, which was later identified by its serial number as the same firearm earlier booked in and stolen from the SAP13 at the police station.

We wholeheartedly thank the K9 units in partnership with the respective municipalities for the lifesaving measures they actively have in place, risking their own lives to create safer communities for all those who call it home. We look forward to expanding these much-needed K9 units to other municipalities in the near future, of which Mossel Bay is next in line.

A total of R6,9 million has been allocated for the resourcing of reaction units at Swartland Municipality and Overstrand District Municipality. The Department will continue to drive the Reduction of Alcohol Harms Amendments to the Western Cape Liquor Act and will submit a publication of amendments to the Western Cape Liquor Regulations in respect of fees and fines to be paid in terms of the Act. As the Department is mandated to lead and direct a task team to review and amend the Western Cape Liquor Act to take forward public health-based alcohol harms reduction strategies and interventions, the Western Cape Liquor Authority will receive its annual allocation of R45,6 million.

As we take our provincial Safety Plan to the next level, a new Violence Prevention Unit will be established in the Western Cape Department of Health. This unit will use public health data to identify localised strategies to prevent violence before it occurs.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the latest crime statistics released also clearly show that the establishment of murder stations and priority areas through area-based teams, is helping to reduce crime through a data-led and evidence-based approach to fighting crime, which includes both law enforcement and violence prevention interventions.

Beyond deploying additional Law Enforcement Advancement Plan law enforcement offices, the Department has established the ABT framework, which aims to collaborate with safety stakeholders at a local level. These ABTs are comprised of three crucial arms to ensure violence prevention, which include: law enforcement, urban design and social cohesion, which continue to be on-boarded. To date a total of 16 ABT areas which are linked to police stations, have been identified. This includes 11 ABTs in the City of Cape Town, and five ABTs in the district municipalities.

The Department has further established law enforcement technical area teams in these areas, with a specific focus on areas with the highest rate of murder. The Western Cape has identified 11 priority areas in the Metro based on their high murder rates. Based on third quarter crime statistics, reported murders in those areas accounted for 42,23% of the provincial total. The overall number of murders committed within the 11 ABTs, however, has been reduced by 9,35% in the last quarter, showing that the ABT approach is indeed yielding results.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as mentioned in the Second Reading debate, I note the concern within the Community Policing Forum structures in the Western Cape regarding what the impact of the establishment of the Provincial Secretariat in terms of Section 16 of the Civilian Secretariat for Police, Act 2 of 2011, will be on the continued existence and operation of Community Policing Forums. I want to reaffirm that the Western Cape Government, through its Department of Community Safety, is committed to fulfil its mandate, conferred by Section 206 of the Constitution, Section 66 and 68 of the Constitution of the Western Cape, as well as Section 5 of the Western Cape Community Safety Act.

This mandate, amongst other things, includes monitoring police conduct and overseeing the effectiveness and efficiency of the police service in the province by assisting Community Policing Forums through the provision of funding, training and resources in order to promote good relationships between the South Africa Police Services and communities, which will in turn make the Western Cape a safer place for all. It is for this reason that we are awaiting legal advice on the best way forward.

Hon Deputy Speaker, together it is our duty to create an enabling environment through which all those we serve can thrive and feel a sense of safety, because contrary to popular belief, we need to understand that we are not a people at risk, but rather a people with potential.

Despite the many challenges, there exist praise-worthy initiatives in the streets of the Western Cape, and it is long overdue that we showcase these life-changing efforts and build on its successes, rather than only perpetuate our adversities.

Our role is not only to liberate society once more, but to liberate the minds of society. While the task may seem great, we have power in numbers and together we can create safer communities in the Western Cape.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly thank the officials of the Department of Community Safety, our partners in the various municipalities and sister Western Cape Government Departments, the South African Police Services and local law enforcement for the collaboration in creating safer and more cohesive communities in the Western Cape.

I also think the SAPS provincial leadership, led by General Patekile, for the good spirit of cooperation they continue to adopt as critical partners in our fight against crime.

Hon Deputy Speaker, evidently, in a dismal national fiscal environment, adopting a whole of society and a whole of government approach inculcating collaborative efforts through sustainable partnerships, is much needed to achieve our mutual goals to enable safer and cohesive communities. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon acting MEC, members of the House, and let me also greet the Chairs of our committees, who I now see have decided to adopt the role of being Deputy MECs and speak for the Departments, instead of leading us in our quest to exercise oversight over the Executive.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a few weeks ago we were gutted by news of the several multi-shootings across the Cape Flats. In Gugulethu and Khayelitsha there were a number of reported mass murders, including the murders of women. The Western Cape continues to resemble killing fields, and in that note I think we also want to welcome the arrests that have been made in connection with the mass murders that happened in Khayelitsha, where six people lost their lives, and call on the NPA to do everything at its disposal to ensure that it achieves a conviction and imprisonment.

The fact that after a number of years of pumping funds into their so-called Safety Plan and yet our people continue to die like flies, is unfathomable and leaves a lot to be desired. It is a clear indication that the Safety Plan is a big and an expensive failure.

Even in this budget the plan gets the largest share. The Department's budget allocation for the year increased with R216,8 million, from R559,3 million for the 2021/22 Revised Estimate, to R776,1 million for the 2022/23 financial year. This increase is mainly for the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, which will be transferred to the City of Cape Town. The other funding will go towards the professionalisation of the Neighbourhood Watches, and to fund the law enforcement reaction units.

Hon Deputy Speaker and members, our stance on the Safety Plan is clear and known to all. While in principle we welcome additional resources to fight crime, especially in the murder hotspot areas, we are concerned that there is no investment towards addressing the causative factors of violent crimes in these particular areas.

The recent weeks have once more showed why the Safety Plan in its current form will not yield the desired outcome of halving the murder rate by 2029. We repeat that until such a time where we stop paying lip service to addressing causative factors of violent crimes, then we will not win the battle.

The environmental design, as is popularly mentioned by many, but not really taken into consideration in terms of implementation by this Government, particularly looking as partial planning, is instrumental for the creation of a safer environment.

As part of the Safety Plan, hon Deputy Speaker, Departments like Human Settlements, Local Government, should be tasked to create a favourable environment for policing, including installing of streetlights and CCTV cameras in the communities that are found in the top 30 murder precincts, and by improving accessibility in the informal settlements.

This budget has ignored this. Instead, the Department will continue funding establishment and support of K9 dog units, facilitation of a Safety Plan for district municipalities, and provisioning of the latest technology relating to safety and security for the CBD. We are not in support of this, we want CCTV cameras and related safety and security technology in the murder hotspots, not in the CBD.

Hon Deputy Speaker and members, no one must be mistaken to think that we do not support the Safety Plan. When the Premier announced it with so much fanfare in the National Assembly, we were the first to say we welcome it in principle as it presented a paradigm shift away from a Provincial Government of armchair critics, towards investing in violence prevention.

However, we had a lot of reservations about it. Firstly, the mass murders of recent weeks placed a spotlight over the decision to cut the LEAP officers from 3,000 to only 1,000, but seemingly, Deputy Speaker, it looks it is accepted that the Premier continues now and again to pronounce different things and later implement other things.

Firstly, there are not enough LEAP officers to deploy to areas like Manenberg, for instance, where there is an ongoing gang war. The Department cannot even establish an area-based team there. It only deploys the law enforcement reaction unit comprised of only 63 members responsible for the entire Metro. The ongoing gang wars and mass murders are an indictment on the Premier and his Government to increase the number of deployed LEAP officers.

Secondly, we raised even that the Safety Plan in this current format was to create the DA Provincial Police Force. This was confirmed by the officials in the Committee that during the hard lockdown these LEAP officers were used by people like J P Smith to do their dirty job in the City of Cape Town, which included the evicting of poor and vulnerable informal settlement dwellers under a difficult period of the pandemic.

Who knows what else did this chap use these LEAP officers for to do? Did he use them to spy on former MEC Fritz? Smith is notoriously known for misusing State resources to target his nemesis. It is no surprise that he was the first to know about the former MEC's sex for job scandals.

Lastly, our biggest fear that we were pumping money into something we do not have control or oversight over, became true and was confirmed by officials in the Committee meeting. When we posed questions about the accountability for the millions we spend on the LEAP officers, we were shocked to learn that there is no legislative framework we can use to exercise oversight over law enforcement officers.

What this means is that we are spending millions every year on this programme, but we cannot hold J P Smith accountable for how he spends it in or how he deploys these officers. The only thing binding the Department and the City is a mere business plan, and it ends there.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is unacceptable and deserves the Legislature's full attention. We need an urgent legal advice on this matter. It is not correct that we invest money on a programme we do not have oversight powers over. This confirms our fears that choosing to invest on law enforcement officers over the Metro Police was a deliberate move to create a DA police force that would only be accountable to the DA. Not even the Police Ombudsman can keep an eye on these law enforcement officers.

The plans to amend the Western Cape Community Safety Act to give the Ombudsman oversight responsibility over law enforcement officers, will be halted following a legal advice that this was not possible. We must tighten our oversight mechanisms, we must haul J P Smith before this House to account for all the millions we have given to the City over the years. The business plan must be amended to make it compulsory for Smith and the City to account to the Legislature on a quarterly basis and annually.

If this is not possible, then we might as well halt funding for the programme until such a time that there is accountability for it. The ANC has already expressed its views not to support this budget in the Committee. Today we are presented with an opportunity to state the reasons for our position.

The first is that for many years this Department has ignored its core mandate of police oversight. The HOD told the Standing Committee that this Department is failing on its oversight role. It has never conducted inspection on all 151 police stations in a year. This is partly due to not having staff to do the work.

The Department has been assigning staff and resources to unfunded mandates. Instead of addressing the problem, the Premier opts to make a premature announcement of changing the Department's name, as if there are people who are confused as to what is the role of this Department. This was made with no knowledge or consultations with the officials. Had he consulted, the Premier would have known, or would have been told, that this is not an easy and a straightforward process as he first needs to make a request even to the President of the country.

The Department will now repurpose some of its staff members to the unit that will conduct police station investigations. There must be additional funding set aside for this purpose. It is a known secret that we have so many rogue elements in the police service, and we need a vibrant oversight unit in the Department to arrest that rot, but I must warn the Department that this inspection unit must not be used like the Court Watching Briefs, which are currently used as a DA pocketknife to target and expose the failures of the National Department.

This Department must tell us why these Court Watching Briefs have failed to monitor the ongoing cases of Farrel Payne and Wesley Baadjies, who are the two senior Provincial Government officials who are in Court for sexual crimes.

Hon Deputy Speaker and members, in most murders in the province a gun was used as a weapon. It is on that basis that the ANC calls for the strengthening of Government's ammunition control system. We should investigate how qualification and registration of ammunition will help in rendering the many illegal firearms useless and assist SAPS in combating and investigate crime.

This budget will also go towards funding the area-based teams to enhance law enforcement and violence prevention initiatives in communities. What we know about this area-based teams is that they have led to the Department terminating the Expanded Partnership Programme. In line with the Western Cape Safety Act the EPP was aimed at enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of Community Policing Forums, and to promote their activities and functions. The new funding model as explained by the Department, will benefit those CPFs that completed AGMs, received certificates and applied for project funding.

The Department is coercing CPFs to partner with area-based teams and it will find ABT initiatives in communities. This is an attempt to capture the CPFs and have them under DA control. Elsie River and Manenberg, I repeat, hon Deputy Speaker, which are two communities known for constant gang wars, do not have established area-based teams. It is clearly for everyone to see and it is for the Department to acknowledge that the ABT is a weak and ineffective strategy. It is for this reason that we have asked for the business plan and the terms of reference of these ABTs to get a full understanding of what the Department aims to achieve.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in line with our calls for the Department to expand the LEAP to other municipalities, we welcome the establishment of the reaction units in Swartland, in Overstrand Municipality. However, 20 members in each municipality are insufficient.

Additionally, we note the rollout of a new K9 unit in Mossel Bay Municipality on top of the units operating in the City, Overstrand and Swartland Municipality. We must state upfront that we are vehemently opposed to the leasing of K9 dogs from a private company in Swartland. It is a strategy aimed again at enriching DA members and funders at the expense of taxpayers.

Together with the hon members of the Standing Committee, we have agreed that these K9 units are needed in Beaufort West, in Knysna, in Laingsburg Municipalities to assist the work of SAPS there. The Department told us that the original plan was to send them to these municipalities, but due to incapacity of the municipalities to handle K9 dogs, they were then sent elsewhere. This explanation is unacceptable, and the Department could have partnered with other Local Government to capacitate these municipalities.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker and hon members, I want to take this opportunity to welcome hon member Mackenzie to the Committee.

I am not privy to all the details of why he was demoted from a Standing Committee Chair to a mere backbencher, but he has proved to be effective on this new role of his as a backbencher.

Most importantly, now that he is a member of this Committee and an MPL, he must account about what he knows about the sex for job scandals, and must report everything to the police, and we must call on the Premier really to take the work of this Department seriously. We are over a month now and he has not yet appointed an MEC in that Department, and we wonder, hon Deputy Speaker, maybe the arrival of hon member Plato also in the House is making it difficult for him to take that decision.

Is it going to be hon member Reagen? Is it going to be Chief Whip, hon member Wenger? Is it going to be MEC Plato? But what we say as the ANC is that that is not important. What is important is that this Department must have a MEC that will hold accountable and ensure that we give hope to the people of the Western Cape, who continues to face the barrel of a gun, who continue to die in the streets without anything being done by this Department, and by that, hon Deputy Speaker, let me take this opportunity to thank all the community fighting structures for their immense contribution in the fight against crime, with less to no support from the Department, and in that, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to say may God bless our province and our nation *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Chairperson, and I appreciate the hon member. It seems to me he does not go to sleep without thinking about me and J P Smith, and I appreciate his concern.

I would like to add, it is a pity about the hon members, because I honestly do not know who they are representing. You have seen the NEC's latest report. The ANC in the Western Cape only has three branches out of a potential 116. So the members should really bring the members back here that actually should be here because we do not know who they are representing in the House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we welcome the R776 million allocated for the 2022/2023 financial year as part of Budget Vote 4 to push the Western Cape forward. It will be appropriated in this House. Despite it coming against the backdrop of declining revenue and economy in tatters due to maladministration, corruption and abuse by the National Government, of which some members are in good standing, I wish to thank Minister Marais for steering the ship, as well as the officials, who during this most difficult period have been focused and continuing and serving the best for the residents of the Western Cape. Your hard work, to all of you, I really appreciate.

I would also like to express our thoughts and our prayers to the victims of crime, especially those in Manenberg and in Khayelitsha, and many other communities, over the past few weeks. We wish you God's strength during this very difficult time.

I would like to add, the hon member referred to the firearms that has been used during a later shooting, and I want to thank the Department and the officials.

We have seen then, and, Minister, I want to repeat what you said. During the joint operation in Malmesbury, the CPU, the Crime Prevention Unit, members and the Swartland K9 Unit, that led to the arrest of the nine adult male members for the possession of the illegal firearms, which was later identified, and this is so important members, by its serial number, the same firearm that was earlier booked in and stolen from SAP13 at the police station, and I wish, via you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Kama, would inform his colleague, hon Bheki Cele, that they must guard our firearms.

He rightly identified that the firearms are being used in the gun killings, but it is being stolen from SAPS, for which the ANC is solely responsible, and he highlighted again the beautiful K9 unit funded and supported by this Government. He should actually applaud Minister Marais and not criticising her for using this unit, and it shows the difference between what the Western Cape Government is doing and what the National Government is doing, and let me perhaps highlight and explain the role of the Western Cape Department of Community Safety as set up in the Constitution, Section 206, which some members seemingly still do not know and I quote:

“The Department is mandated to exercise oversight over law enforcement agencies in the Western Cape, including conducting oversight over SAPS; municipal services; investigating SAPS service delivery complaints, carried out by the Western Cape Ombudsman; influence the allocation of police resources to consultative engagement with community-based organisations, NGOs and faith-based organisations, among other things.”

It seems some members do not understand Section 206 of the Constitution. Safety is not only the responsibility of the Western Cape Government, it is a whole of society approach which we all have a responsibility to work with in our safety structure, and I want to state from the beginning, the Safety Plan was never only about boots on the ground, and sadly many members do not understand this. Even though the Safety Plan has been in existence for three years ... [Interjections.] to fight crime intelligently we need additional officers on the ground operating with [Inaudible – audio connection lost.] preventative measures because of these [Inaudible.] all of which is driven by data, including dealing with the many [Inaudible.] in our society. We therefore welcome the increased funding of the LEAP officers, with R1,1 billion rand being allocated to the programme of over the next three years.

More than that we welcome how the Western Cape Government consistently pick up where the National Government fails, including spending the R5,8 million, which the members criticised, to this for supporting the K9 units. That is how we contribute as this Government to filling the void where the National Government continues to fail.

Here in the Western Cape we have gone out of our way in dealing with fighting crime and allocating billions that is supposed to be spent on service delivery that the ANC Government has failed to do.

We have seen how our intelligence gathering services has collapsed. We all know our State Security has collapsed and is completely politicised.

Interesting, hon members, Minister Cele was in Mitchells Plain, in my constituency, a few months ago and that was the first time in eight years that I saw the Regional Director of Intelligence, in an event that was also haphazardly arranged with the CPF. Not one member was invited. Not J P Smith, that they so eagerly want to criticise, nor the Department of Community Safety, and not the Premier himself. That is how they completely politicise the politics. If we did not invite our Neighbourhood Watches and our Walking Bus members, that event would have been empty.

If we were really politicising, we could have told our Neighbourhood Watches not to go, but in the spirit of good governance and community governance we asked them to attend. So, the allocations and plans, some which Minister Marais has spoken about, should be welcomed.

Hon Minister Marais, when it comes to fighting crime intelligently, the ANC Government has consistently failed to do so, and let me also quote, Minister, hon member Kama quoted from a newspaper. If he picked up the newspaper yesterday, in the *Sunday Times*, we have seen over 40 police officers, via you, hon Deputy Speaker, 40 trained State Security Agents were allocated to the wife of former President Jacob Zuma to investigate their internal politics and how she was poisoned.

Now imagine, just imagine this for 30 seconds, via you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Kama, if those 40 trained State Intelligence Officers were allocated to Manenberg, to Khayelitsha, to Nyanga, how we could have dealt with crime intelligently in the Western Cape.

So, if they stop using the State Security Agency to fight the ANC internal battles, we would have dealt with some of these problems, and that is the crux of what is wrong in the country, the African National Congress, and that is what we should be dealing with here.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this budget is living proof of the DA governance. We consistently invest in programmes while the ANC Government has failed to invest, and let me come to another matter, hon member Kama, via you, hon Deputy Speaker, raised in his speech, the issue of cameras.

Now in Mitchells Plain my ward councillors allocated, from their ward allocation, R350 000 to cameras in Ward 75, Woodlands. The ANC has got many councillors in the City of Cape Town, despite the fact they only have three branches, they bizarrely have many councillors.

So what we have seen in the sub-council, where Mr Sutashe is, who was, I think, the Metro Chairperson, who has also been disbanded because they could not build branches. They have not allocated money from the sub-councils, so they should call their councillors and ask them to quote the Chairperson of the Khayelitsha Community Development Forum last week, or two weeks ago. He said they must stop throwing parties in Khayelitsha and allocate their ward allocation to cameras. That is what the councillors in Mitchells Plain are doing. They allocate their ward allocation, the same amount of money the councillors in Khayelitsha have been doing.

Yes, the City provides the overall support, but the ward allocation should be done by the sub-council chairperson of the ANC, of which they have in many of our communities, including their own councillors. They failed to do that, hon Deputy Speaker, and that is part of the problem in crime in many of our communities, similar with intelligence.

So, we welcome to monitoring this budget, hon Minister Marais, and your team, and to ensure that every citizen in this province has a secure future built on safety, hope and opportunity for all.

We further like to thank our brave police officers, our traffic officials, our Neighbourhood Watch members, our Walking Bus members, all our LEAP officers and law enforcement officers, who have been committed to the safety of people in this province. The DA supports this budget. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. When the 2021/2022 third quarter crime statistics were released early this year in February 2022, the Premier, hon Alan Winde, and the acting Provincial Community Safety Minister, were quick to take credit for the 6,9% decrease in number of murder rates, and 24% decrease in attempted murder rates. They solely took credit for the reported decrease and saw them as something which would be credited to the effectiveness of the so-called Safety Plan.

So in this province the norm is that when there are increases reported in crime rates, National Government should take blame, and when the stats decrease, then the credit should be attributed to the Province. However, what is concerning and which the Premier and the Minister failed to take cognisance of, is the low percentage decrease in murder, and as well as assault to cause grievous bodily harm, and the common assault. These have not significant crime decreases and which one can celebrate as a form of achievement.

Recently we have been experiencing mass killings in the provincial townships. This month alone eight people were shot and killed in Manenberg; six people were shot and killed in Enkanini informal settlement; whilst five other people suffered the same fate in Monwabisi Park informal settlement in Ndlovu.

Spending taxpayers' money without a plan which will yield results itself is a crime against humanity, as it robs communities of service delivery. The more this Department spends money into this so-called Safety Plan, the more our townships will remain unsafe at the hands of the gangs who do as they please, as if there is no law and order. For these reasons the EFF will not support this Vote.

Millions of rands are being spent in employing the so-called LEAP officers with the intention of having more boots on the ground, but the very same officers are nowhere to be found near townships where it matters the most. It then begs a question: why spending millions of rands into an initiative that is already failing more than two years in operation?

What we also want to understand is the fact that the allocation of all these resources is still targeting the leafy suburbs and not the hotspot areas where exactly our people are dying.

It is in this regard that we appeal to Government not to just highlight crime statistics that are decreasing and increasing in our townships, but to do allocation, proper budget allocation, to ensure that the lives of our people are being saved in all the congested areas, which includes the availability of resources that result in crime-fighting agencies struggling to combat crime in our areas. In that regard, hon Deputy Speaker, as the EFF we do not support this Vote. Thank you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP of course welcomes it when money is given and allocated to Neighbourhood Watches. That helps a lot. I have said it consistently over and over in this Chamber, I believe the solution lies in our Neighbourhood Watches; people that get up 5 o'clock in the morning to see that our commuters get safely to the bus stops and train stations.

Secondly, hon Deputy Speaker, an important thing is, hon member Mackenzie mentioned it now two times, the Walking Buses. The Walking Buses is not getting any stipends. We know that previously the City of Cape Town gave an allocation to about 5,000 Walking Bus members to make sure that our children are safe when they go to school and come from school. I am asking this Department, please look at how can we assist the Walking Bus members?

Thirdly, I have asked it again and I will ask again, as a Committee we must have oversight over the money allocated to the LEAP officers, allocated to the K9 units, because ultimately the money comes from the Province and I want this Committee, the Community Safety Plan Act, to be amended so that we have oversight, that we hear of reports of LEAP officers doing whatever, and we do not have, as a province, direct control, or just to call them in and to please come and explain. So, hon Deputy Speaker, that is from the ACDP's side. I thank you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. For the month of March already 341 people have been murdered in the province, compared to 343 for the same period in 2018. We need a socio-economic response to eradicate crime, and the focus should be on creating sustainable employment for the youth.

What is the Western Cape doing to ensure that universities, hospitals and schools work with local communities to use facilities for training of people? What oversight role is the Western Cape playing on how the City is using its resources to enhance the economic potential of town centres, such as in Mitchells Plain, Nyanga Junction, Gatesville? These town centres are exposed to daily criminal activities, but no radical strategies are implemented to create safe shopping environments to the people of the Cape Flats. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, †baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker [thank you hon Deputy Speaker.] I am once again happy to be participating in this debate. I do feel, to a large extent, that I would prefer it to be a conversation where we are able to really address the matters that were discussed here.

So, to firstly welcome the input from the Minister, as well as from hon member Mackenzie, and I do echo the support as expressed by hon member Mackenzie, but also to welcome the input from other members, hon member Kama, hon member Brinkhuis and hon member Ferlon Christians, as well as the EFF online.

Hon members, firstly I heard here earlier, hon Deputy Speaker, that we are cutting LEAP officers. Now that is not a fact. The LEAP programme is being implemented in stages, and we would ideally want to have 3,000 as soon as possible. Hon member Kama is fully aware of this, that last year we could not get to the first initial 1,000 because of COVID regulations, but it is being staged in, but I love that he said the word “cutting”, because we are cutting on crime. We are cutting on the amount of illegal firearms on our streets; we are cutting in terms of illicit drugs that are being confiscated. So, hon member Kama, we are cutting crime in our province with regard to the LEAP programme.

Hon member Kama also mentioned Manenberg, and I will touch on that in my speech, but we have actually responded, DoCS together with the MEC and the Premier, quickly and swiftly reacted and allocated the reaction unit to Manenberg as soon as those mass murders happened. As soon as those mass murders happened, and that is in conjunction with the AGU, as well as with Metro Police, because they act to bolster the efforts of the South African Police Services, alongside the Neighbourhood Watches and our CPFs.

Hon member Kama spoke about spying on other people, and I would want to say, hon member Kama, if you know of any member in the DA, not in the DA, you must please make a case with SAPS as soon as possible. I will go with you, where we go and make a case against that member if you have any evidence, because I do not think that member belongs in the DA. We hear it in the ANC sadly. Conferences come up, there are reports that confirm that the State Security Agency has been used for political gain, they even jam cellphones. If this was now the ANC, hon member Kama would not have been able to access his cellphone here. [Laughter]

So we know, but I will go with hon member Kama if there's any member that you know of that spies on any person, please let us go and make a case, but also the Court Watching Brief, and, hon Deputy Speaker, I remember I was reading a Court Watching Brief that hon member Kama and other members are privy to and I had to take one evening to actually read that particular Court Watching Brief report. It was the third quarter of last year, and I told my wife that we can first have supper before I am going to read this report, because I could not stomach what I was reading.

In that particular report that hon member Kama also saw, there were 139 cases that were monitored by the Court Watching Brief, that was said to be a pocketknife, and this pocketknife basically monitored 139 Court cases, where in 12 of those cases SAPS members were actually dismissed, which SAPS confirmed.

So, there were inefficiencies, but there was cases where rape featured the highest amongst those 139, and I took one evening to read that report, because, like I have said, I think none of the members could stomach reading how one particular case was struck off the Court roll 11 times. It was postponed [Interjections.] before it was eventually struck off the Court case. A 16-year old; secondary victimisation is adding to the burden, and this pocketknife is doing amazing work, that other provinces are also wanting to adopt the role of this pocketknife, which is making a real dent. Just imagine we had a bazooka, just imagine we had a dagger. If the ANC must give us the money we can have a dagger and we can do so much more in that regard. [Interjections.]

But also it was mentioned about the oversight, and I love that hon member Christians also touched on it, and like we have heard in the Standing Committee two weeks ago, the oversight on the LEAP is through the City structures and through the Western Cape Government's governance framework, but I do share your concern. I do share and understand where you are coming from, and I will make a commitment to ensure that at the first available opportunity I will address and approach the Programming Authority so that we can invite the City back, and the City has been here. The Department has been here, where we discussed the matters with regard to LEAP, but also in terms of the Transfer Payment Agreement, the City has to account to the Department and to the Premier in that regard.

We also see that the City further has established a Civilian Oversight Committee, unlike in other Metro cities, the City actually has a Civilian Oversight Committee that I will send details of to members, which I found extremely interesting, but let me rather read it. It says in terms of those members, and I love this, that those members apply via an advert that the City puts out, and those members on the Civic Oversight Committee should have a relevant diploma or degree in the field of policing, crime prevention, public administration, law or related studies; persons with a research capacity enabling them to inform crime prevention and law enforcement initiatives with the City; prominent researchers at the academic institutions and/or institutes; security and related studies; persons who have been involved in law enforcement and/or prevention of crime; as well as ordinary citizens in Cape Town who have consistently displayed a keen interest in crime prevention or law enforcement activities within the City.

So those oversight mechanisms exist, and that particular Civilian Oversight Committee is so key to ensure that the bickering and the nonsense that is being spewed and spread do not infiltrate the good work that is being done, but to get to the speech, and through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to the residents of the Western Cape, I wish to state emphatically that I feel your frustration, I share in your anger and I understand your fear.

The past two weeks have been disheartening as we have witnessed yet another number of mass shootings in our province, like hon member Kama, like hon member Mackenzie, alluded to and I have to confess, hon Deputy Speaker, at times I was tempted to despair, but I remembered the hope, that hope is far more powerful because, hon Deputy Speaker, I visited Manenberg and Khayelitsha following the mass shootings in those areas.

Together with hon member Kama we attended the SAPS imbizo in Manenberg, and again we heard first-hand how SAPS continues to fail our people. Residents are fed up and deserve to be protected by the police.

Directly after the fatal shooting where six people were killed in Manenberg, the LEAP Reaction Unit was deployed. The swift action from the Department, the acting MEC and the Premier, to further capacitate and bolster the operations led by the Anti-Gang Unit and the Metro Police, is definitely welcomed, but, hon Deputy Speaker, there is no doubt that the lack of proper management in the police from National Government is to blame for the worsening crime trends, and this is the exact reason why the LEAP officers were sent to Manenberg.

But furthermore, hon Deputy Speaker, following the visit to Manenberg, news broke of another mass shooting in Khayelitsha, and I remember being called for comment, and the words expressed in Manenberg by community members echoed in my ears, which hon member Kama also heard, where members of the Manenberg community said, "We are tired of receiving condolences. We want action to be taken."

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share a story of my childhood. When growing up in Mitchells Plain, I found casual work during school holidays, and this retailer had stores in Mitchells Plain, in Khayelitsha, actually all across the country. Their tagline was of interest, that they always do it right, where you always save, and even low prices for you. I think they wear the colours of the EFF but one always felt safe using public transport travelling to Khayelitsha from Rocklands, Mitchells Plain.

However, when visiting Khayelitsha last week following the mass shooting, I was reminded that the ANC objected to a motion which condemned a spate of murders in Khayelitsha, Kraaifontein and Mfuleni during May last year. Last year in this House a motion condemning the mass shootings in Khayelitsha, Kraaifontein and in Mfuleni was not supported by the ANC, because this motion further sought to extend condolences to the loved ones of the deceased and applaud the work of the law enforcement in arresting alleged perpetrators.

When asked, hon Deputy Speaker, for a reason as to why the ANC objected to this motion, we heard it is too long, but, hon Deputy Speaker, at the time the Speaker correctly clarified and said that there is no such Rule that stipulates limitations to the length of motions. The ANC in fact objected to the substance of the very motion to condemn a mass shooting in Khayelitsha, less than a year ago, but at the time, hon Deputy Speaker, I was deeply alarmed by the ANC's actions.

However, over time it became clear there is simply little to no interest in the safety of residents from the ANC at a national level. Here in the Western Cape the DA-led Government remains committed to safety, especially when the ANC-led Government, which includes the National Minister of Police, continues to fail our communities by providing limited resourcing and bad management from Pretoria, but I wish to assure residents of our beautiful province that we will continue to exercise our policing oversight function and expand our mandate with or without the ANC.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, it is well-known that mass shootings are endemic in our country as a whole. As early as January 2022 we saw a number of mass shootings in KwaZulu Natal. At the time the National Minister of Police visited the area and stated the following:

“We trust the capable team, led by the Provincial Commissioner, that they will work twice as hard in ensuring that parts of KZN province are not again turned into a killing field.”

Here the National Minister goes on record asking SAPS members, that are under resourced, to work twice as hard when he is actually failing at his job, and similar sentiments were expressed last week in Khayelitsha again by the National Minister, because I attended a stakeholder engagement arranged by the Khayelitsha Development Forum, and I was left baffled and in a total state of shock owing to the remarks made by the Minister, where he said, and I quote:

“I am not going to say things in the absence of the Province, because you - referring to me – are from the Legislature, with no power, with no executive decisions.”

Sadly some in the crowd, together with the National Minister of Police, laughed at this remark. He failed to address any of my inputs at that particular meeting, but that was not surprising. It was not surprising to me, it is not surprising to the DA, and it is not surprising to the ANC.

I say it is not surprising to the ANC because hon member Kama is on record to have said, on 19 November 2021, in the *Cape Argus* he said, and I quote:

“We reiterate the calls to address the skewed patterns of police resources so that more police could be deployed to the hotspot areas where they are needed.”

And I love that because it is straight out of a DA statement. Thank you so much, hon member Kama, and we have consistently called for that for over a decade.

Now let me paint a picture. Hon Deputy Speaker, Khayelitsha is covered by SAPS infrastructure, like the Khayelitsha, Harare and Lingeletu West police stations. At these stations we see a worrying picture emerge, and it sounds like a horror movie, but here we go. Khayelitsha has police to population ratio of one officer for every 628 residents. [Interjections.] I am going to repeat: one officer for every 628 residents.

†n AGB LID: Skande!
[An HON MEMBER: Disgrace!]

Mr R I ALLEN: Harare has a police to population ratio of one officer for every 879 ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Oh no!

Mr R I ALLEN: ... residents. It becomes even scarier because Lingelethu West has a police to population ratio of one officer for every 664 residents, and between Khayelitsha and Harare and Lingelethu West, we have a further 12% vacancy rate in those stations. A 12% vacancy rate in those stations, and lo and behold, all of those stations are above the provincial average of one officer for every 520 residents, which is even way above the international best practice, where we are earmarked to have one for every 250 to 300 citizens.

A real picture, hon member Kama has been calling for the skewed allocations to be addressed. The Minister would not listen to him, and that is a sad, sad case in our country, but, hon Deputy Speaker, it does not stop there.

On the other hand, we have areas like Claremont, with ratios of one officer for every 283 residents. We have areas like Camps Bay and Sea Point, for example, which sit at a ratio of one officer for every 121 residents and 281 residents, respectively.

This is a clear example of skewed allocations [Interjections.] that we have been calling for consistently, but the National Minister is failing us big time, because as far back as 2014 SAPS made the proposal to the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry, a commission which was established by the then Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille, the Commission looked into allegations of police inefficiencies and a breakdown in relation between SAPS and the community, and at the time, hon Deputy Speaker, SAPS proposed that they would build a new police station in Harare, which covers part of the Khayelitsha area.

In October last year I attended an event with SAPS in Khayelitsha, which is seven years after they made the proposal to build a police station in Harare, and at that particular meeting they revealed a mobile station. A literal mobile station that is literally on wheels. Seven years after agreeing and confirming to the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry that they will build a fully fledged SAPS station in Harare. [Interjections.] A truck; a mobile station. It is laughable, but it is extremely sad. It is extremely sad, and I wish to echo the sentiment that we expressed last week in Khayelitsha, in which a member of the community gave input during the engagement, and he said MPs should stop the SAPS budget as it is not enough.

This is what the member, a stakeholder, said in Khayelitsha last week. MPs should stop the SAPS budget as it is not enough, to which the National Minister of Police replied:

“Someone here said MPs must stop the budget. What budget? When it is, Ministers, set the budget. So do not ask MPs and MPLs to stop the budget.”

He said this while pointing and laughing at a resident that asked this particular question ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: He does not understand [Inaudible.]

Mr R I ALLEN ... and I am thinking that in the mid-term Budget Policy Statement of 2020, X amount, amounting to, I think, R11,7 billion, I know it was over R11 billion, was taken from various departments – 2020 mid-terms Budget Policy Statement R11 billion was taken. R1,2 billion from SAPS, and R1,7 billion from Education, to fund a bailout towards SAA, and the Minister, who is part of that decision-making body in the ANC, was okay with allowing the SAPS budget to be cut; to allow that the Justice budget to be cut; to allow that Correctional Services budget to be cut; to allow that Education budget to be cut, so that we can bail out a failing State-owned Enterprise like SAA. This is deeply saddening. He said that whilst pointing and laughing at the resident in question.

Hon member Kama, I wish that you were here because they wanted to chuck me out of that particular meeting for raising the seriousness of it, and, hon Deputy Speaker, in the face of despair I remain hopeful that we will turn the tide and reach our objective as outlined by the Premier of the Western Cape, to half the murder rate by 2029.

Hon member Mackenzie earlier outlined his support for the Vote, and I wish to echo those sentiments. He further reminded members of this House of our oversight role in terms of Section 206 of the Constitution. It is with this context that I wish to give my full support to Vote 4 of Community Safety.

I want to say that I am confident, hon Deputy Speaker, that we will be able to maintain our excellent working relationships with all safety stakeholders across the province, including SAPS here in the Western Cape, and as a Committee we have seen the commitment from the Department's management team, and I am delighted that under the able direction of Advocate Pillay and the entire management team that is here today, our Police Ombudsman, those in the Neighbourhood Watches that are doing amazing work, those in the Liquor Authority, they are highly, highly appreciated, because we have seen, together with all departmental personnel, that their hard work, their diligence and dedication are making the Western Cape safer for all its residents.

And before I close, the Western Cape, in terms of Vote 4, it highlights its commitment in that the 2022/2023 Budget has seen an increase of R216 881 000 from the Revised Estimate from the 2021/2022 Budget. This is an increase of 38,77% as highlighted by hon member Mackenzie earlier as well.

In Programme 1, Administration has been allocated over R106 million for the upcoming financial year, and this will ensure that we continue our strategic direction and support administrative, financial and executive services to the Department and related entities, but, hon Deputy Speaker, the objective of the programme is to efficiently support the Office of the Ministry, Head of Department, Western Cape Police Ombudsman, and the Western Cape Liquor Authority in their functions of providing strategic leadership and ensuring effective governance inclusive of financial management.

We will continue, hon Deputy Speaker, to push forward as our Finance Minister gave the marching order that the budget was to push forward, but it is not coming out of nowhere, it is because of the good work that we have done leading up to COVID, that we were able to survive and continue to push forward, but also in Programme 2 the Provincial Secretariat for Police Services is to receive an amount of R83 million.

As outlined in the Premier's State of the Province Address, this component is vital in our efforts to ramp up our oversight role, because we do not take our role lightly, since the DA understands the importance of exercising oversight over the conduct, effectiveness and efficacy of law enforcement agencies in the province, and further to the Department's oversight role, Programme 2 will continue to assist with policy research and development that will influence community resource allocations to the Province.

We have spoken about our programmes being data-led and evidence driven, because it is not merely hitting, we need to be strategic in everything we do, knowing that in real terms the budget is shrinking year on year due to mismanagement at a national level, hence these safety measures are needed, but, hon Deputy Speaker, one cannot there underestimate the role of monitoring and evaluation.

Without a data-led and evidence-based approach, monitoring and evaluation remain a key pillar towards ensuring the best value for money spent and, hon Deputy Speaker, regarding ...[Interjection.] In closing, the impact of the LEAP programme is being felt in the hotspot areas as we know it is happening. It is time for us to continue to deliver a government for you, and I support this budget, and I said what I said.

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to all the hon members of the Standing Committee. Hon member Mackenzie, thank you for your passion and in-depth oversight over our Department.

Hon member Xego, I know you do care for your community's safety, but I am offering you a copy of my speech so that you do not misinform your constituents. They do deserve better.

And then, hon member Christians, I think he left, or is he online? I note all your concerns and I noted that the Chairperson will take it up.

Then, hon member Brinkhuis, thank you for your contribution. Yes, we need partners in safety. Very, very important to form those partnerships.

Hon member Regan Allen, thank you for your dedicated leadership as well as in-depth knowledge of DoCS and your valuable contribution.

Hon member Kama, LEAP deployment is linked to top murder stations and the reaction unit, consisting of 66 members, is deployed to any area if there is a flare-up, and we have reported on inspections of 151 police stations, but during COVID it was sometimes physically not always possible to do these inspections.

Then about Manenberg. The Premier and I visited Manenberg, and the LEAP officers form part of the LEAP Reaction Unit assisting SAPS with DoCS, the National Prosecuting Authority and the Asset Forfeiture Unit were deployed. They are committed and made gains in addressing gang-related violence, and I am going to only mention a few.

It is including:

- Arresting one 25-year old male, who was charged with murder.
- Four individuals for possession of 9 millimetre rounds of ammunition and recovering one firearm.

As I have said I have only mentioned a few.

Then you have spoken about Youth Safety Ambassadors in a previous debate, but I just want to mention YSAP aims to present youth with opportunities to get experience that could allow them to start and then further a career, as well as encompassing personal development in a form of training that was incorporated in the programme. The programme provided financial relief, work experience, access to training, foster personal, and community centred development.

The programme was introduced as a temporary work opportunity as part of the Province's COVID-19 Recovery Plan, which was introduced to create work prospects to assist Metro and rural communities with opportunities. With the contractual agreement of one year, the YSAP contracts ended 15 March 2022.

And lastly, we welcome the confirmed arrest of a suspect in connection with the multiple mass murder cases being investigated in Khayelitsha. The suspect's arrest does offer some consolation. We will track the case in Court through our Court Watching Briefs, and will also allow follow-up with the South Africans Police Services to monitor progress and get the relevant case number.

Then lastly I want to thank the Department. Thank you, HOD Pillay and the team for your support and being here in person, I really appreciate that. Thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes the debate on Vote 4: Community Safety. Hon members, this concludes the business for the day.

The House is adjourned. Thank you very much.

The House adjourned at 16:21.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

MONDAY, 28 MARCH 2022

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC), having considered, as part of its oversight role, the 2020/2021 Annual Reports of the 13 departments of the Western Cape Government (WCG), including their entities, wishes to report as follows:

1. Introduction

The core functions of the PAC comprises of the following mandate (according to Standing Rules 99-102 of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP)):

- 1.1 The Committee on Public Accounts must examine:
 - 1.1.1 The financial statements of provincial departments and provincial public entities;
 - 1.1.2 Any audit reports issued on the statements;
 - 1.1.3 Any reports issued by the Auditor-General on the affairs of any provincial department or provincial public entity; and
 - 1.1.4 Any other financial statements or reports referred to it by the House.
- 1.2 may report on any of those financial statements or reports to the House;
- 1.3 may initiate any investigation in its area of competence as stated in paragraph 1.1.1; and
- 1.4 must perform any other functions assigned to it by legislation, the Standing Rules of WCPP or resolutions of the House.

When the PAC examines the financial statements and reports of departments and their entities, it must take into account the previous annual financial statements and reports, including all governance matters which could impact on the audit outcomes of departments and entities and report on the degree to which shortcomings have been rectified.

2. Departments that reported to the Public Accounts Committee

The financial statements included in the annual reports for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 of the following provincial departments were examined –

- 2.1 Department of the Premier;
- 2.2 Provincial Treasury;
- 2.3 Department of Community Safety;
- 2.4 Western Cape Education Department;
- 2.5 Department of Health;
- 2.6 Department of Social Development;

- 2.7 Department of Human Settlements;
- 2.8 Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning;
- 2.9 Department of Transport and Public Works;
- 2.10 Department of Agriculture;
- 2.11 Department of Economic Development and Tourism;
- 2.12 Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport; and
- 2.13 Department of Local Government.

3. Entities that reported to the Public Accounts Committee

The financial statements included in the annual reports for the financial year ending 31 March 2021 of the following public entities were examined –

- 3.1 Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board;
- 3.2 Government Motor Transport (GMT);
- 3.3 Western Cape Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Agency (WESGRO);
- 3.4 Western Cape Liquor Authority;
- 3.5 Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone Licensing Company (SOC) Ltd;
- 3.6 Casidra
- 3.7 CapeNature
- 3.8 Heritage Western Cape;
- 3.9 Western Cape Cultural Commission; and
- 3.10. Western Cape Language Committee.

4. Transversal Departmental resolution

The Committee has formulated transversal resolutions for the attention of all departments and entities of the WCG. These resolutions originates from the discussions the Committee had with the departments and entities, while conducting oversight over the annual reports for the financial year under review. The resolutions does resonate under some of the departmental votes hereunder. However, it should be noted that these resolutions are transversal in nature and requests the attention of the entire WCG, which includes all departments and entities, as follows:

Matter	Resolution	Due date
<p>Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) Piloting in the Western Cape.</p> <p>While engaging the Audit Committee Chairperson of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the Committee noted that the IFMS piloting was still considered a risk within the department and the Western Cape, which the Audit Committee undertook to monitor on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>4.1 That the Department of the Premier, as well as Provincial Treasury, brief the Committee on the status of the implementation of the IFMS in the Western Cape.</p>	<p>Briefing to be scheduled by the Public Accounts Committee.</p>
<p>Red Ants Security Relocation and Eviction Services (Pty) Ltd</p> <p>While engaging the Auditor-General of South Africa on the risks within the Department of Transport and Public Works for the financial year under review, it emerged that the Department of Human Settlements made use of the services of the Red Ants Security Relocation and Eviction Services based on a contract between Human Settlements and the Red Ants, but without following the process related to participating in a contract of another organ of state. Instead, the Department of Human Settlements paid the supplier and was reimbursed by the other departments.</p>	<p>4.2 That Provincial Treasury brief the Committee on the Red Ants Security Relocation and Eviction Services (Pty) Ltd matter, including the general sourcing and implementation of transversal departmental contracts which are utilised by the WCG (e.g. transversal cleaning contracts) and how these differ from the Red Ants sourcing matter.</p>	<p>Briefing to be scheduled by the Public Accounts Committee.</p>
<p>National instruction notes</p> <p>The Committee engaged the AGSA's comments on the instruction notes which are issued by the National Treasury on a continuous basis in terms of section 76 of the Public Finance Management Act, No 1 of 1999. The Committee further notes that the arrangement in the Western Cape is that the Provincial Treasury review these</p>	<p>4.3 That the Provincial Treasury brief the Committee on the instruction notes that were issued by National Treasury for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years, including whether there were any departments and entities which deviated from the instruction notes. If such</p>	<p>Briefing to be scheduled by the Public Accounts Committee.</p>

<p>instruction notes and re-issue them to the various departments and entities on a selective basis. One of the identified risks is whereby material non-compliance could arise if certain national instruction notes are not complied with by departments and entities, where the necessary approval from the National Treasury to depart from them was not obtained as required by section 79 of the PFMA.</p>	<p>deviations occurred, the respective department/s should indicate the remedies that were introduced to mitigate future instances of deviations from instruction notes.</p>	
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5. General Findings

Having considered the reports of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA) and the Audit Committees, and having heard evidence from the executive members (the Premier and Ministers), the heads of department (Director-General and Heads of Department (HODs), the Chief Executive Officers and Board members of the public entities and members of the public in attendance at the discussions on the 2019/20 annual reports of the Departments and public entities of the Western Cape Provincial Government, the Committee wishes to report as follows:

The Committee acknowledges the assurances that were provided by the first level (departmental management and leadership), second level (internal independent assurance and oversight), and the third level (standing committees) providers. These three levels of assurances were instrumental in ensuring that risks were mitigated and ensured that the departments and entities strive towards an improved audit outcome.

The Committee congratulates the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board for achieving a clean audit outcome, which represents an improvement from the 2019/20 financial year where the Entity received an unqualified audit outcome with findings on some matters. The Committee further notes the unchanged audit outcomes of the following auditees, where unqualified audit outcomes were recorded by the AGSA, with findings on some matters. These auditees includes the Western Cape Education Department, CASIDRA and WESGRO. Furthermore, the Committee notes the regressed audit outcome of the Department of Human Settlements from a clean audit outcome in the 2019/20 financial year, to an unqualified audit outcome with findings in the 2020/21 financial year. The Committee will engage these departments and entities with the view to support them in improving their audit outcomes for the 2021/22 financial year.

The Public Accounts Committee aims to, in the 2021/22 financial year, engage the AGSA on any performance audits reports on issues, if such reports becomes available.

The recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee to the departments and entities of the Western Cape Government are stated below, including any requests for information, as follows.

Part A: Findings which relates to Departments

6.1 Department of the Premier

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Department, having obtained a clean audit outcome. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

6.2 Audit Opinion

The AGSA raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

6.3 Financial Management

The Department of the Premier spent R1,610 billion of an appropriated budget of R1,616 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R6,593 million (99,6% spend). For the 2019/20 financial year under review, the Department spent R1,450 billion of an appropriated budget of R1,496 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R46,599 million (98,6% spend). The under-expenditure of R6,593 million occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Executive Support (R831 000)
- Programme 2: Provincial Strategic Management (R2,017 million)
- Programme 3: People Management (R1,923 million)
- Programme 4: Centre for e-Innovation (R1,020 million) and
- Programme 5: Corporate Assurance (R802 000).

The underspending within the programmes were mainly due to savings on the compensation of employees, goods and services and the impact of COVID-19 on certain projects which started later than anticipated or had to be postponed to the 2021/22 financial year.

In addition, the total estimated Departmental revenue budget of R1,602 million was over-collected by R229 000, which resulted in total departmental receipts of R1,831 million. The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R4 000);
- Sale of capital assets (R3 000); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R994 000)

The revenue under-collection occurred under the line item *sale of goods and services other than capital assets* (R772 000).

The Committee note the contents under note 17 to the financial statements, which indicates that the Department is the defendant in a property damages claim to the value of R184,8 million. The Department is defending the claim, as it believes the summons is materially defective failing to establish a causal link between the actions of the defendant and the resultant damages and, therefore, fails to disclose a legitimate cause of action on which to hold the Department liable for the damages claimed.

6.4 Resolution/s

None

6.5 List of Information Requested

None

7.1 Provincial Treasury

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the Annual Financial Statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit report with no findings. This audit opinion remains the same as the audit outcome for the 2019/20 financial year, where the Department obtained a clean outcome with no findings.

7.2 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

7.3 Financial management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R277,393 million of an appropriated budget of R289,505 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R12,112 million (95,8% budget spend). During the 2019/20 financial year, Provincial Treasury spent R328,765 million of a budget of R338,009 million, resulting in an under-expenditure of R9,244 million (97,2 % budget spend).

In addition, the total estimated departmental receipts budget of R73 000 was over-collected by R19,654 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R19,727 million.

The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R28 000);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R5 000);
- Sale of the Departmental capital assets (R1 000); and
- Transactions in financial assets and liabilities (R19,621 million).

7.4 Resolution/s

None

7.5 List of Information Requested

None

8. Department of Community Safety

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Department, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

8.1 Audit Opinion

The AGSA raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

8.2 Financial Management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R773,295 million of an appropriated budget of R784,458 million (98,5% budget spend). During the 2019/20 financial year, the Department spent R464,924 million of an appropriated budget of R471,332. Thus resulted in an under-expenditure of R6,4 million (98,6% spend).

The under-expenditure of R11,163 million occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Administration (R192 000)
 - The underspending was due to Goods & Services in relation to audit costs.
- Programme 2: Civilian Oversight (R1,402 million)
 - The underspending was due to the Compensation of Employees (late filling of posts and staff attrition) and Goods and Services (due to the procurement of data devices for Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) structures that could not be finalized before year end).
- Programme 3: Provincial Policing Functions (R9,079 million)
 - The underspending is due to Compensation of Employees and Transfers to Non-Profit Organisations.

- Programme 4: Security Risk Management (R490 000)
 - The underspending is due to Compensation of Employees (late filling of posts and staff attrition).

The Department had no projected or actual departmental receipts which it could report on during the 2019/20 financial year.

8.3 Resolution/s

None

8.4 List of Information Requested

None

9. Western Cape Education Department

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit report with findings on compliance with key legislation relating to performance, pre-determined objectives and internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year, where the Department achieved an unqualified audit outcome with findings on its predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies.

9.1 Audit Opinion

The AGSA raised findings with the Department on compliance with key legislation relating to performance, pre-determined objectives and internal control deficiencies.

Governance

Finding on compliance with key legislation relating to performance

The findings which relates to compliance with key legislation relating to performance of the Department relates to the following:

Programme 2 –Public Ordinary School Education

PPM 208: Percentage of learners with English first additional language (EFAL) and Mathematics textbooks in Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12

An achievement of 87,4% was reported against a target of 60% in the annual performance report. However, the supporting evidence provided materially differed from the reported achievement.

Findings on pre-determined objectives

The findings which relates to the pre-determined objectives of the Department relates to the following:

Achievement of planned targets: These refers to the annual performance report on pages 81 to 87 for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year under review, as well as explanations provided for the under- and overachievement of a number of targets. This information should be considered in the context of the material finding on the reliability of the reported performance information in the paragraph above (paragraph 19 of the auditor's report).

Adjustment of material misstatements: The AGSA identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information of Programme 2: Public Ordinary School Education. As management subsequently corrected only some of the misstatements, the AGSA raised material findings on the reliability of the reported performance information. Those that were not corrected are reported above.

Findings on internal control deficiencies

The findings which relates to the internal control deficiencies of the Department relates to the following:

- Leadership did not exercise oversight responsibility regarding financial and performance reporting and compliance, as well as related internal controls, in respect of the submission of the financial statements as required by the PFMA.
- Management did not perform adequate reviews to ensure that the annual performance report was supported by reliable evidence for the reported indicators.

9.2 Financial Management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Western Cape Education Department spent R24,008 billion of an appropriated budget of R24,564 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R556,321 million (97,7% budget spend). Compared to the 2019/20 financial years, the Department spent R23, 446 billion of a budget of R23, 650 billion, which resulted in an overall under-expenditure of R203, 634 million (99, 1% budget expenditure).

The overall under-spending within the Department occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Administration (R42,598 million);
- Programme 2: Public Ordinary School Education (R40,518 million);
- Programme 4: Public Special School Education (R14,497 million);
- Programme 6: Infrastructure Development (R192,291 million); and
- Programme 7: Examination and Education Related Services (R266,417 million).

The reasons for the underspending per programme can be referenced on pages 16 to 17 of the Annual Report of the Department.

In addition, for the 2020/21 financial year, the departmental receipt estimated revenue budget of R24,710 million was over-collected by R4,382 million, which resulted in a Departmental receipt collection of R20,328 million. Compared to the 2019/20 financial year, the Department's receipt estimate of R28,401 million was over-collected by R3,527 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R31,928 million.

The revenue over-collection was collected under the following line items:

- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R688 000);
- Fines, penalties and forfeits (R347 000);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R1,261 million); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R2,086 million).

The Committee note that the Department recorded irregular expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year of R5,841 million and fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R6 000. The details are recorded under notes 24 and 25 of the Annual Report of the Department.

9.3 Resolution

BACKGROUND/ CONCERNS	RESOLUTIONS	ACTION DATE
Pages: 213-215 of the Annual Report. Headings: "Notes 18-19, 21-22 and 30-32" <u>Description:</u> The Committee notes the audit findings of the Department by the Auditor-General of South Africa.	9.3.1 That the Department brief the Public Accounts Committee, as well as the Standing Committee on Education, on how it and the Auditor-General of South Africa will deal with the audit findings in order to mitigate a future recurrence.	To be scheduled by the PAC.

9.4 List of Information Requested

The Committee requested that the Western Cape Education Department provide it with the following:

- 9.4.1 Quarterly reports which highlights how the findings of the Auditor-General will be and has been addressed, as referenced under notes 18,19,21,22,30,31 and 32 on pages 213 to 215 of the Annual Report.
- 9.4.2 A Report on how the Department addressed the audit findings of the Auditor-General for the 2019/20 financial year.
- 9.4.3 A report which highlights the irregular expenditures incurred during the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years which were sent for condonation, including how future irregular expenditures will be minimised in future financial years, as referenced under note 24 of the Annual Report.

9.4.4 A report on the expenditure surrendered to the Provincial Treasury in respect of the repair to the Knysna High Hostel School which was damaged by fire in June 2017.

10. Department of Health

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Department, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives, key legislation nor internal control deficiencies. This audit outcome remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year, where the Department obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives and internal control deficiencies.

10.1 Audit Opinion

The Department received a clean audit outcome for the 2020/21 financial year.

The Committee recognise and commends the Department that it continued to maintain its clean audit outcome, whilst also reducing the number of medico-legal claims against it.

10.2 Financial Management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R26,963 billion of an appropriated budget of R27,213 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R250,013 million (99% budget spend). At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, the Department of Health spent R24,773 billion of an appropriated budget of R24,852 billion, which resulted in an underspending of R78,768 million (99,7% budget spend).

The under-expenditure of R250,013 million occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Administration (R99,025 million);
- Programme 3: Emergency Medical Services (R18,446 million);
- Programme 4: Provincial Hospital Services (R28,899 million);
- Programme 5: Central Hospital Services (R31,328 million);
- Programme 6: Health Sciences And Training (R39,338 million);
- Programme 7: Health Care Support Services (R14,960 million); and
- Programme 8: Health Facilities Management (R18,017 million).

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department's receipts collected amounted to R411,472 million. This was an over-collection of R14,655 million from an estimated collection of R396,817 million. During the 2019/20 financial year, the total estimated departmental revenue budget of R544,178 million was over-collected by R141,194 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R686,092 million.

The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R12,870 million);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R1,312 million);
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R84 000); and
- Transfer received (R389 000).

The Department recorded R60,641 million in irregular expenditure as per note 23 of the annual financial statements. In addition, the Department recorded R4,670 million in fruitless and wasteful expenditure as per note 24 of the annual financial statements.

10.3 Resolution/s

None

10.4 List of Information Requested

10.4.1. The Committee requested that the Department of Health provide it with a Report on the irregular expenditures of the Department, as indicated under Note 23, as reflected on pages 227 and 228 of the Annual Report.

11. Department of Social Development

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Department, having obtained a clean audit opinion with no findings on pre-determined objectives, internal control deficiencies nor compliance with key legislation. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

11.1 Audit Opinion

The AGSA raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

11.2 Financial Management

During the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R2,678 billion from an appropriated budget of R2,692 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R13,491 million (99,45% spend). However, during the 2019/20 financial year, the Department spent R2,431 billion of an appropriated budget of R2,461 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R29,448 million (98,8% budget spend).

The overall under-spending within the Department occurred under following programmes:

- Programme 1: Administration (R965 000);
- Programme 2: Social Welfare Services (R4,520 million); and
- Programme 3: Children and Families (R8,006 million).

During the 2020/21 financial year, the Department collected R2,108 million in departmental receipts from an estimated collection of R1,192 million, which resulted in an over-collection of R916 000. The Committee noted that during the 2019/20 financial year, the Department collected R1,443 million, from an estimated collection target of R1,130 million, which resulted in an over-collection of R313 000.

The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R173 000); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R812 000).

An under-collection occurred under the line item *Sale of goods and services other than capital assets* of R69 000.

For the year under review, the Department recorded irregular expenditure of R1,211 million, as well as fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R5 000. These amounts are recorded under notes 22 and 23 of the Annual Report, respectively.

11.3 Resolution/s

None

11.4 List of Information Requested

11.4.1. The Committee requested that the Department of Social Development provide it with a report on note 26 ('Non-adjusting events after reporting date') which highlights that the Executive Authority approved early retirement without penalty for 34 officials which affected the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 financial years, as reflected on page 248 of the Annual Report of the Department.

12. Department of Human Settlements

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit report with findings on compliance to key legislation, material misstatements in the submitted financial statements, procurement and contract management; including deficiencies in the internal controls of the Department. This audit opinion represents a regression from the audit outcome for the 2019/20 financial year, where the Department obtained a clean outcome with no findings.

12.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised findings with the Department on compliance to key legislation, material misstatements in the submitted financial statements, procurement and contract management; including deficiencies in the internal controls.

12.2 Financial management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R2,380 billion of an appropriated budget of R2,426 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R46,180 million (98% budget spend). Compared to the 2019/20 financial year, the Department of Human Settlements spent R2,683 billion of a budget of R2,684 billion, resulting in an under-expenditure of R349 000 (99, 9 % budget expenditure).

In addition, the total estimated departmental receipts budget of R66,845 million was over-collected by R49,588 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R116,433 million.

The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R2,092 million);
- Sale of the Departmental capital assets (R12 000); and
- Transactions in financial assets liabilities (R47,588 million).

As disclosed in note 24 of the annual financial statements, the Department incurred irregular expenditure totalling R284,55 million.

12.3 Resolution/s

BACKGROUND/ CONCERNS	RESOLUTIONS	ACTION DATE
<p>Pages: 147-151 of the Annual Report.</p> <p>Heading: "Report of the Auditor-General: Report on the audit of the financial statements"</p> <p><u>Description:</u> The Committee notes the findings that the AGSA has highlighted in terms of its audit opinion of the Department as contained in notes 8, 26-29 and 36-38 which relates to irregular expenditure, procurement and contract management and internal controls deficiencies</p>	<p>12.3.1 That the Department brief the Public Accounts Committee on the reasons for the audit opinion and findings of the AGSA, including how the Department will prevent a recurrence of a similar nature.</p> <p>12.3.2 That the Department brief the Committee on the irregular expenditure incurred by it, including the condonations received from Provincial Treasury and the disciplinary steps taken against the officials who were responsible for the irregular expenditure.</p>	<p>To be scheduled by the PAC.</p>

12.4 List of Information Requested

The Committee requested that the Department of Human Settlements furnish it with the following:

12.4.1 A Report on the various grants (e.g. fires and emergency grants) below 1000 units and how these grants are activated and dealt with by the Department. This request emanated from note 1.2 conditional grants on page 185 of the Annual Report of the Department.

12.4.2 The meeting minutes of 11 October 2021 which took place between the Audit Committee, Internal Audit and the AGSA.

13. Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit report with no findings on compliance with key legislation, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

13.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

13.2 Financial management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R583,751 million of an appropriated budget of R588,532 million which resulted in an under-expenditure of R4,781 million (99,18% budget spend). At the 2019/20 financial year-end, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning spent R624,869 million of an appropriated budget of R634,759 million which resulted in an under-expenditure of R9,890 million (98% budget spend).

In addition, the Department raised R3,274 million of an 2020/21 estimated Departmental receipt of R2,742 million, which resulted in an over-expenditure of R532 000. During the 2019/20 financial year, the total estimated Departmental revenue budget of R2,104 million was over collected by R1,024 million to yield an actual Departmental receipt of R3,128 million. The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Fines, penalties and forfeits (R386 000);
- Sale of the Departmental capital assets (R9 000); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R201 000).

The Department recorded irregular expenditure of R184 000, which is awaiting condonation, as indicated under Note 23 of the Annual Report of the Department. The Department did not incur any fruitless and wasteful expenditure during the 2020/21 financial year.

13.3 Resolution/s

None

13.4 List of Information Requested

13.4.1 The Committee requested that the Department furnish it with its State of Biodiversity and State of Environment Report, as discussed by the Committee while engaging the Department on its key risks considered and addressed during the year, as highlighted on pages 89 and 90 of the Annual Report of the Department.

14. Department of Transport and Public Works

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit report with no findings. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

14.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

14.2 Financial management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R8, 443 billion of an appropriated budget of R8, 575 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R131, 937 million (98,5% spend). At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, the Department reported that it spent R8,547 billion of an appropriated budget of R8,557 billion, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R10,469 million (99,8% budget spend).

In addition, the total estimated departmental revenue budget of R1, 896 billion was over-collected by R109, 297 million, which resulted in a Departmental receipt of R2, 006 billion.

The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Motor vehicle licences (R77,872 million);
- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R2,735 million);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R541 000);
- Fines, penalties and forfeits (R1,063 million);
- Sale of the Departmental capital assets (R15,255 million); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R11,831 million).

The Department incurred irregular expenditure of R8,032 million which was a culmination of expenditure of prior financial years (R5,174 million) and current year (R2,858 million).

The expenditure occurred due to non-compliance to supply chain management delegations and value added tax that was removed from calculations of the preference points to make a bid more comparable (94 incidents). Progressive disciplinary steps have been implemented by the Department for the prior financial year expenditure, while it is yet to institute disciplinary steps against the Departmental officials as it's yet to conclude on a determination on the value added tax that was removed from bid applications. In addition, the one case of irregular expenditure was condoned by Provincial Treasury for a case of non-compliance to public private partnership (local content), which amounted to R118 000.

The Department did incur one incident of unauthorised, fruitless and wasteful expenditure during the 2020/21 financial year for the theft of diesel, which amounted to R15 000. However, the official who was implicated in the theft is no longer in the employ of the Department. The amount was recovered by the Department, and the matter was reported to the South African Police Services for further action.

14.3 Resolution/s

None

14.4 List of Information Requested

14.4.1 The Committee requested that the Department of Transport and Public Works provide it with a report which highlights a breakdown of the expenditures against the line items "consultants and business advisory services", as reflected on page 246 (R117,333 million) and page 260 (R188,370 million) of the Annual Report of the Department.

15. Department of Agriculture

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit opinion with no findings on key legislation, predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

15.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Department on key legislation, predetermined objectives, nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

High Court litigation

The Minister of Economic Opportunities in the Western Cape lodged a dispute at the Western Cape High Court on 22 October 2018, with the aim to request the Court to review and set aside the Auditor-General qualified opinion and the following findings:

- That the Department of Agriculture did not account for payments in accordance with the Modified Cash Standard;
- That the Department incorrectly budgeted for payments as transfers instead of goods and services;
- That the Department irregularly entered into contracts with “implementing agents” without applying the National Treasury Regulations; and
- That the principal-agent relationships were not disclosed.

The matter was heard in the Western Cape High Court on 10 March 2020 and on 8 June 2020 the judgement was in favour of the Department of Agriculture. However, the AGSA appealed the judgement on 30 June 2020, to which the ruling of the court as also in favour of the Department of Agriculture.

It is for this reason that the Committee repeals its former audit opinion notations with the AGSA, which indicates that the Department received a qualified audit opinion with findings on key legislation, predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies from the 2017/18 to 2019/20 financial years.

Due to the aforementioned, the notation of this Committee regarding the audit opinions of the AGSA are repealed and restated as the following:

2017/18 financial year:

The Committee notes the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2017/18 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit opinion with findings on predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion represents a regression from the 2016/17 financial, where the Department received a clean audit opinion with no findings on compliance with key legislation, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

2018/19 financial year:

The Committee notes the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2018/19 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit opinion with no findings on key legislation, predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion represents an improved audit outcome from the 2017/18 financial year.

2019/20 financial year:

The Committee notes the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2019/20 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit opinion with no findings on key legislation, predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2018/19 financial year.

12.2 Financial management

During the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R917,856 million of an appropriated expenditure of R928,803 million which resulted in an under-expenditure of R10,947 million (98,8% budget spend).

For the 2019/20 financial year, the Department spent R928,920 million of an appropriated budget of R947,929 million which resulted in an under-expenditure of R19 million (97,9 % budget spend).

In addition, the Department’s departmental receipt estimated revenue budget of R28,543 million was over-collected by R9,100 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R28,543 million.

The revenue over-collection was collected under the following line items:

- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R5,421 million);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R1,851 million);
- Sale of capital assets (R704 000); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R1,087 million).

The Committee noted that the overall under-spending within the Department occurred under the following:

Programmes

- Programme 1: Administration (R1,793 million),
- Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management (R2 million);
- Programme 3: Farmer Support and Development (R3 000);
- Programme 4: Veterinary Services (R2,632 million);
- Programme 5: Research and Technology Development (R1,154 million);
- Programme 6: Agriculture Economics Services (R473 000);
- Programme 7: Structured Agricultural Education and Training (R414 000); and
- Programme 8: Rural Development (R2,478 million).

15.3 Resolution/s

BACKGROUND/ CONCERNS	RESOLUTIONS	ACTION DATE
<p>Pages: 234-235 of the Annual Report.</p> <p>Headings: “Report on the audit of the financial statements”</p> <p><u>Description:</u> The AGSA provided a qualified opinion in the Annual Report of the Department, yet in its presentation to the Committee on the audit outcome of the Department, it was stated that the Department achieved a clean audit outcome. Moreover, the Committee notes the judgement that was made in favour of the Department. The Committee requests that the AGSA and Department engage it in order to avoid a future recurrence on this matter.</p>	<p>15.3.1 That the Auditor-General of South Africa and the Department of Agriculture engage the Committee on the court judgement which impacted on the audit outcomes of the Department, including how a future recurrence would be avoided.</p> <p>15.3.2 That the AGSA and Department brief the Committee on the internal controls in place within the Department which impacted on the material misstatements and predetermined objectives of the Department.</p>	<p>To be scheduled by the Public Accounts Committee.</p>

15.4 List of Information Requested

None

16. Department of Economic Development and Tourism

The Committee noted the Auditor-General's audit opinion regarding the Department's annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

16.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

16.2 Financial Management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R530, 711 million of an appropriated budget of R534, 886 million, resulting in an under-expenditure of R4,175 million (99,2% spend). During the 2019/20 financial year, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism spent R498, 783 million of a budget of R511,263 million, resulting in an overall under-expenditure of R12,480 million (97,6% spend).

The following Departmental programmes were affected by the under-expenditure, as follows:

- Programme 1: Administration (R66 000);
- Programme 2: Integrated Economic Development Services (R22 000);
- Programme 3: Trade and Sector Development (R609 000);
- Programme 4: Business Regulation and Governance (R51 000);
- Programme 5: Economic Planning (R3,208 million);
- Programme 6: Tourism, Arts and Entertainment (R135 000); and
- Programme 7: Skills Development and Innovation (R84 000).

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Department collected R2,176 million, from an estimated receipt collection of R351 000, which resulted in an over-collection of R1,825 million.

The over-collection under the following line items:

- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R28 000);
- Sale of capital assets (R33 000); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R1,938 million).

For the financial year under review, the Department recorded irregular expenditure of R1,469 million, which relates to two cases that are still under investigation. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure was incurred at R1 000 for the year under review.

16.3 Resolution/s

None

16.4 List of Information Requested

None

17. Cultural Affairs and Sport

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Department for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained unqualified audit opinion with no findings on predetermined objectives and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

17.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor significant deficiencies in its internal controls.

17.2 Financial Management

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport spent R735,454 million of a budget of R745,805 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R10,351 million (98,6% expenditure). In the 2019/20 financial year, the Department spent R784,571 million of a budget of R794,450 million, which resulted in an overall under-expenditure of R9,879 million (98,8% expenditure). The under-expenditure occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Administration (R889 000);
- Programme 2: Cultural Affairs (R2,266 million);
- Programme 3: Library and Archive Services (R5,580 million); and
- Programme 4: Sport and Recreation (R1,616 million).

In addition, the total projected departmental receipts of R818 000 was over-collected by R663 000, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R1,481 million. The revenue over-and under collections occurred under the following line items:

- Transfers received other Government Units (R450 000 over-collection);
- Interest, dividends and rent on land (R5 000 over- collection);
- Financial transactions and assets and liabilities (R404 000 over-collection);
- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R162 000 under-collection); and
- Fines, penalties and forfeits (R34 000 under-collection).

The Committee further notes under Note 17 on page 262 of the Department's Annual Report that the Department recorded contingent liabilities which amounted to R11, 525 million. Furthermore, under note 23 on page 266, the Department recorded irregular expenditure of R55 000 which is awaiting the condonation of Provincial Treasury. It should be highlighted that R128 000 in irregular expenditure for prior financial years has already been condoned by Provincial Treasury during the financial year under review. The condonation was a result of non-compliance to procurement prescripts.

17.3 Resolutions

None

17.4 List of Information Requested

The Committee requested that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport provide it with the following:

- 17.4.1. The Memorandum of Agreement between the Department and Laingsburg Municipality in respect of the R717 350 transfer which took place from the Department to the Municipality during the year under review; including the letter from the Municipality on this transfer, all quarterly reports on the expenditure of the transfer, the inspection report and the closed-up report on the matter, as reflected on pages 147 and 280 of the Annual Report.
- 17.4.2. A Report on all the transfers that were made to the various municipalities of the Western Cape; including the purpose and timing of each allocation, how municipalities are chosen and the selection criteria used by the Department on which project to fund.

18. Local Government

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Department, having obtained a clean audit report. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

18.1 Audit Opinion

The AGSA raised no findings with the Department on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

18.2 Financial Management

During the 2020/21 financial year, the Department spent R279,141 million of an appropriated budget of R283,679 million, resulting in an under-expenditure of R4,538 million (98,4% budget spend). At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, the Department of Local Government spent R313,749 million of an appropriated budget of R319,295 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R5,546 million (98,2% budget spend).

The under-expenditure of R4,538 million occurred under the following programmes:

- Programme 1: Administration (R791 000);
- Programme 2: Local Governance (R3,746 million);
- Programme 3: Development and Planning (none); and
- Programme 4: Traditional Institutional Management (R1 000).

For the 2020/21 financial year, the estimated Departmental receipt of R109 000 was over-collected by R398 000, which resulted in a collected amount of R507 000. During the 2019/20 financial year, the total Departmental revenue budget of R103 000 was over-collected by R4,202 million which resulted in a Departmental receipt of R4,305 million.

The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Sale of goods and services other than capital assets (R23 000); and
- Financial transactions in assets and liabilities (R375 000).

The Department recorded irregular expenditure of R469 000. In addition, the Department incurred no fruitless and wasteful expenditure during the financial year under review.

18.3 Resolution/s

None

18.4 List of Information Requested

None

Part B: Findings which relates to Entities

19. Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements of the Entity for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit outcome. This presents an improvement from the 2019/20 financial year, where the Entity obtained an unqualified audit outcome with matters relating to findings on compliance with key legislation and deficiencies in internal control.

19.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

19.2 Financial management

The Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board (WCGRB) spent R53,161 million of a an appropriated budget of R69,970 million. This resulted in an overall under-expenditure of R16,808 million (76% budget spend).

The WCGRB's revenue collection 2020/21 financial year estimate of R69,970 million was exceeded by R6,073 million, which resulted in an end of year revenue yield of R76,044 million. The over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- Application fees (R454 894);
- Investigation fees (R2,737 million);
- Interest (R6,946 million);
- Services in-kind (R5,067 million); and
- Miscellaneous (R101 009).

19.3 Resolution/s

None

19.4 List of Information Requested

None

20. The Western Cape Liquor Authority

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the AGSA regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Entity, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

20.1 Audit Opinion

The AGSA raised no findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

20.2 Financial Management

During the 2020/21 financial year, the Entity spent R46,159 million from a final budget of R65,879 million which resulted in an under-expenditure of R19,719 million. For the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity spent R55 558 million from an appropriated budget of R53,830 million for its operating budget, which indicates an over-expenditure of R1,728 million.

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Entity spent R1,260 million of a budget of R5,306 million. During the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity spent R15,587 million of its appropriated capital budget of R19,695million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R4,107 million.

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Entity under-collected its revenue budget of R71,185 million by R14,137 million which resulted in a total revenue budget of R57,047 million. During the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity under-collected its revenue budget of R57,047 million by R14,137 million which resulted in a total revenue budget of R56,366 million.

In addition, as disclosed on page 48 of the Entity's annual report, the total estimated revenue budget of R49,288 million was under-collected by R3,880 million, which resulted in a receipt of R45,408 million.

20.3 Resolution/s

None

20.4 List of Information Requested

None

21. CapeNature

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the Annual Financial Statements of the Entity for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

21.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

21.2 Financial management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Entity spent R345,428 million of an appropriated budget of R366,574 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R21,145 million (94,2% budget spend). At the end of the 2019/20 financial year, CapeNature spent R390,366 million of an appropriated budget of R396,679 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R6,12 million (99,9 budget spend).

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Entity's revenue estimation of R366,574 million was under-collected by R9,832 million, which resulted in an revenue collection of R356,742 million. During the 2019/20 financial year the total estimated revenue budget of the CapeNature of R396, 679 million was under-collected by R40 000, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R396, 639 million. The under-expenditure occurred under the line item Government Grant, Own Revenue and Special projects.

The Entity recorded no irregular expenditure during the financial year under review.

21.3 Resolution/s

None

21.4 List of Information Requested

21.4.1 The Committee requested that the Entity furnish it with its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, including a Report on how the Entity operationalise the Policy; as indicated on page 72 of the Annual Report.

22. Government Motor Transport

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Entity for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

22.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor deficiencies in its internal controls.

22.2 Financial management

For the 2021/21 financial year, the Entity spent R598,706 million of an approved budget of R649,008 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R50,302 million (92,2% spend). During the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity spent R601,357 million of an appropriated budget of R651,832 million, which resulted in an under-expenditure of R50,475 million (92,2% budget spend).

The under-expenditure occurred under the following line items:

- Administrative expenses (R1,178 million);
- Employee costs (R17,834 million);
- Operating expenditure (R27,228 million);
- Depreciation (R1,077 million);
- Amortisation (R779 000);
- Accidents and Impairment losses (R329 000); and
- Operating leases (R2,413 million).

In addition, the total estimated revenue budget of the Government Motor Transport of R823,142 million was under-collected by R65,042 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R758,100 million. The over- and under collection of revenue occurred under the following categories of revenue:

- Daily-, kilometre tariffs and interest earned on finance lease receivables (R20,469 million under-collection);
- Other income (R22,139 million under-collected);
- Government grants and other subsidies received (funding received from clients for additional vehicles) (R1,231 million over-collected);

- Services in-kind (R2,312 million over-collected); and
- Interest earned – accounts receivables, and cash and cash equivalents (R25,977 million under-collected).

The Entity incurred no unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure during the 2020/21 financial year.

22.3 Resolution/s

None

22.4 List of Information Requested

22.4.1. The Committee requested that the Government Motor Transport provides it with a Report which indicates the outstanding debts per client older than 3 months, including the mechanism in place to recoup the debts, as referenced from Table 3 on page 15 and Note 3 on page 152 of the Annual Report.

23. Cape Agency for Sustainable Integrated Development in Rural Areas (CASIDRA)

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements of the Entity for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit opinion with findings on predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies. This opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

23.1 Audit opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised findings with the Entity relating to predetermined objectives and deficiencies in the Entity's internal controls.

23.2 Financial management

For the 2020/21 financial year, the Entity spent R39,242 million against its operational budget. Furthermore, the Entity spent R285,958 million against its project expenditure. During the 2019/20 financial year, CASIDRA spent R43,059 million against its operating budget, and R275,829 million against its project expenditure.

23.3 Resolution/s

None

23.4 List of Information Requested

None

24. Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone (SOC) Ltd (SBIDZ)

The Committee noted the Auditor-General's audit opinion regarding the Entity's annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained a clean audit. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

24.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor internal control deficiencies.

24.2 Financial Management

As disclosed on page 93 of the Entity's Annual Report, the SBIDZ spent R87,976 million of its operating expenditure budget of R87,898 million, resulting in an underspending of R78,020 million (100% budget spend).

Furthermore, the Entity spent R446,7 million of a capital budget of R447,3 million, resulting in an overall underspending of R653 558 (99,8% budget spend).

The Entity's revenue budget of R7,036 million was under- collected by R541 358, which resulted in an overall collection of R6,494 million.

24.3 Resolution/s

None

24.4 List of Information Requested

None

25. The Western Cape Tourism, Trade and Investment Promotion Entity (WESGRO)

The Committee noted the Auditor-General's audit opinion regarding the Entity's annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year, having obtained an unqualified audit report with findings on predetermined objectives, as well as internal control deficiencies. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the audit outcome of the 2019/20 financial year, where the Entity received an unqualified audit report with findings relating to compliance with key legislation, performance and annual reports, procurement and contract management and internal control deficiencies.

25.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised some findings with the Entity on predetermined objectives and internal control deficiencies.

Findings on predetermined objectives:

Number of tourism destination marketing initiatives supported.

The source information and method of calculation for achieving the planned indicator was not clearly defined.

The achievement of 15 was reported against the target of 34 in the annual performance report. However, some supporting evidence provided materially differed from the reported achievement, while in other instances, the AGSA was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence. This was due to the lack of accurate and complete records. The AGSA was also unable to confirm the reported achievement by alternative means. Consequently, the AGSA was unable to determine whether any further adjustments were required to the reported achievement.

Other matters relating to predetermined objectives:

Achievement of planned targets: Refer to the annual performance report on page 52 for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and management's explanations provided for the under-achievement of targets. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information as per above.

Adjustment of material misstatements: the AGSA identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information of programme 6 – destination marketing organisation (DMO). As management subsequently corrected only some of the misstatements, the AGSA raised material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information. Those that were not corrected are reported above.

Findings on internal control deficiencies:

Management did not have sufficient and adequate documented and signed standard operating procedures which define what the term "supported" means. This resulted in the planned understanding when setting up the indicator and outcome not being reflected in the reported achievement. The technical indicator description was not specific enough to define management's planned intentions for the indicator reported on. As a result, the supporting evidence provided was not sufficient and appropriate for the reported achievement

25.2 Financial Management

WESGRO spent R90,517 million of a budget of R100,895 million, which resulted in an underspending of R10,379 million (89,7% budget spend).

Furthermore, the Entity spent R874 000 of a capital budget of R1,724 million, resulting in an overall underspending of R850 000 (50,7% budget spend).

The agency's final revenue budget of R107,289 million was under-collected by R7,294 million, which resulted in a total end-of year revenue balance of R102,624 million.

In addition, the total Entity's projected receipts of R7,036 million was over-collected by R4,860 million, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R132,042 million. The revenue over-collection occurred under the following line items:

- City of Cape Town (R4,175 million);
- Interest (R481 000); and
- Other incomes (R204 000).

Significant emphasis of matters

Investments (put option): As disclosed in note 9 of the financial statements, a fair value gain of R2,920 million (2020: R1,735 million) was realised during the year on the entity's investment through its put option on shares held in the Cape Town Film Studios (Pty) Ltd, bringing the value of the investment to R29,441 million (2020: R26,521 million) as at 31 March 2021.

The Entity recorded an irregular expenditure incurment of R61 000. No fruitless and wasteful expenditure was identified for the period under review.

25.3 Resolution/s

None

25.4 List of Information Requested

None

26. Heritage Western Cape

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Entity, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

26.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no material findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor significant deficiencies in its internal controls.

26.2 Financial Management

For the year under review, Heritage Western Cape spent R2,380 million of a budget of R1,99 million, resulting in an over-expenditure of R390 000 (120,6% expenditure).

During the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity spent R4,119 million of a budget of R3,561 million, which resulted in an over-expenditure of R558 000 (115,6% over-expenditure).

The over- expenditure relates to the GRAP 23 adjustments made for salaries, "Employee cost of R485 000, of the financial management staff of the Department as services in-kind received.

As indicated on page 46 of the Entity's Annual Report, the estimated revenue budget of R1,990 million was under-collected by R14 000, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R1,976 million. The revenue over- and under collections occurred under the following line items:

- Other operating income (R433 000 over-collection);
- Transfer payment (R452 000 under-collection); and
- Interest income (R5 000 over-collection)

26.3 Resolution/s

None

26.4 List of Information Requested

None

27. The Western Cape Cultural Commission

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Entity, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

27.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no material findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor significant deficiencies in its internal controls.

27.2 Financial Management

For the year under review, Western Cape Cultural Commission spent R2,276 million of a final budget of R1,809 million, resulting in an over-expenditure of R467 000(125,8% expenditure). However, during the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity spent R3,507 million of an appropriated budget of R3,072 million, which resulted in an over-expenditure of R435 000 (114,2% expenditure).

As indicated on page 21 of the Annual Report, the estimated revenue collection budget of the Entity of R1,809 million was over-collected by R1,094 million which resulted in an end-of-financial year departmental receipt of R2,903 million. The revenue over- and under collections occurred under the following line items:

- Other operating income (R495 000 under-collection);
- Transfer payment (R1,588 million over-collection); and
- Interest income (R1 000 over-collection).

27.3 Resolution/s

None

27.4 List of Information Requested

None

28. The Western Cape Language Committee

The Committee noted the audit opinion of the Auditor-General regarding the annual financial statements for the 2020/21 financial year of the Entity, having obtained an unqualified audit report with no findings on pre-determined objectives and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This audit opinion remains unchanged from the 2019/20 financial year.

28.1 Audit Opinion

The Auditor-General of South Africa raised no material findings with the Entity on compliance with laws and regulations, predetermined objectives nor significant deficiencies in its internal controls.

28.2 Financial Management

During the year under review, the Western Cape Language Committee spent R649 000 of a budget of R179 000, which resulted in an over-expenditure of R470 000 (362,6% expenditure). However, during the 2019/20 financial year, the Entity spent R915 000 of an appropriated budget of R335 000, which resulted in an over-expenditure of R580 000 (273,1% expenditure).

As highlighted on page 5 of the English version of the Entity's Annual Report, the total estimated departmental revenue budget of R179 000 was over-collected by R555 000, which resulted in a departmental receipt of R734 000. The over-collection mainly relates to GRAP 23: Service in Kind adjustment made for the salaries of R485 000 in relation to the financial management staff of the Entity. Further details is explained under Note 8 in the annual financial statements of the Entity.

28.3 Resolution/s

None

28.4 List of Information Requested

None

29. Conclusion

The Committee thanked the Premier, Ministers, Director-General and Heads of Department, the Auditor-General of South Africa, the audit committees and all other role players, for the information provided towards ensuring efficient and productive oversight outcomes in terms of this process.

It should be noted that the public was invited to participate in the 2020/21 financial year annual reports process through placing adverts in various newspapers in the Western Cape. No inputs were received from the members of the public in the meetings of the Public Accounts Committees with the Departments and entities on their annual reports. The Committee is of the view that in order to increase public interest, knowledge and participation in this important oversight process, that more community organisations and members of the public should be invited to engage in this important process

The Committee also acknowledges the important role that the administrative staff embarked on for this Committee to have achieved its set goal, during this season of annual reporting.

Report to be considered.

MONDAY, 28 MARCH 2022

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Referral of bill to committee in accordance with Rule 217:

Budget Committee

Division of Revenue Bill [B 6–2021] NCOP (proposed section 76(1) Bill).

TABLING

The Speaker:

Bill received from the National Council of Provinces and tabled in accordance with Rule 217:

Division of Revenue Bill [B 6–2021] NCOP (proposed section 76(1) Bill).

Copy attached.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

[Hybrid sitting held with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams.]

The House met at 10:00.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLING AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see p. 5300**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The SPEAKER: Good morning and welcome hon members and to the first citizen of the Province, The Premier, His Excellency, Mr Alan Winde; hon members who are virtually connected and of course, I see here in the Chamber it is nice and warm. There is a †klomp mense hier [lot of people here.] Welcome, hon members. I will not individually identify you, but I noticed that on my right-hand side where the DA is sitting, there are many. The Opposition is sitting on the left-hand side, led by hon Sayed. So, you are alone there. If there is a vote now ... [Interjections.] [Laughter.] So, you stand for everyone there. I welcome also the hon members who are virtually here, the political parties, you are all welcome; HODs, Staff of the Western Cape Parliament, people of the Western Cape and hon guests.

Now, we are about to start with the hybrid session. I just want to say without taking much time, that the statute, which since April 2020 that has been guiding us, is that if you are connected virtually, please behave. Do you not press the microphone if you have not been identified by the Presiding Officer. You must do so by a press of the button and lift your hand or you must just indicate by doing so in the chatroom, and you will be recognised.

So, do not feel that you will not be recognised if you do not speak because heckling, in terms of Rule 40 and of course, in terms of the same directives issued by myself, agreed to by this House, say we may not heckle virtually because it affects the quality of the debates in the House.

Now, furthermore, if you are a member of the media, you know the House works with the media as a very strategic and important partner, but please do not activate your camera, do not activate your microphone. Do what you do when you are in the Chamber here, because you are sitting in the gallery, and therefore, please observe the rules as such and everybody else connected virtually, please do not activate any of those, as indicated herein above.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2-2022]

(Debate on Vote 6 – Health)

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker; hon Deputy Speaker; hon Premier and hon Cabinet Ministers; hon Leaders of the Opposition Parties; Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; the Heads of the Departments; Media Houses; and the People of the Western Cape; I greet you in this State of Health Address, SOHA. Hon Speaker, I rise to table the 2022/2023 Western Cape Health Budget of about R29 billion.

This is my eighth Health Budget Speech, and in all these past years, I reported on the progress made in implementing the previous budget promises. This year, I want to take this accountability further back to the past seven years and also share a some of the progress on the promises I made each year.

This Budget is about the journey to health recovery and post-COVID-19 pandemic healing, ngu Vulimpilo [health recovery] budget, hon Speaker. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us flames and has left our health system more fragile. Not only are we taking care of a COVID-19 wounded society, but also psychologically wounded healthcare workers. We all need to heal, and non-COVID-19 health services have to recover. Let us all come together and rebuild the walls of the healthcare system. Later, hon Speaker, I will highlight some of the non-COVID-19 health services we are recovering and also our budget commitments to them.

Hon Speaker, the 2022/23 budget is not only †uVulimpilo, [health recovery] but also the †kujika izinto [turn things around] budget. I once reminded this House that we are a Department of Health that focuses on both illness and wellness. We also offer preventive and promotive health services just as we also offer curative and hospital-based services. Our Western Cape Healthcare 2030 plan, the Road to Wellness, a third Western Cape health reform after the Comprehensive Service Plan 2010, is the long-term strategic vision and direction of the Department endorsed by the Provincial Cabinet, just in case people do not remember what it was. It is still here.

So, hon Speaker, we have implemented some of the provisions since 2015; this includes bringing in a more preventive and promotive health focus through Community-Oriented Primary Care (COPC), a slight shift from a hospicentric health system and we also offer patient-centred quality care with the community's voice being integral.

Wellness is defined by the World Health Organisation, as not merely the absence of disease, but a complete state of physical, mental and social wellbeing. Hon Speaker, that is the promise I made in 2015 and also, what I said was that delivering a health service will be business unusual. We cannot continue mopping the floor; we have to close the tap by tackling the upstream factors, which means the social determinants on health.

Hon Speaker, in 2015 I introduced new legislation to strengthen the voice of the community to be partners in health service delivery.

The late uncle Polly Jacobs, who used to be the Chairperson of the Belhar Forum – wherever you are Uncle Polly, may you give us a sign. You should be happy to see that we not only passed the legislation in 2016, because when I passed that legislation, I was dedicating it to Uncle Polly, but as of today in all of our statutory structures that require community participation, we have made almost 80% of the appointments.

Not only that, in those structures, the representation is about 50% of community membership that is mandatory in hospital boards and the clinic committees to ensure that we provide a voice to the community.

Hon Speaker, two weeks ago, the Department of Health hosted our Health Indaba to remind us indeed, of our journey to recover health, †Vulimpilo, and recovery which is to do as unusual, and that health is everybody's business. It is written on the back of my T-shirt. I am proud to announce that we are no longer the Western Cape Department of Health. I need to repeat that: we no longer call ourselves the Western Cape Department of Health, but we remain ourselves.

As the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, the first and only one in the country †zajika izinto [things have changed] – I am not sure you heard that, hon Speaker – The first one in the country to be called the Department of Health and Wellness because this journey started long time ago. [Applause.] The journey started long ago, and I appreciate that the hon Premier and the hon Cabinet has approved that.

Hon Speaker, it is this Western Cape Healthcare 2030 reform that made provision for us to tackle the social determinants of health, with violence prevention as one of those. As Health, what lands on our shores is not only health problems, but socio-economic and politic-cultural problems that lead to illness and a burden that drains our health system.

The hon Premier announced that there will be a dedicated Violence Prevention Unit that will be established within the Department. We do welcome the challenge, hon Premier. Thank you for providing such an opportunity. Actually, in most parts of the world, a public health approach which uses the Cardiff model, where trauma morbidity and mortality data is shared with other sectors for prompt intervention, has always been there.

Thanks to our HECTIS (Hospital Emergency Centres Trauma Information System) an innovation we actually showcased in my 2016/2017 budget speech, where – if I could just quickly remind you, hon Speaker that during that budget speech, I made a promise of digital innovations in the health system through the E-vision strategy which I introduced then.

HECTIS was one innovation I bragged about. Others were to develop a unique patient identifier, which we have done and establishing electronic health records, which we have also done. Now, this HECTIS, which has actually been escalated to more than 20 of our emergency care centres, is also helping us to determine the impact of alcohol as well as the impact on the mental health of our trauma centres.

This HECTIS is now central to gathering data for VPU – the Violence Prevention Unit. The VPU will utilise data and evidence, develop policy, and work with relevant stakeholders at a local geographic level to implement measures that reduce violence. It is critical to note that this will not only involve the Department but will also be a collaborative effort with all the government departments that need to participate.

Actually, hon Speaker, we already have transversal WoSA, which is the whole of society approach and the whole of government approach, that is co-chaired by the HODs of Health and also, the HOD of Safety. We are continuing what we have already started. It is not about something new when the hon Premier was making the announcement, it is based on the work that has already been done. This unit will straddle the Strategic Cluster, Emergency and Clinical Support Services within the Department.

This will be the first Violence Prevention Unit to be established in Health in South Africa. Can I repeat that, hon Speaker? This will be the first Violence Prevention Unit in the Department of Health, which is the Department of Health and Wellness, that it established in South Africa as part of social determinants on health. The amount committed to this in the budget is R10 million. †Zajika izinto. [Things have changed.] [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Hon Speaker, let me talk briefly about COVID-19. This pandemic has been brutal to our healthcare workers. As of today, about 209 did not make it. This is tragic: 209. Yes, it may be less than 2%, but we are talking about faces, about humans. I convey my words of condolence to their families: May God continue to comfort them, but again, we are talking about the faces of the soldiers that died fighting the COVID-19 battle for you and for me. So, we want to, as a Department, to be able to say thank you to them.

I do want to actually acknowledge the hon member Windvogel who reminded us about the Wall of Remembrance for these soldiers, to which we agreed, but because we are still in the waves, because we are coming from the fourth wave, we do not know what is going to happen in the fifth wave and all of that, so it is part of the work in progress that we are looking at. So, thank you hon member Windvogel for the suggestion.

This virus will still be around and is predicted to be around for the next two years, hence the need to reintegrate with other non-COVID-19 healthcare. We cannot run a health system where other health services, non-COVID-19 services are put on holiday. It cannot be. This virus has taught us that we are able to manoeuvre within it. People can now access vaccines at their health facilities together with other health services as we decommission more vaccination sites, for example, the stadiums.

So, we are integrating COVID-19 health services within other aspects of COVID-19 services and therefore, in this budget we are committing about R770 000 to make sure we are able to do that. We also welcome that health regulations will be used to manage the pandemic or endemic, as is always the case with other categories of medically notifiable conditions.

I encourage people to engage and make submissions, and input to the National Department of Health because now it will not be managed as a disaster, which we do welcome.

Hon Speaker, I did mention that I want to showcase some to the non-COVID-19 health services that we want to make sure we recover. †Vulimpilo. The Province has had to manage more acute mental health admissions in the last two years, which is challenging at all levels. The concern is that vulnerable groups, including children and adolescents, elderly patients, and persons with intellectual disabilities, require tailored management.

Last week I engaged with the Mental Health Review Board, who are the ombuds for mental health users in the provinces where each and every province appoints one. They also shared similar concerns about mental health users who defaulted treatments and others who came for readmission during the COVID-19 lockdowns. COVID-19 has actually worsened the mental health well-being of the community in general.

It is for this reason that the Western Cape identified a need for a transversal response to wellbeing beyond pathologising mental health, but as a state of wellness. As with the Violence Prevention Unit, the HODs of Health, the HOD of Social Development, the HOD of the DCAS, co-chair this and are making sure that we focus on mental health throughout the life span and not only as a mental health illness.

Weeks ago, we opened an Adolescent Centre of Excellence under Groote Schuur Hospital, which provides a full range of social, psychological, psychiatric, and endocrine/physical needs for these adolescents. The response to the mental health pressures requires a whole-of-society, a whole-of-government approach.

For example, dealing with substance abuse requires an intensive effort from all of society, not only the health sector, if we are to effectively deal with the impacts of substance abuse on one's mental and physical health. For this budget, we are allocating an additional R30 million because health services still have to continue. We are allocating an additional R30 million for this aspect. This is what you call †Vulimpilo. Thank you, hon Speaker.

On surgical backlogs, COVID-19 meant that elective surgical services had to be significantly de-escalated as staff were deployed to COVID-19 services and this resulted in an increase in the backlog of operations. Hence a specific practicable plan to address this backlog in the short and long term has been developed. We have procured two da Vinci surgical robotic machines for both Groote Schuur and Tygerberg Hospital to fast track these surgeries. This is actually a first for the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, and not only in Southern Africa, but I also think in Africa, for a public health hospital to perform robotic operations, [Applause.] Thank you.

The advantage of robotics is the system's versatility and its use by multiple surgical specialities will maximise the number of patients who will benefit from this sophisticated medical technology.

These robotics will be beneficial in reducing our theatre slate and it is a less invasive surgery with a low blood loss and with faster and better recovery periods. The main disease conditions that the programme will focus on are colorectal, liver, prostate, kidney and bladder cancers, and women with severe endometriosis.

For this, hon Speaker, for surgical backlogs, we are allocating an additional R20 million to recover from surgical backlogs. That is what we want to state that when you talk †Vulimpilo, health recovery, we must put our money where our mouths are. I also want to thank the private hospitals for assisting us to reduce some of our theatre slates by using their corporate social investment funds to operate free of charge on many of our patients that are waiting for their surgeries and one in particular, of course, is Mediclinic.

Whilst we are talking about that I would just like to showcase because then people think that these things, we just do there and then, not necessarily showcase here.

In the House we have got Mrs Gys from Eerste Rivier. She is the first patient to be operated on by a robotic machine. Thank you very much Mrs Gys, where are you? [Applause.] So, as you can see, she is not even in a wheelchair. Actually, she was up and about on the first day of her surgery. Thank you very much.

Now, on the realignment of health services in the Metro, hon Speaker, as part of the Western Cape Healthcare 2030, we did commit to engage the City of Cape Town to explore efficiency, effectiveness, to realign the City and Provincial health facilities to improve health outcomes. The discussions on provincialisation actually started way back after we completed the provincialisation of rural health services. That was a decade ago.

So, last year, the City council approved that provincial – where the Province and the City of Cape Town function alongside in the provision of comprehensive health services. The City will therefore let go of those health services and they will be managed by the Province. The nine Joint Facilities now need to be transferred to the Province in this budget year, I think by June 2022, and whilst the processes related to the assets and staff are being followed, we are allocating R18,094 million this year towards the transfer. The City has indicated that there will be another tenth one that we need to transfer, but it has to still go via the Council. So, those facilities, hon Speaker, are not closed. They have been functioning; they are still going to function, but because they were managed by the two spheres of government, they are now being transferred to the Department for that.

Hon Speaker, on innovation, because I have already spoken about the robotics, as you probably have been aware, I always brag about our technological innovations and our Fourth Industrial Revolution readiness. In addition to e-Vision, which I mentioned and also in addition to the robotics and others, this year I also want to brag and share a few practical innovations to show our versatility. Innovations, Hon Speaker, are not only about devices but also, ideas.

Just to give an example of one of those that I want to brag about, we have dashboards that the public are able to access. It started with a dashboard on COVID-19, in terms of plotting the cases and also, where they are and then, using that platform, we ended up having a dashboard on vaccinations so that people can know who has been vaccinated and also, who has been registered in terms of the EVDS.

We use that same platform to plot TB because we have got a TB emergency response plan where one is able to plot and see the TB cases, which is also open to the public. The other dashboard now, which uses the same platform, is the one that we are using for Violence Prevention, where you will be able to plot and see what happens to the trauma cases, where they are, where the people died and all of that. Is that not wonderful? It is part of the innovation, and we are the only ones who are doing this in the whole country. †Zajika izinto. [Things have changed.] [Laughter.]

The other part of it is the *Ask a Doctor* initiative, which was also part of the COVID-19 response. This initiative was activated when we experienced vaccine apathy. The medical specialists go to taxi ranks, to the malls. They promote vaccines. People get an opportunity to ask a qualified doctor about all their vaccine concerns which helped to increase vaccine uptake. Thank you, hon Premier to your Department for this initiative because it was actually something new for the medical fraternity just to be outside a health facility, to be sitting in a mall and responding to questions from the public.

The Vaxi-Taxi, which Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, the director of the WHO has been bragging about all over the world, was not only a well-renowned Vaxi-Taxi transport where we transformed EMS ambulances from not only being vehicles ferrying patients but bringing vaccinations to the taxi rank. So, this is part of the innovation. No-one would have thought about it and not only about them bringing vaccines, but also, bringing other services under the same roof in those same taxi ranks: from family planning, TB screening and everything else.

The Groote Schuur Hospital Diabetes Centre is another great example of innovation at its best. At this centre, we focus on complicated diabetes such as Type 1 diabetes, diabetes in pregnancy, diabetes in special situations such as patients with organs transplants, cystic fibrosis, preoperative optimisation of diabetes and this centre is the first one in the country, hon Speaker. ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: †Vulimpilo.

On infrastructure, hon Speaker, the 2019 budget speech was more on infrastructure. Probably, I thought it was my last budget for Health at the time, that it was the end of our term. It was a budget of bringing dignity to people through new infrastructure, maintenance, and refurbishments. We requested input from our statutory structures, only to realise that for the next two years we will be held ransom by the COVID-19 pandemic, but through it all, we manoeuvred and made a way in a seemingly impossible solution under lockdowns.

As you are aware during the lockdowns it was difficult for contractors to continue with building, but I am proud to announce these projects that have actually been completed.

For example, in the Winelands, the De Doorns EMS and Avian Park will be opening soon. They are supposed to have opened it. It is completed, under the circumstances.

The Oudtshoorn Clinic in the Garden Route, the Overberg Clinic; actually, in the Moravian Mission Stations, both of them, the Genadendal and Elim Clinic. That was also completed during this time.

In the City of Cape Town: all three emergency units in the Victoria Hospital, the Red Cross Hospital and also Heidelberg Hospital. They were completed during this time of COVID-19.

In the Central Karoo, we completed KwaMandlenkosi and we completed Laingsburg Clinic during this time of lockdown and so forth and so on.

I can add many, but as a Department that is moving forward, we also have other infrastructure buildings that we plan to prioritise for the 2023 financial year. I also want to, specifically – because I know that my colleague hon member Windvogel is going to ask about Klipfontein's Children's Hospital. I must say it. Just a reminder, hon Speaker, this hospital, when we decommissioned it, was serving the whole community. The population was about 1 million in that area, made up from the communities of Klipfontein. Patients were referred by community clinics, day hospitals and private general practitioners there, but after the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research confirmed that the old GF Jooste Hospital infrastructure was inappropriate and also that they recommended it to be demolished, it had to be demolished. Besides that, it was offering a limited service. There was no maternal and child health care there. There were no paediatrics there. The focus was more on emergencies, which now is being covered by the Heideveld EC.

Therefore, where we are sitting as a Department, this is the most crucial hospital that we have to build. I even said in a previous speech that Jooste has to rise, but unfortunately, it has to take longer with regard to the capital project, but it is not that we are not doing anything. The tender evaluation is currently in progress to procure multi-disciplinary professional services. This we are anticipating now in April/May, but noting that as a Department, we have agencies that are doing this on our behalf. We are the clients of those agencies, but as I am saying that I am still committed. This hospital is going to rise, but as we know it is such a big project because it will take more than 600 beds. Previously it used to have 200 and we want it to be a Level 2 hospital, to bring all the specialisation there. So, it is our priority. Jooste is going to rise.

The Observatory Forensic Pathology Service is complete with just minor snags that are being fixed before commencing operations. So, the commissioning of this facility is in phases. Actually, the admin component is already there. They have already moved in a long time ago, but because it is a facility that will provide chemical forensic pathology and toxicology and all of those, some of the packs will be undertaken by the Police.

So, it is actually going to be the first of its kind and also, we also want to include the students, those who are training for forensic pathology. So, the full commissioning of this facility is expected to take place by the end of August, but everything else is complete, however we have to look in terms of the technology that will also be servicing some of what I have already indicated.

Due to the size and complexity of the Belhar-Tygerberg Regional Hospital, its redevelopment is classified as a megaproject and the support is not only from the Province, but also from the National stakeholders. I am aware that National Treasury has also been engaging Provincial Treasury with regard to that. The process of consultation and refinement of the draft Feasibility Study commenced a long time ago; further refinement and consultations are underway following positive feedback and constructive comments received from National Treasury.

The aim of this process, which has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is to attain stakeholder support and National Treasury approval for the most suitable approach to procuring value for money, fit-for-purpose health infrastructure that is affordable.

Also, why this is important is because Tygerberg Hospital, the current one, was also assessed by the CSIR where they found that some parts of Tygerberg also need to be reworked. There was a whole issue about the piping and everything. Besides that, Tygerberg Hospital is the second biggest hospital in South Africa, after Baragwanath Hospital, and it is supposed to be a central hospital, but it also does the work of a Level 1 and Level 2 hospital.

Just to add, hon Speaker, as you know that whilst we understand that it takes longer to build new hospitals, we are not blind to the realities of the population increasing in other areas like Khayelitsha, hence we have already done improvements. So, it may not be that we are going to add extra beds and all of those or rebuild.

For example, the Health Improvement Plan, which we implemented in Khayelitsha include HECTIS because during that time, it was not operative in terms of the information systems. So, that is why when you go there, the system will tell you how many people have been seen, where they are in the system, whether they are waiting for their bloods and all of that. We filled many posts, for example for an EC consultant, which initially was not there previously. We even increased the intermediate beds, the stepdown beds as part of the intermediate care.

During COVID-19, Khayelitsha also had a field hospital attached to it that was managed by the MSF, in the Thusong Centre. So, it was part of the Khayelitsha establishment. We have done quite a lot and now what we are busy with is adding a psychiatry ward as part of the psychiatry units and beds, that we are dealing with in most of the Level 1 hospitals. So, they will have, in this budget year, additional beds for the psychiatric section.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat? There is a point of order. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Chair, I just want to know, hon Speaker, whether the hon Minister is willing to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. Hon Minister, would you like to take a question?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I think just let me just finish my budget speech and I would suggest that the hon member give that comment to the next person who will be debating in case that I will not be able to. I think hon member Windvogel will be able to assist me with that. ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you, hon Minister. Hon Sayed, I think the message does not need any translation. [Laughing] It is okay ... [Interjection.]. Thank you, hon Minister, you may proceed. Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Just in closing, on the infrastructure, because I love infrastructure, the other priorities for 2022/2023 are for example, in the Cape Winelands, the Ceres Hospital. We are adding a new Acute Psychiatric Ward, we are extending more beds for intermediate care, and we are, as part of the Cape Winelands; we are upgrading the extension to the Paarl Community Day Centre and also, as part of the pipeline is the Robertson CDC.

And then in the Overberg, the Villiersdorp Clinic is almost done. Yes, de Doorns CDC is part of it. Remember in De Doorns we have already opened the EMS as well ... [Interjections.] Then, the Central Karoo, the Nelspoort Hospital ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order, hon members. Hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: In the Central Karoo, the Nelspoort Hospital, in which there have been some delays in the new ward that is there, but it is going to be ready soon.

The Beaufort West Hospital expansion and upgrades, which we are doing in phases starting with the EC, the Matjiesfontein Satellite Clinic.

In the Metro, I have mentioned these two big hospitals. On the West Coast, part of it the Swartland, the Sandy Point Satellite Clinic, the Vredenburg CDC.

In the Garden Route, Hornlee Clinic is also part of it. I am just listing, hon Speaker.

Now, tabling the budget. This is the last time we will get such a large allocation, hon Speaker. In this 2022/23 financial year, what I am tabling is R29 094 331 billion to provide quality health services to a population of approximately 7 million in the Western Cape.

Firstly, I would also like to commend the HOD and the team for the sterling work they do ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: ... as reflected by the clean audit findings [Applause.] Hon Speaker, I think you have to clap again because what I wanted to say, hon Speaker because it must not disappear, we are the only Department of Health, that for three consecutive years has clean audits. We are the only Department that I am aware of, that never stole PPE; where we use all our monies, where even the Auditor-General had no findings with regard to that. So, thank you, Dr Cloete and your team. [Applause.]

In terms of the budget, hon Speaker, again as I said that it will be the first time, we have received a bigger budget. The National Treasury has already made a recommendation with regards to the MTEF, the outer years and with regard to the Western Cape and ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Point of order, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, you have just broken the Rule because we either indicate by a sign of raising a hand or indicate in the chatroom. I will forgive you for the last time as you ... [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: My hand has been raised, sir. My hand has been raised. I want to just bring your attention to it, sir, but if you do not think I should be allowed, I will withhold my question, but I did raise my hand, sir.

The SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon Marais, you are recognised.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you. The hon Minister said her Department is the only department with a clean audit. Is that a reflection on the other departments in the Western Cape ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Point of order. Hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Yes?

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Marais. If you would like to ask a question, you ask the Presiding Officer and you will then get the message to the Speaker. If the Speaker on the floor does not want to accept the question, then that is the discretion of the person who is speaking. Now, in this case, I will ask the hon Minister whether she would like to take a question? Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I am left with only a few minutes, hon Speaker. I think after that, if time allows. I do not know what the time is, if the time allows it, I can take any questions, but you will guide me in that

The SPEAKER: What I would like to indicate to the House is that we do not give a time limit to the Executive when they speak on budget.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: So, I can take questions?

The SPEAKER: But what we do, what we certainly ... [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Oh? Then I will take all the questions, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members. The Speaker is still speaking. [Laughter.] But what we always rely on is the Programming Authority because they guide us on the limitations in terms of the time. I simply execute what the Programming Authority decides as parties guide the Presiding Authority.

So, in this case, we have got a number of budget votes before us, and our Order Paper has got at least five matters before us. It is quite a long day. So, I would say to the hon Minister: finish your speech. When you respond later, then you can deal with those other matters, if that is the advice you need from the Presiding Officer.

So, to the hon Marais, that is the response. The hon Minister will deal with those issues later on when she responds, if time permits for that, but your point of order was not sustained because it was not a point of order, it was a point of debate. So, let us proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, hon Speaker. So, on the budget of R29 billion, I just want to mention again what I said earlier, that the Department of Health and Wellness is the only Department in the whole of South Africa that has ever received a clean audit for three consecutive years. Not only ... [Interjection.] [Applause]

An HON MEMBERS: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, Dr Cloete. Now, with the budget, just quickly, hon Speaker, we have got eight budget programmes.

Programme 1: which Administration, R1,4 billion which, is a decrease by 10%.

Programme 2: District Health Services, has been allocated about R11 billion, which is a 3,4% increase.

Programme 3: Emergency Medical Services, has been allocated R1,2 billion, which is a 4,7% increase.

Programme 4: Provincial Hospital Services, has been allocated R4 billion, which is a 4,2% increase.

Programme 5: Central Hospital Services, which are these two hospitals and also, the Red Cross Tertiary Services has been allocated R7 billion, which is a 3,7% increase.

Programme 6: Health Sciences and Training, has been allocated R397 932, which is a 5,8% increase.

Programme 7: Healthcare Support Services: R5 billion, which is a 1,7% decrease.

Programme 8: Health Facilities Management has been allocated R1,1 billion, an 8,4% increase.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, given the budget pressures, it cannot be business as usual, especially with what National Treasury has indicated. So, it is going to be the first time we are tabling such a budget. We do not know what is going to happen in the outer years, but what we do know is that the Provincial equitable share for the Western Cape for the Department of Health is going to decrease.

The current financial challenges we face are not the first and will not be the last. We have to be innovative and bring solutions. We have to be creative as well. It is important as well, hon Speaker to communicate with our stakeholders and communities, keeping them abreast of our mission, vision, projects and budget.

Two crucial engagements that are coming up include the Health Indaba resolutions, which we are going to take up with our external stakeholders for their input, which as we did during the time of the NHI Bill and also, when we were talking about the UHC. That date has already been set for 29 April for the first engagement, but we are going to take it throughout the province, as, we did before.

The second one is about community participation and also amplifying the peoples' voices where I will embark on a *Nothing about you, without you*, to the people of the Western Cape with regard to engaging the statutory bodies which are the health committees, the hospital board, the district Health Council, as a committee representative, especially talking about the Department of Health and Wellness.

Furthermore, hon Speaker, I want to, as part of the next two years, strengthen, as I indicated, hon Speaker, the road to wellness as the Western Cape third Health reform. South Africa has only had one health reform after 1994, but where we are going to is universal health coverage, which is what I am now taking up as part of the reform that South Africa needs and if we just sit and wait until National does something, we will end up not doing it, when our health system is so fragile in South Africa.

So, that is why, as the Western Cape, I said that I will championing for that. We will make the Western Cape a lab or a classroom where we will be able to pilot this UHC. UHC, in summary, is about leaving no-one behind. The issues of affordability, the equity, they form part of the UHC, especially now under COVID-19 conditions.

Lastly, hon Speaker, I want to thank the private partnerships for helping us during our worst moments. To name a few: Local Government is part of those who have been assisting us throughout; to the mayors and councillors, private companies like CIPLA, the Gift of the Givers, Hospital Heroes, Shoprite and Oceana.

I want to thank the hon Premier for leading us, especially during COVID-19 pandemic, because there is nothing as frustrating as when you have all the energy and also the ideas, and then you find that you are not able to spread your wings.

Hon Premier, you listened to us as Health and as much as that sometimes, we were so bossy about it because we always say that 'we have got this'.

The hon Premier would say, 'what do you mean when you say you have got this?' So, thank you for allowing us that opportunity to showcase that 'we have got this' and also, my Cabinet colleagues, where I will remind them saying that, when they are asking about how far are we with the vaccinations, we all say, 'why do you not go and find out yourselves'.

Thank you to the Cabinet colleagues for that; our partners for their collaboration and most importantly, we want to thank our staff that are there, Dr Cloete HOD, Dr Krish Vallabhjee – it is going to take long to [Inaudible.] [Applause.]

Also, the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, together with the Standing Committee colleagues for making us accountable and we are taking some of these ideas and we really apologise for not being able, especially myself and Dr Cloete to attend some of those because we have been asked, we were in demand throughout, if we are not in the Cabinet, extended Cabinet or presenting elsewhere and also for the Ad Hoc Committee that was established through the Chief Whip and also the Opposition, everyone.

Thank you for being there for us and then, to my staff: we do not sleep. Everyone knows that there are more than 24 hours in a day. That is how it has always been, and I always say that RIP does not apply to the living. So, thank you very much for being there.

And then lastly, to my girls, my family, thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you. I table the budget of the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, thank you, hon Speaker. Good morning, hon Speaker, hon members *ten die mense van die Wes-Kaap* [and the people of the Western Cape.] Hon Speaker, I want to bring the following under the MEC's attention: a clean audit does not mean good and quality service delivery because then, Manenberg, De Doorns and Khayelitsha would not have still been waiting.

Hon Speaker, March 2022 marked the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 600 000 positive cases have been recorded in the Western Cape, resulting in over 21 000 deaths. The Western Cape Public Healthcare System has had to endure two full years of COVID-19 disruptions, including four waves. It has resulted in old and frail patients, on chronic medications like TB and HIV and Aids, being prohibited from visiting the healthcare facilities to receive care due to down-scaled healthcare services and many infrastructure projects were delayed.

As experts continue to warn us of a possible fifth and sixth wave, we must remain concerned with the impact of further disruptions to our public healthcare that is already overloaded with so many frailties, such as widening inequality, increased service pressures, staff and bad shortages, as well as aging infrastructure.

Hon Speaker, we have consistently warned that the Department's budget, including its COVID-19 expenditure, was not focused on permanent solutions. Billions are spent annually, putting a band aid over a gaping wound. We spend millions on Hospitals of Hope, vaccination centres of Hope, and now, there is no more hope as all these centres of Hope have been closed down.

Moreover, huge amounts were spent on expensive agency personnel to assist in the fight against COVID-19, when that money could rather have been spent on recruiting permanent staff members. All these doctors and nurses are now getting laid off, leaving our healthcare system with large shortages. This will add to our persistent challenges, and we will bear the brunt in the imminent fifth wave. Our healthcare and economy can ill afford to have other disruptions. It is for this reason that we have to encourage people to get vaccinated. Youth under 35 are the most vaccine hesitant. Hon Speaker, Amilcar Cabral teaches us that, and I quote:

“Hide nothing from the masses of our people, tell no lies, expose lies whenever they are told. Mask no difficulties, mistakes, failures.”

As a government and members of the Legislature, we must find ways to engage truthfully with our youth and pursue them to get vaccinated. Let us understand the reason for their hesitancy and be transparent and as truthful as possible about the vaccines and possible side effects. As we are on our path to inoculate as many young people as possible, let us physically go to them and also keep communicating with them through media campaigns.

There is an allocation of R777 million for the continuation of the COVID-19 response, as well as R198,474 million for the vaccination programme. We hope that this R198 million will be used to open up more vaccination centres in working class communities, where we exposed the shortages last year. It must not be a repeat of the stillborn idea of Western Cape vaccine procurement.

Hon Speaker, two years of COVID-19 disruptions have also caused unspeakable trauma and difficulties to families of departed frontline workers. During the deliberation on the Department's Annual Report in 2021, the ANC proposed the building of a Wall of Remembrance in honour of the departed healthcare workers. The ever-reliable hardworking HOD, Dr Cloete, committed to seriously consider that suggestion, yet several months later, there is no progress on this.

The story of Petronella Benjamin, 62, the Western Cape's first health worker to succumb to COVID-19 should be told for a number of years to come. She contracted the virus in line of duty while fighting in the battle against the pandemic. She sadly lost the battle on 29 April 2020, a day before she could retire after 40 years of service. What a sad day. Hon MEC and HOD, it is saddening that two years since her passing there is no Wall of Remembrance to celebrate her and other departed health workers. This signals that their contribution; their sacrifices are undervalued. We demand that this budget makes an allocation for this important project.

Additionally, on the Western Cape Government portal on the COVID-19 dashboard, there must be a COVID-19 memorial wall, telling the stories of the frontline workers. Hon Speaker, there are many lessons to learn from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professor Amal Amin, commenting on the lessons that leaders should take from the COVID-19 crisis, she said, I quote:

“The COVID-19 pandemic is not only a global health crisis. It is also a catalyst for reimagining the way we want to live going forward. From economic systems to sustainable development, decision-makers have an opportunity to move away from the status quo and make positive changes for the benefit of humankind.”

This is a clear line that we must do away with the state of health disparities. There is no place for health inequalities in the post-COVID-19 society. We must do away with the healthcare system that serves the rich better, while the poor are subjected to substandard healthcare service, like in the Khayelitsha District Hospital and so many others.

We remain hopeful after this Department has blatantly refused to use the available and additional R150 million for Khayelitsha District Hospital, despite the plea from the hospital's COO, management and the Board. The challenges that the hospital has come from many years back and is close to a saturation point. Patients were sleeping on the floors in 2018, already when the NCOP conducted an oversight visit, which culminated into the Sigopa Petition at Khayelitsha District Hospital, when the MEC and the Department were summoned to appear before the Committee, they refused this, hiding behind the legal advice they receive from an unnamed senior counsel. This is ridiculous and unacceptable.

The Western Cape Government is not immune to accountability measures. The 2018 season of patients sleeping on the floors, staff and bad shortage remain unchanged in January 2022, when we had conducted our own oversight visit to the hospital. Rapid population growth, rising poverty levels, drugs and substance abuse, violence and crime are adding to the service pressure at the hospital. In line with the Department's own criteria of allocation of funding in terms of equity and looking at the population and disease profile of people living in the drainage area of any hospital, as explained by the HOD in the Standing Committee meeting, support the case for additional funding to KDH.

Dr Kay, himself, acknowledged in the meeting that the hospital has a history of social determinants, including a higher percentage of trauma and violence compared to other hospital drainage areas. When we raised these as the reason for additional allocation, the MEC linked KDH to a black sheep of the family and said it would not receive special treatment. We are still shocked by her heartless comments, hon Premier and hon members, we demand an additional allocation needed to improve the service at Khayelitsha District Hospital. The continued decline to allocate the funds is leading to unnecessary deaths at the hospital.

Hon member, I was in Botrivier Clinic in December 2021, as invited by the clinic committee, where I learned of shocking news that the clinic had no clinical nurse practitioner. As a result, the cleaner had to assume the responsibility of a nurse. This is not an isolated case. There are many similar stories of chronic staff shortages in health facilities in poor working-class communities, like it is the case with KDH. The clinic committee's request for departmental intervention fell on deaf ears. I ask myself: is this the idea of the universal health coverage that the DA supports?

Hon Philander, is this what you mean when you reject the NHI in favour of universal health coverage? In response to this call of Professor Amal Amin alluded to above, the National Government is moving away from the status quo and is making positive changes on health for the benefit of the people. It has introduced the National Health Insurance Grant Aid and ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Windvogel, will you please take your seat. There seems to be a point of order. I am going to just pause the time, just help me Table staff, as you usually do. What is your point of order, hon Bosman?

Mr G BOSMAN: Good morning, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition always reminds us, the hon member needs to address hon Philander through you and not directly, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bosman. I must say, I picked that up, hon Windvogel, but I wanted to know that the Whippery is still on duty. Now, I realise that all of the members are awake and they are guarding you. So, please address the Presiding Officer, ma'am. You may proceed.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I will do so. Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker, I will do so.

The SPEAKER: Alright.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Hon Speaker, it has introduced the National Health Insurance Grant and allocated R43,6 million to the Province in this budget. It includes NHI, HP contracting components allocated R18,2 million and a mental health service component with R25,4 million. The dream of the NHI will soon become a reality, whether the DA likes it or not. We will do away with the status quo and put in place a system that provides equitable access to quality health services for all, despite one's social standing or financial status.

Hon Speaker, further to this, the hon Finance Minister announced in his budget that over the MTEF, an additional R15,6 million will be distributed to provinces to fund COVID-19 responses and to reduce a factor of budget deductions on essential medical goods and services. Moreover, R3,3 billion is allocated to absorb medical interns and community service doctors. As a result, the budget for the Department increased by over R1,7 billion from R27,4 billion in 2021/2022, the Main Appropriation to R29 billion on this budget.

We welcome the increase and we are grateful to the National Government. Our biggest concern though, is this Department over relies on the expensive agency personnel. We remain vehemently opposed to the Department's overuse of the agency personnel.

Hon Speaker while we welcome that 8,39% increase on the budget for health facility management to a total over R1.1 billion, we are alarmed by the cuts on maintenance and repair projects. The province has a serious challenge of ageing and dilapidated infrastructure in hospitals like Groote Schuur, Tygerberg and various other hospitals in the rural outskirts. The cuts to this budget are not acceptable. We remain alarmed by the snail pace of the rebuilding process of the JF Jooste Hospital. Not a cent has been spent on the project to date. The people of Manenberg will have to wait until December 2032 to get their hospital. To add salt to the wound, the integration of health service in the City will lead to a closure of nine clinics in Mitchells Plain, Nyanga and Khayelitsha. We reiterate our stand that no clinic must be closed as this will further jeopardise public healthcare services. The MEC says no clinic will be closed, when a Mayco member has clearly said there is consideration to permanently shut down some clinics. Hon Speaker, in conclusion. The ANC has used the community healthcare workers as an integral part of the healthcare service delivery. We know that not much focus is given to them in this budget. We continue to be on the side of the workers who demand a monthly stipend of R3 500. We are aware of growing calls from various stakeholders, including unions for the Department to insource security services. The MEC must tell us why her Department is rejecting these calls. The ANC has already expressed its view to not support this budget as motivated by the strong conviction that the proposed budget is anti-poor. It does not provide sustainable solutions for post-COVID-19 recovery and has failed to address the chronic staff shortages, widening inequality, infrastructure challenges and service delivery backlogs. We do not believe the Department is living up to its mission to provide equitable access to a quality health service to the people of the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, †Somlomo. [Speaker.] The EFF in the Western Cape is disappointed to learn about the proposed provincialisation of the City of Cape Town's primary healthcare services. This is a move that we all know that the absorption of these health facilities would mean the closure of some of them. The likes of the Durbanville Clinic, Goodwood Clinic, Khayelitsha Clinic, Nyanga, Parow and Kraaifontein, to mention a few. This latest downward spiral collaboration between the Provincial Health Department and the City of Cape Town is unprecedented when one takes into account that they previously closed down 63 health facilities since 2014. This is a very shocking consideration, the fact that the Department itself acknowledged that the Western Cape population grows by 2% per annum, meaning that there should be the scaling up of the health facilities and resources in the province and not closure of facilities. It is not acceptable for the Minister to say patients in hospitals, such as Khayelitsha, will continue to sleep on the floor, as she earlier mentioned, and cannot be accommodated. The billions of rands spent on infrastructure were also supposed to be redirected to converting the clinics they intended to close, to hospitals that will accommodate our people and to also consider the piloted project that she initiated in Grabouw, of a 24/7 hour facility to ensure that our people have got access to healthcare. The DA-led Provincial Government should always come up with solutions where there are challenges concerning our service delivery. This is the same Government that will always tell our people about private/public collaboration, when it comes to business development and issues concerning unemployment, but then the question is

why is the very same Government not engaging into public/private collaboration in finding resources for our people and making sure the health facilities do not close their doors. The challenge we are facing in this Department, and it does not look like they are in a position to address them, in Ceres, communities are up in arms as the elderly and the disabled, together with the children, are forced to queue for hours outside the health facilities. It is in this regard that we request that this Department should consider opening clinics for 24 hours, so that our people would have access to healthcare. As the EFF, we are not going to promote a budget that does not help our people and we therefore do not support this Vote, as it still talks to the privatisation of health services because our people would now be forced to go to private facilities ... [Interjection.] Thank you very much.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government boasts that it has the most functional and reactionary health services in the country. This would have been a breakthrough for the many in poor and rural areas, who are struggling to access basic health services. Just last week, we have seen the Ceres health district in the spotlight as residents of Witzenberg Municipality have been complaining for ten years of medicine shortages, overworked staff, shortages of beds and medical infrastructure that is falling apart. The City of Cape Town has without shame, ventured to close down or is trying to close down two clinics in Mitchells Plain amidst cries from the community to halt this action.

So, hon Speaker, when we speak about the best health services, what are we referring to? I personally know of clinics and community day care centres that patients despise going to. Why, because of how they are treated, the type of care that is provided and the services that this Government feels our people deserve. The health budget is an important one of any government. It directly impacts community development, mortality and the future of our nation. Today, I am calling on MEC Nomafrench Mbombo to wake up from her slumber and understand that there exists a real need for proper functional health services that residents can proudly access without fear of intimidation, prejudice or safety challenges. You have a responsibility to do better. This Government has the responsibility to do better. So, do not allow your service delivery mandate to be influenced by your need for self-praise. Do the right thing and serve. We can have clean audits, but the people of this Western Cape are still suffering.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, in my two minutes I want to try and get as much in as I can, but I want you to know it is two minutes, okay, do not expect such a good presentation. I cannot support this budget, although I supported the Main Budget, because we have been presented a different picture by the Children's Institute of Cape Town on 1 March 2022, about what happens in the Health Department.

We hear about a whole society approach which the hon Minister mentioned, but the hon Minister did not tell you that children's beds, paediatric beds are now being used for COVID-19 patients. So, the children are being neglected. She did not tell us that in the first year of COVID-19, we only had 284 000 cases of COVID-19, of which 12 300 were children and 59 died in the first wave.

Four years later, the 284 000 became 658 000 cases with 46 455 being children under the age of 18 and 3 924 had to be hospitalised. She did not tell us these figures, she did not tell us while this, the whole society approach has improved on this. Is there a focus on children? I believe that children under 12, we were told, were put in single rooms at hospitals with no supervision. I also said that mothers and babies who had COVID-19, were kept together. Now, I do not know how must they? You cannot come and say, 'I have a clean budget', it does not mean you have a very good record of looking after the health of our people. We are going to look at that. I want to know how many ... [Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare.
[The SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Oh, two minutes are over. Saved by the gong, hon Minister, saved by the gong. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Ja, I even gave you a few second more. [Laughing]

Mr P J MARAIS: It is alright, hon Speaker, that is fine.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Good morning, good morning, hon Speaker, good morning members. The Western Cape Health Department has a lot to be proud of. It is the only health department in South Africa that lives by the values of innovation, care, competence, accountability, integrity, responsiveness and respect for all the citizens which they serve. We welcome the hon Minister's announcements in the House today. So many exciting and impactful announcements. Congratulations to the Department of Health and Wellness. This is so much more than just a name change. It speaks to the strategic focus and direction of this Department. If health is the goal and wellness is the active process of achieving it, we cannot have health without wellness. We cannot have one without the other. This is a truly forward looking and holistic approach to ensure that you, the citizen, can live a happy, healthy and fulfilled life. Well done, hon Minister, and well done the Department of Health and Wellness.

We welcome the Violence Prevention Unit established in this Department. Public health can, indeed, make a valuable contribution to violence prevention and cover a much broader spectrum than the criminal justice system alone. This is the whole of society in action. We are so pleased that the Western Cape is following global best practice. Internationally, violence is a focus of the work of the World Health Organisation and there are moves in developed countries for health departments to be involved in violence prevention. Again, the Western Cape is leading the way in South Africa. Hon Speaker, as South Africans and residents of the Western Cape, we have been through some very difficult times. The reality of COVID-19 has taught us many lessons and one in particular stands out and for me, that is inter-connectedness. We saw how a government, civil society and private partners ensured that during this pandemic, instead of being pulled apart, the common purpose of human dignity and wellbeing were at the top of the agenda. We saw how the determination and resilience of healthcare workers instilled hope in all of us.

Hon Speaker, a people-centred government department makes sound policy decisions, in order to enhance the health of society for all residents in this province. Over the 2022 MTEF period, the departmental focus will shift from recovering from the pandemic and implementing six strategies of action: service redesign, governance redesign, health public policy, recovery strategies, surveillance and an agile health platform and vaccinations. This is not only a health system for you, but for all of us and a health system that will push us forward. Hon Speaker, this Department has all the hallmarks and it is clear on addressing the needs of residents, and has a strategically clear policy directive that makes its vision a reality. Healthcare 2030 is intended to enhance the health system's responsiveness to people's needs and expectation, with careful consideration given to person-centredness, integrated care provisioning, continuity of care and the life-course approach. All of it will ultimately lead to the obtaining of universal health coverage. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Health Department will continue to push forward with the resurgence, recovery and reset strategy. This plan describes how the Department intends to build and push forward as the health system recovers from the various waves of the pandemic and manages the risk of resurgence in the next few months. The pandemic has provided an opportunity for renewal and a reset of the Department's agenda, as we imbed the lessons that we have learned. Health is everybody's business and a framework of action has been created over the MTEF, which aims to present the Western Cape Health Department's long-term aspirations for a provincial health system, as well as map a course of action to ensure sustainable recovery from the pandemic.

As we take steps to manage the waves of COVID-19 and recover we must be mindful of the fact that social and economic effects of pandemic will influence the decisions we make today in order to shape the future. For this reason we welcome the R29 billion budget, and increase of R900 million or 3,2% from the Revised Estimates of last year. This budget speaks to a wide range of opportunities. R114 million has been reprioritised within the departmental baseline to fund projects linked to addressing surgery backlogs, mental health platform strengthening, addressing tech refresh backlogs, strengthening occupational health incapacity, central warehousing of non-pharmaceutical stock, obstetrics and neonatal improvements, as well as establishing capacity and capability for providing palliative care services. After centralising the procurement of PPE in 2020, it has resulted in a complete warehouse being set up with PPE valued at R80 million in total.

This year, a significant focus is being placed on infrastructure and here, hon Windvogel would do well to pay attention. Spending on existing infrastructure assets increases by just under 11% with upgrades and additions and refurbishment and rehabilitation spending increasing by 99% and 54% respectively. Moreover, new infrastructure spending is 110% more in comparison to last year, 110% increase since last year. Now, this is a department that ensures quality healthcare for you, our citizens. Infrastructure projects for this year in total equate to 107 in planning, design, tender or construction phase. In the Western Cape, it is clear that we are committed to serving our residents effectively and safely.

Our communities can look forward to the following examples of good governance in action: New Avian Park Clinic, upgrade and additions to the Gansbaai Clinic, a replacement clinic for residents of Gouda and the surrounds, a replacement clinic for Ladismith, a pharmacy, compliance and general maintenance to Nyanga CDC, a replacement clinic for the Sandy Point satellite clinic, a replacement clinic for Villiersdorp, a BMS upgrade for Groote Schuur and an 11 kilovolt generator replacement at Tygerberg Hospital. By contrast, hon Speaker, the Gauteng Provincial Government spent R1,2 billion on COVID-19 ICU hospitals, which as the *Daily Maverick* reported this week, are laying waste. They are weed-riddled, abandoned and unfinished, where no citizen can receive healthcare services. Is that what hon Windvogel rather wants? Four out of the five of these Gauteng hospitals were the sites for the controversial alternative building technology, field-intensive care units, which were commissioned in March 2020 and which are currently the subject of SIU investigations.

Let us compare this to the Western Cape Hospitals of Hope, world class field hospitals with digital patient records, Wifi for patients and good, quality care. This field hospital was later converted into a world class massive vaccination centre. No ruined dilapidated derelict buildings in the Western Cape, hon Speaker. This is rather an agile Health Department that cares for you, for the citizen, by delivering quality services. The ANC's answer to the same question was spending R1,2 billion on buildings that were never completed and never treated any patients.

Hon Speaker, as South Africans and residents of the Western Cape, we now know why the State of Disaster was not brought to an end because it means that corrupt persons in positions of authority could continue with procurement on an emergency basis, without compliance of any of the normal prescripts regulating public sector procurement. The Western Cape, by contrast, is the only province to have regularly published COVID-19 procurement reports for the province and its entities. This is a continued commitment by the DA-run Western Cape Government to good governance and transparency in public procurement. Hon Speaker, while some in the National Government were bulging ten het blinkbek gevreet [and ate with shiny mouths,] many South Africans did not know where their next meal would come from. While South Africans were struggling under the draconian State of Disaster Regulations, ANC cadres were unduly befitting through unlawful and illegal activities in procurement processes, as well as their friends and family members. The R500 billion Relief Fund announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa back in April 2020, which was intended to combat the spread of COVID-19 and offset dire economic losses, resulting from lockdown, is now being investigated following cries of corruption.

The SIU spokesperson Kaizer Kganyago confirmed that all allegations of corruption relating to the R500 billion Relief Fund would be consolidated into one investigation within the National COVID-19 Proclamation. The President, who initially certified the Relief Fund which accounts for 10% of the country's GDP and relies on backing from international financial institutions, will need to sign the proclamation before the SIU can begin its investigative work. And as we all know, former Health Minister Zweli Mkhize has also been implicated in corruption.

He resigned last year after being linked to an irregular tender, R150 million a Digital Vibes Communication tender, and it was revealed that Digital Vibes allegedly paid renovational costs to another townhouse owned by Mkhize's trust. The tender was apparently awarded to his close associates and apparently benefitted his children, who grotesquely flaunted their pet lamb – Lamb, which he dressed in Louis Vuitton clothing and paraded on social media, while patients in hospital did not even have any food. Now, according to media reports, Mkhize is apparently linked to corruption involving the UIF as well.

Once again, this week, the ANC has shown to be rotten to the core even outside of the parameters of the State. 346 staff members were scammed and robbed by their own employer. Lethuli House has not paid over employee tax, UIF or skills development levy, even though it was deducted from staff members. It is evident that with the ANC around you have to have eyes in the front, in the back and on the side of your head because they do not only steal from communities, they even steal from their own staff. It is unconscionable, hon Speaker.

In the Western Cape, we live a different reality, our doctors and nurses do not have to bring food to our patients in hospitals, a scene in some other provinces. The Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital ran out of food two weeks ago. Things got so bad that nurses had to use their own money to buy bread for patients for breakfast. For lunch, patients had food purchased from street vendors. Speaking to *News24*, one of the doctors said that it was a humanitarian crisis. This signals a complete moral decay and a compromise of National integrity where sick and vulnerable patients cannot be provided with basic healthcare and nutrition. The contrast between the delivery of services to citizens in the Western Cape and other provinces is stark.

I also wanted to respond to hon Windvogel and hon Xego on the clinics and just for noting, hon Speaker, through you, hon Xego, it is not privatisation of clinics, but provincialisation of clinics. As part of the Western Cape Healthcare 2030, the Western Cape made a commitment to engage the City of Cape Town to explore on efficiency, effectiveness and to realign City and provincial health facilities to improve health outcomes. The discussions on provincialisation started a long time ago, many years ago, after the Health Department completed the provincialisation of rural health services two decades ago. Last year, the City Council approved that where the provision of health services by the City of Cape Town functions alongside the provision of comprehensive healthcare services with the Western Cape Department, the City will let go of those to be managed by the Province. There are nine joint facilities that will be transferred to the Province in this budget year. So, I think it is important for us to clarify that. Hon Speaker, finally and in conclusion, the DA unequivocally supports Vote 6. It is a budget that will push healthcare services in the Western Cape forward, to be even better for you, the citizens of this province. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, through you, hon Speaker, thank you for the input from the colleagues, starting with hon member Windvogel. I do understand that when we write speeches, we write them beforehand and then, sometimes it can be difficult to make changes when the new information comes up because some of what she is responding to is what I have already tabled.

Maybe it was for her to scratch, scratch, scratch and maybe comment around some of those. But having said that, thank you for the input.

I do not want to go through all that she indicated because it is part of her speech and also, hon Speaker, they will distribute a summary of this and I think the speech has already been sent to your office for dissemination. But hon Speaker, I just also want to make use of this opportunity to explain further because when you deliver a speech, you just make an assumption on some of the things. So, sometimes it is better to give effect in regard to that.

Now, starting with the issue of clean audits: It is not the Western Cape Government who came up with the Auditor-General in terms of how the governments in South Africa need to be run. So, we started post-apartheid and then we ended up having a Constitution. If you look at Chapter 13 of the Constitution, it talks about finance and how governments should be run. If you look at the role of the A-G, in terms of the Chapter 9 institutions, this is what it is. It is not that we... because he was talking about the DA. We are not a National Government yet in as much as we make contributions to some of these, for example, as part of the Constitution.

Secondly, the issue about understanding what a clean audit is, it is not only – I think the hon member Xego also alluded to that, we are very aware that financing generally, without even looking at the auditing, health financing is a system on its own. The Health System is made up of many systems and one of the systems is health financing and then, the other system is human resources, the agents and all of that. If I had to talk about each and every system that builds a health system, hon Speaker, it would take very long. So, a health financing system, human resource system – leadership and governance is a system, health information is a system, research and access to availability of medicine is a system and then, a service, which is the type of package of services you bring, is influenced by the other systems, like HR, if you need a specialist to do renal care and so forth, and all of those things. And then, we normally add another system when we say a people system because people should form an integral part of it.

So, we cannot just brag about clean audits out of context. It is part of building a health finance system that feeds to the whole overall system in order to see what packages of care we are dealing with. So, the bragging is about – you do not understand the amount of work that they have to undertake. Things that need to be put in place, the checks and balances and then, having smaller units out there looking at this part of this, which is too much compliance.

It is this National Government that came up with this where now the officials have to spend so much time on compliance. It is how it was made that it is crucial about it. So, it is part of it and here, hon Speaker, when I did orientation as a member of the Legislature in the first days, when we started in 2014, we were given a lot of books, which are – I am not sure if there are some? I always carry them with me. One of them talks about accountability and financing and all of that. It talks about this.

So, that is why we come and appear before SCOPA in the committees and account in terms of what we do with the monies. That is how things are. So, it is not that we brag out of context. So, just make sure that you understand that it is not out of context when we talk about clean audits or unqualified or qualified and all of that. It is part of the system that was formulated nationally, where each and every government has to do that.

Now, on NHI, I think she was talking about “thanking the ANC Government for the NHI.” But the NHI, you do not want. Let me just give you some background about the NHI. Firstly, National Health Insurance, is an insurance, it is just like OUTsurance, it is like A&G – It is insurance. [Interjections.] It is an insurance. It talks about insurance in terms of the part that feeds into health financing as part of the building blocks. Now, what we are saying is about that. Indeed, financing of a health system is part of what needs to happen. That is how you deal with it because it is part of what needs to happen, but in doing that, the end goal must be a health reform that leaves no one behind, which is universal health coverage.

Health coverage rests on the pillars of equity, so it cannot be that the people of Muldersvlei or people of Moorreesburg only see a mobile clinic once a week. I am just giving an example on the issue of equity in comparison to the Metro. That is how it is. You cannot leave people behind. The issue of affordability: it cannot be then that I need a renal dialysis and just because I cannot afford it, I cannot have it because there is no money, I have to pay. It is a part of all of those things and also, about the quality of care.

So when the NHI was introduced, it was supposed to be in three phases. Inasmuch when they say it is part of UHC, it is not because it only talks about one side, which is insurance funding and NHI is also supposed to form part of the UHC. NHI is a form of financing and is done in a few countries. There are different kinds of financing like in the UK, they use Bismarck NHI, I think it is also a part of New Zealand and all of those. It is an insurance.

So, when they started it, it was going to be in three phases. The first phase was 2012 to 2017. That phase 1 was about strengthening the health system, I mean the primary healthcare system and it was about piloting that. Then they started with eleven districts and then they added, I think, KZN and the Eastern Cape. Then for us, in the Western Cape, they identified Eden, which is the Garden Route, as part of it. It was about a ward-based community of workers, about school health and about infrastructure and so forth.

Now Phase 1 ended in 2017, yet you have, for example the PAC, the Pacaltsdorp Clinic. They identified that as part of the NHI. How come the Pacaltsdorp Clinic is still not built, yet it was part of that? I can name many others; the Parkdene, the De Rust Clinic in Oudtshoorn; they only did it later because they managed it themselves and then they wanted to appoint the contractors themselves, like in the case of the PACs. So, the first phase that was supposed to have been completed in 2017, you will find †dololo [nothing] and now we have to pick up the pieces because how do I go to Pacaltsdorp and explain to them that that extension they were promised by National, actually that R14 million for it, keeps on decreasing. We are appointing professional services, we are doing this. It is managed by them.

The issue of appointing GPs as part of NHI, they said, no, they would do it themselves. We have got a company where we will just appoint whoever there, doctor so-and-so, in that district and they will come. That is why in the Western Cape we said, no ways, because you are strangling the health system. You cannot just appoint. Give us the money and we will do it ourselves and we did it ourselves. But now this thing about, “we have got extra money”, this was supposed to have been done long ago to bring these GPs in the rural areas because now they end up not using the money, they just †gooi, gooi, gooi [throw, throw, throw.] yet they were supposed to have established that.

Now, with phase 2 of the NHI, which is supposed to be 2017 to 2022 – the first phase was about legislation. They were supposed to have completed the amendments of the legislation by 2022. In addition to that, the NHI Bill, according to their process is long overdue and they were supposed to repeal twelve Acts out of those that include medical schemes. Where are we in repealing those Acts because even if the Bill gets passed in Parliament, nothing will happen without repealing those twelve Acts and replacing them the others, †dololo. [nothing.]

The third phase of the NHI is about taxes. Yes, taxes now, in regard to where they are going to get the money. We have already made inputs in terms of where they would be able to do it and the issues of the taxes and everything, but it will never happen until they fix and the repeal the Bills with regard to private hospitals, that were long due overdue to be regulated, it never happened.

That is the NHI we are talking about, which is supposedly the first ANC health reform. They never had any reform since 2000 - and. ... [Interjection.] Community workers were also also part of the NHI ... [Interjection.] Now, let me just talk about that because I also mentioned them ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Community workers are part of a ward base which was part of Phase 1 of the NHI. Do you know that even up to now they do not know where to place them because they are supposed to be part of the health system? It went to the Bargaining Council where they talked about, I think it was Resolution 1, about salaries and whatever, and now, they are taking it back to the Department of Labour because nobody knows how to deal with it.

That is an issue and then for us, they will say go in there, we are going to pay whatever. They must fix it there because it is their own thing and we cannot do much. However, we do not fold our arms whilst they are snoring and wait for them to wake up. What we do is make it a point that – and that is why we are going to have a health summit, which we actually did in 2016 on home and community-based services and we are going to do it again. Further conversations will take place with NPOs, civil society and community health workers as part of that. So I just wanted to be clear in regard to the NHI.

And then, lastly, on hon member Windvogel, I spoke – there is a reason we added “wellness” – I spoke about the upstream factors.

You said Khayelitsha is not a black sheep or whatever. Health absorbs everything, every social ill; socio-economic and political ills get absorbed by health. All the inequalities that are generated outside the health system, we have to absorb and then we are expected to fix it.

For example, if I am in a school that is full, it comes to enrolment and then they will say go find another school. Nobody worries much about what is going to happen to uSizwe for not getting a school and by 2 o'clock, everyone goes home, the schools close and the learners are with their parents. If it is about their housing, if you are number 450 on the housing list, irrespective of whether you are staying in Emkhukhwini, it is not that the Department of Housing will have sleepless nights about that.

Someone has to fix the issue about not having housing and so forth, but when it comes to health, when Khayelitsha has got 300 beds and they are full, I still have to take responsibility for those ones, that wave. We cannot say, we are closing that gate now, Khayelitsha is full. You cannot.

In any health system, not only do we do not close but it means the whole cycle of 24 hours, seven days a week, 365 days; nobody gets a break. We even have to worry about those patients who are in private facilities, when they charge higher prices, when the outcomes are bad. As a Province, it does reflect on us. If there is a likelihood that there is a high infection or whatever and this happens in a private facility, it is our responsibility. We are responsible for the health of learners whilst at school, even if they are under other sectors. We are responsible for the homeless whilst they are under Social Development or whatever. That is what we do.

Now, that is why I was saying that with these upstream factors, like in the case of Khayelitsha, that the issue of trauma, especially over the weekends where people come in that have been shot, ... [Interjection.] have been beaten and whatever, it does have a bigger impact. So, the issue is how do I address the socio-economic factors in that regard because that is the main thing, but how can we work together in that regard? So, that is why we step up when the hon Premier challenges us to take over in terms of the Violence Prevention Unit.

We gave a presentation even when there were multi stakeholders in Khayelitsha, after those multi killings that happened there. Unfortunately most of the people who get beaten go directly to the hospital and get treatment, but in some cases, they will not go to the police station to report it. So, that is why it becomes skewed because the police will not have this information, but we already have the information. That is what has happened.

So, it is a whole of society and a whole of government approach and everyone needs to look at the socio-economic factors. So, that is why we participate in a whole of government approach in regard to jobs because for us, we want to see where we make appointments. We have a high level of employment because we know that economy and health, they are like this; when the economy is down you have the most social ills.

Similarly, if you have got sick people, it means that there will be an impact on production. Hence, we are also participating in the spaces of dignity and wellbeing, led by social development because we have got a footprint everywhere and we have to absorb all of those things.

So, hon member Windvogel, on the Khayelitsha situation, we can pump and add 500 beds, but it is not ideal to institutionalise people ... [Interjection.]. Do not focus so much on the beds for sleeping but you have to close the tap elsewhere so that you do not end up having all these social ills that are happening there. You cannot have a situation where we have got a high-level number of ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Minister, will you please take your seat? Hon Windvogel? What is your point of order?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Ask the MEC to speak through you, hon Speaker, please?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. I just want to say to you, hon Windvogel, let us not break one rule to correct the breaking of another rule because we have to lift our hand in order to address the Presiding Officer and that has not occurred in this case. So, please just follow that rule. It makes it easier. Hon Minister, will you please address the Chair as you continue to speak.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, hon Chair, I thought that was exactly what I was doing. No, it is fine thanks. Now, I am going to skip the others.

On the the vaccination centres, I did not want to mention it, because I have mentioned it in previous speeches, but we are the only province that has built an 800-plus hospital within one month. China built their field hospital within a week, we built ours within a month. We are the only hospital that has done that and also, without wanting to waste time when we were out of the wave and at least we have got our ducks in a row because as you know, hon Speaker, we kept on learning because there was no way with this COVID-19 pandemic you would be able to transplant lessons from elsewhere. You have to use the local data and be informed about this. So, we have done it before, a similar thing.

When we had to say Athlone, we need a drive through in terms of the vaccinations, that was part of it. You cannot say that it was a waste of money. Now there is no need because we are going towards the integration of COVID-19 vaccines with other services. That is why we even had a pilot, I mean testing through the Vaxi-Taxi, where you would go to a taxi rank. There in that gazebo someone is screening for TB, for HIV, someone is giving vaccinations and all of those things which are happening at the facilities. So, we cannot say that it was a waste of money for us to build those.

But, hon Speaker, I did indicate that we are ready for the fifth wave because we still have field hospitals like Sonstraal for the Weskus and the Cape Winelands and the Harry Comay for the Garden Route. We have got Mitchells Plain also, in terms of field hospitals and also, additional hospitals like Stellenbosch Hospital and Vredendal Hospital.

We already have staff everywhere. Like any province, even internationally, we implemented contract staffing during the highest peaks of the pandemic and so forth. So, the contracts have to end. The question we have now is why we are not employing them? We have seen in the Eastern Cape, they toyi-toyi, they even went to National about it, but it is the nature of the game.

You will have permanent staff and you will have contract staff. If we were to have another pandemic we would appoint staff on a contract basis, but we always mix. It is not only about agency staff. Now, hon member Xego, I did mention that we are not closing those nine centres. It is not the first time actually, where we will have both Local Government and Provincial Government under one roof. The issue is about someone having to absorb the overhead costs and so forth.

For example, you are probably familiar with Nolungile Clinic Site C, where we both were. So, it is about that. It cannot be when you are dealing with children, child health is done by the City, so, you go that side, you turn right, you go to child health and then, whilst you are waiting, you find that you are also ill, and then when you are done with your child and then go. When you are ill as an adult, now, they will say go to that provincial site, which is under the same roof. And then, when you go there you start another queue. So, why can they not do it all under one roof?

So, when I say I am sick, the same person who is looking after me is looking after the child, instead of going to another queue. That is what you are trying to do, it is about doing it all at once. The question is why can you not do it? It is because each and every sphere has got responsibilities with regard to what type of a package they need to provide, and where we are now is about people who need a whole package of comprehensive care, according to the provisions of the ideal clinic.

So, in Durbanville they are not being closed there, Scottsdale, they are not being closed, Dirkie Uys, they are not being closed. We have done it before. We have Bothasig, you can see. That is what we have done. The patients will not even feel the difference because they did not know that actually there is a Sister in charge from the City, there is a Sister in charge from the Province, under the one roof. Nobody knows the difference. That is what we are doing. So, NB, NB here in the province, there are no facilities being closed. If the City is closing any of their clinics, Mitchells Plain or whatever, we do not know anything about it. It is not our ...[inaudible] there is this fear of Government. They have got ownership of that. We do not know. So, it is up to them to make those kinds of announcements.

Hon member August, the other thing is because this is a budget speech you do not want to bring everything. The other services that we are bringing back like renal care, are already in areas like Saldanha, for example, where we make sure that people do not have to go all the way to Groote Schuur and all of those. So, we are opening up many of the services. Maternal and child health:

Recently, I was in the Central Karoo where we saw how they are assisting high-risk women and babies that are coming not only from Laingsburg but even from the Moorreesburg side.

So, there are many of those that we are opening up. Thanks hon member Marais and hon member Brinkhuis for your [Inaudible.] concern, hon member Brinkhuis. Hon Chief Whip, thank you for all the inputs that you have made. Actually, you have responded to many of the issues that have been alluded to and also, just because I think the main part that I was excited about is about when you reflected again on the infrastructure because here, earlier it was about when are we going to build this? I did mention in terms of the EG, in the Garden Route, these are the kind of services we will be focusing on this year and all of those.

What we do is we have a manual of the health infrastructure. Actually, even in the APP, at the back of it, you will see each and every infrastructure project according to the delivery phase, where it says: concept, ending when, we will say that it is a replacement, new, or refurbishment, starting from when, ending when. In most instances I will ask the team to please fast-track one but it means that you have to rob Paul and pay Pauline, especially in the cases where we find that there is a high level of pressure in a particular clinic.

For example, at the Hani Coetzee you will find that the team – it was about prioritising Diazville. I said no, start with the Hani Coetzee and then we do Diazville later because they banned the clinic anyway, but the Hani Coetzee, at least you can see how the environment is. So that is what we do.

Hon Speaker, I think I have responded to all the questions. Thank you to the hon members for those. Lastly, again, I want to acknowledge the staff properly because I was not aware that there are others connected virtually.

Again, doctor, I call him KV, Dr Vallabhjee, Chief Director of Support Services. He has been with us for 41 years. ... [Interjection.] if I take it altogether. [Applause] He was CEO of Victoria Hospital. It might be his last time.

Of course, you know Dr Cloete, not only the HOD of COVID-19, he is the HOD of everything, also of clean audits. He is the HOD of Wellness, he is also now the HOD of universal health coverage. Dr Cloete is known to me as KC.

Then, we have got Dr Sadiq Karim. So, KS. He is the DDG and COO ... [Interjections.] We do not do politics in our field. As some of you know he used to be the CEO or Medical Sup for Groote Schuur ... [Interjection.] Chief, †wag 'n bietjie [wait a minute.] The chief director for finance, I might not put it clearly in terms ... but financial management, Sisi Andankosi.

Somewhere we have Mr K, who is our DDG for Corporate Services – the money man. There he is. And then the Supply Chain Chief Director, Esmereldah Isaacs and also, with the team, the Director for Supply Chain Management, Ronel Gouws.

We have got the Director for Health Impact Assessments, the dashboard man, Dr Melvin Moodley. He is also there. The Director who deals with the appointment of clinic committees, statutory bodies and also the licensing of private hospitals, Ndoda Mavela, is also there.

Kariem Singh who is the Director for Strategic Planning is also there. uBoetie Konzama, who is the Director for Information Technology, I think he is there as well and then, the last person who I can see whilst I am here, the Chief Director for People Management, Bernadette. So, these are the people who make us look so good. Thank you very much the team, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Order, hon members. Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, thank you, hon Speaker. Just a point of order. As far as we are aware, hon Speaker, hon Philander is the Chair of the Health Committee, the Portfolio Committee. Could you explain why she did not speak today and the Chief Whip instead took her place?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Leader of the Opposition. Just before the response is given to this ... [Interjection.] Order, hon member. I want to release everybody in Health, unless you want to stay because I need the box for the hon Premier. Thank you very much and to the retiring gentleman, thank you very much. May God be with you. The hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, hon member Philander, due to family reasons was not able to join us here today and someone is standing in for her and it is becoming actually quite annoying when members of the Opposition are trying to pry into the information of peoples' private lives ... [Interjection.] and it has been happening like week after week after week. If they want to know about someone's private life, they can either go and ask the person themselves or through you, hon Speaker, ask for the information, but it is becoming very annoying now that people are prying into other peoples' private lives, and they do not even regard the POPI Act in this regard. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Deputy Chief Whip. I think for the House, it suffices to say what is the basis of her absence. I think anything beyond that, it is not for the House to deal with. May I then stop any more discussion on this matter, otherwise it will just turn into something else. I am going to request a five-minute comfort break, hon Premier, and then we will just proceed with the – yes, yes, okay. It seems everyone is here, but nature just does need to allow members who have been seated here, just a bit of comfort break. Just five minutes. Please, I will suspend the House until five minutes past 12. Thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

[The House suspended and resumed after a short break]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2-2022]

(Debate on Vote 1 – Premier)

The PREMIER: Thank you very, very much, hon Speaker, to the hon members of the House that are here, the Opposition, members online, to the members of the media, to all of the citizens at home, to the DG and the CFO that are here today. Thank you very much for this opportunity to put forward the Budget for the Department of the Premier. A budget that is going to push forward for you, the citizen in this province.

Hon Speaker, the vision of the Department is to enable and lead a capable Western Cape Government. We aim to do so by embedding a culture of innovation and collaboration in all that we do to achieve this. We are guided by our values of being caring, competent, innovative, responsive and an accountable Government that acts with integrity.

We do this in the very best interest of the citizens of this province, and in all that we do we also do in the very best of interest of our country, South Africa.

Hon Speaker, we are driving innovation and collaboration within the Government by leading the response to the Provincial Strategic Plan, the Provincial Recovery Plan and by driving our Vision-Inspired Priorities, or VIPs, and specifically in this Department VIP 5. I also sometimes think about these VIPs as not only visioned-inspired, but also values-based vision-inspired priorities. Everything must be anchored in our values.

Hon Speaker, the Department does this by providing support in corporate services, including legal services, corporate communications, human resources, internal auditing, enterprise risk management, provincial forensic services and of course not forgetting IT support.

Hon Speaker, this Department is the centre of our Government. To ensure that we deliver these critical services, the Department's Main Budget Allocation for 2022/23 is R1,825 billion. I am pleased to note, hon Speaker, that this is a 4,6% increase over and above the 2021/22 Adjusted Budget and will assist us in service delivery mitigation and the implementation of VIP 5, or creating a culture of innovation and collaboration, and this increase, hon Speaker, I must thank the Minister of Finance, Mr Maynier, but I must go further than that.

You know, in preparation of this budget, as we have seen over years and specifically exacerbated by this pandemic, you go into the process with a bit of angst because you know that you are generally not going to increase our budgets, we are going to be cutting, and this year it is a bit different in this province.

I really want to thank the Minister, I want to thank the Provincial Treasury, I want to thank the Ministers, the HODs, the CFOs, because much of this is not only because SARS managed to get some extra income through commodity sales, but in actual fact through good governance; responsible governance; disciplined governance.

That unlike other parts of the country who run out of their budget before the end of the financial year, they cannot even feed, as we heard in this previous debate, they cannot even feed even citizens in their hospital. They run out of funding because they do not have that good governance background; they do not have the good governance basis and foundation. Those disciplines.

So I want to use this opportunity to celebrate the 4,6% increase, but also to thank everyone across this Government for the hard work in making sure, and the tough choices that you have to make in making sure that we do not only get those clean audits, the unqualified audits, but that we also through that discipline we actually end up making a difference in our budgets that can only make it better for you, the citizen in our province.

Hon Speaker, by increasing our allocation towards risk mitigation, and it is really important that we understand this important task in a government, we will be able to prevent breaches and target cybercrime. Cyber security breaches pose a significant threat to the Western Cape Government and our residents who are becoming increasingly dependent on our digital platforms and our digital channels. That is why information security has now been elevated to a provincial strategic risk.

During the past year alone two significant cyber-attacks were successfully thwarted. We do, however, expect this to increase due to a growing trend of cyber-attacks worldwide. It is a big, big issue, and we have seen that in this last year. We saw specifically a cyber attack that attacked our very Port here in Cape Town, and that halted exports, its massive economic and brand damage to our region.

So we have to make sure that we are preparing more and more for this new environment that we are moving into, and especially because of COVID-19, how this new way of work really launched us into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and so we have to take it very, very seriously.

The allocations for risk mitigation over the medium-term include R40,039 million for 2022/23; R80,98 million for 23/24, and R71,492 million for 2024/25 financial years. A further R2,5 million has been allocated as a contingency, should any external expertise be needed over the next three year.

I also want to take this opportunity to really thank our team and, hon Speaker, through you, the DG, the vigilance, the on-the-job 24/7, making sure that we are mitigating that risk, and of course through this budget actually just taking it to a new level.

Hon Speaker, in prioritising IT infrastructure, the Department's Broadband Project will continue driving the delivery of a high-speed network and connectivity, specifically into our rural areas. This, along with the free public Wi-Fi service, will ensure that vulnerable communities can bridge the digital divide.

Hon Speaker, a feasibility study to the value of approximately R20 million is currently underway to determine how best to improve internet services to all of our people across this province. The feasibility study will be funded by the United States Trade and Development Agency.

It will further bolster the Western Cape Government's Broadband Infrastructure Project by assessing the economic and technical viability and deploying new Broadband infrastructure across the province. It will also assess potential ownership and operation models for future Broadband deployments, and obviously we have to try and project what is going to happen into the future in this very fast changing and dynamic world.

Practically this will empower those living in areas with limited internet access by enabling them to apply for work opportunities, study, research and improve their overall career prospects. I look forward to launching this innovative project in May through this signing of the grant; we will do that in a ceremony. Perhaps here I must also once again thank Will Stevens and of course USA Aid, who have on a number of occasions come along with solutions for us and helped us in many ways in making a difference for the citizens in this province.

Hon Speaker, through VIP 5, an area in which we have also received an additional budget allocation, we are determined not to waste the lessons and the innovations that were born because of this COVID-19 pandemic, and I am not going to go through them, but I think everybody is aware, some really amazing innovations that came out of this pandemic time by all of our departments across this Government in making sure that we responded, but also using this opportunity to innovate.

The COVID-19 pandemic not only changed the way we live, but the way we work too. This resulted in the need to create a New Way of Work. In creating a New Way of Work, we are focused on what capabilities are required to foster greater innovation in service delivery and embed a new culture benefitting residents. This approach will be embedded in all four Recovery Plan focus areas and is intended to shift mindsets and include the behaviours required for the successful implementation of the Recovery Plan.

During the pandemic, innovative and collaborative solutions were speedily identified to improve internal operations and citizen-facing service delivery processes. We will therefore be finding ways to become a smarter and more agile Government.

To that end, the New Way of Work and Culture Change Programmes have been allocated R4,3 million through the adjusted Budget, to promote a client-centred culture, innovation for impact, integrated service delivery, governance transformation, talent and staff development and transversal foresight.

Practically, hon Speaker, this will include:

- An allocation of R2 million towards Kromme Rhee to fund innovation projects, especially the reconfiguration of the Provincial Treasury Instructions and the establishment of an Innovation Hub. That work has already begun, and I was very happy that the DG facilitated that top management meeting and meeting everybody involved in the transformation of Kromme Rhee.

- Hon Speaker, a Skills Audit to be conducted among senior managers, to be followed by middle management. This is to ensure alignment with data in the Future-fit Skills Strategy in line with international best-practice.
- Hon Speaker, it will also be forming partnerships with local and international Higher Education institutions and training providers which feature prominently in the new PTI strategy. The final recommendations will be received by 30 November 2022.

Hon Speaker, during my SOPA, I committed this Government to listen more to the people it serves. To this aligned with our vision of being more collaborative and innovative.

That is why each programme in the Department will now report quarterly on the results of visits to frontline service delivery sites across our province and write an improvement report per site to benefit residents who use those specific sites, and those citizens will then, through this process, be able to witness the changes that come about.

This could include visiting clinics in Hanover Park or Thusong Centres in Beaufort West, and it will be conducted by chief directors and programme managers. These reports will contain observations, recommendations for service delivery improvement, and this will ensure that the service delivery becomes more accessible to residents, that there is an improvement in frontline services and most importantly, that we are truly listening to the people of our province, and, hon Speaker, I also want to add that it is not necessarily only our own frontline services.

We must be bold enough to go further than that. To, for example, go to a Sassa queue, and here I must also ask this Legislature to also join us in helping in their oversight role in improving these services, at our frontline spaces, but also any frontline space where a citizen of this province is perhaps facing an issue.

I think about the Sassa queues, I think about perhaps the SARS queue. Those of you that drive through past the SARS office at the bottom of town just up from the Convention Centre, will generally see a queue around the building. We need to visit; we need to understand. It is not an announced visit but make recommendations and let us send those recommendations to Ed Kieswetter. I am pretty certain he will embrace them, and at the end of the day, just from that visit, we could actually improve the citizen's life.

I think of the Deeds Office here in the city. Something that really does hamper our economy and of course we have to change efficiencies and effectiveness there as well. So let us use this platform to really make a difference in the interest of our citizens.

Hon Speaker, through this budget we will further be implementing the commitments made during the SOPA, which include the establishment of a new Infrastructure and a new Mobility Department; a special unit dedicated to Violence Prevention, and the renaming of the Provincial Department of Community Safety to the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety.

We will also now, as the Minister announced a short while ago, be renaming the Department of Health to the Department of Health and Wellbeing, and can I also say that this is something, as the Minister said, we have spoken about for a long time. I am really glad that it has happened, and it was really exciting that it happened through the consultation process.

We were talking about the Violence Prevention Unit and the Department themselves said is it not about time we added “and Wellbeing” to their Department’s name, and so thank you to that. Thank you to those involved, and I really am looking forward to this journey, this new part of our journey here in the province.

Hon Speaker, during the SOPA I further outlined that the Western Cape Government is guided by its three north stars of jobs, of safety and wellbeing, which are critical in our recovery. This Department is playing a part to promote safety through the Policy and Strategy Unit.

Hon Speaker, that unit will continue with its researching, its legislative and its policy amendments to reduce alcohol-related harms, the support that it gives to the Department of Community Safety.

It will continue partnering with the Department of Social Development (DSD) to develop norms and standards and improve family strengthening programmes and referral pathways here in the Western Cape. The Minister continues in her trips around the province to highlight these issues that are facing our citizens, and this Department will continue with its support there.

We will continue commissioning research to map all current youth and youth-at-risk programmes offered in the Western Cape. The unit has been allocated R400 000 in 2022/23 on this project, and it will work in partnership with the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports and the Department of Social Development.

This unit will also continue partnering with the Provincial Department of Education, DCAS and the University of Cape Town, to pilot the VPI@Schools – Violence Prevention Initiative at Schools – behavioural programme in schools, to give young people the tools to regulate emotions, to improve mental well-being and reduce violence.

The pilot will be rolled out in 50 high schools in priority areas, empowering approximately 2,000 learners, just short of R2 million has been earmarked in 2022/23 financial year for this programme.

Hon Speaker, the Children’s Commissioner, Christina Nomdo, is further playing a vital role in promoting safety through her office’s work, where she works with child participation strategies, for which she has already started gaining international interest.

This requires children to participate in the work of the office of either attending a Community Child Rights workshop, contributing to consultations with children, or becoming a child government monitor in the Office of the Commissioner.

For the 2022/23 Adjusted Budget, a total of R10,413 million will be allocated to the Children Commissioner's Office, of which R6,754 million has been allocated towards the Compensation of Employees. This also includes an additional R1 million to fill posts, empowering this office further.

Thank you and well done, Ms Nomdo, for the important work that you do in promoting the rights of our children.

The second recovery area in which our Department is playing a key part in supporting well-being. That is why earmarked funding has been allocated to optimise the Western Cape Government's communications and ensure that its messaging is impactful and responsive.

A total of R25 million has been allocated towards strategic communications. The communications, which result from these allocations, empower residents with the necessary information to get, for example, vaccinated, or practice the necessary behaviour change, and of course to promote personal responsibility.

This is critical as we begin to normalise our response to the pandemic and focus our attention on economic recovery.

Hon Speaker, included in this is an allocation towards strategic communication in the continued roll-out of the Department's Anti-Gender Based Violence campaign, which aims to foster awareness of sexism, misogyny and GBV, which presents itself in everyday life, calling on men to take a stand against it.

Our province, and indeed our country too, are plagued by GBV. Hon Speaker, we have normalised treating women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community as if they were objects and not human beings. That is why we are taking a stand against GBV through this important campaign that specifically speaks to and encourages men to play their part in ending GBV. We need to confront this issue head-on, and all of us, every single one of us in Government, in private sector, citizens of our province, every one of us need to tackle this head-on.

Hon Speaker, a further commitment to promoting well-being, we are continuing to provide in-house telephonic psycho-social support through the Department's Employee Health and Wellness services to those in need of support. This support is provided through our designated call centre. Also, a really, really valuable service, and you can feel it when you speak to people from the call centre, or people who receive calls from this call centre.

Hon Speaker, the total support provided by this programme since the start of the pandemic has benefitted particularly those employees serving on the frontline. A total of 67% of services rendered since the start of this pandemic were provided to employees in the Provincial Department of Health, and you heard the Minister of Health speaking about it in the previous debate. It is those frontline workers that have been on duty for over two years now, and of course it is not over. We are still in the middle of this, and so that is why this is such a critical support service.

Hon Speaker, 29% of the officials are from the Provincial Department of Education, who again also have always been on the frontline dealing directly with our children, their parents and this pandemic during some very, very difficult times.

Hon Speaker, we have seen concerning mental health statistics due to the pandemic, which is why we are continuing to provide our employees' well-being. The Department is also recruiting wellness interns to assist citizens at the coalface. To this end, R3,261 million was allocated for the 2022/23 financial year towards mental health services, because it is not only about those frontline workers in Government, but also about our citizens. This is a service for you.

Hon Speaker, a key stakeholder in ensuring that safety, jobs and well-being are supported is Local Government. However, a wide range of challenges exist impacting service delivery at the local level.

We need to support local governments in addressing any challenges they face. For this reason, we have earmarked funding for governance and legal advisory support to municipalities to promote stability following the 2021 municipal elections. This includes an allocation of R5 million for Local Government assistance; R2,5 million for legal advice and R2,5 million for forensic assistance. By improving Local Governments' ability to deliver services, we will ensure that residents can live a life with dignity.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government is dedicated to ensuring that our province's local governments thrive, particularly where challenges are identified. That said, we will not tolerate corruption where it rears its ugly head. Our duty as a Provincial Government is to serve the residents of this province and should we identify corruption at the local level, we will immediately act against it by using every single tool at our disposal.

Hon Speaker, one of the things that I have long called for to promote jobs, is ending the National State of Disaster once and for all. There is still no hard commitment by the President to end the National State of Disaster by 15 April. The removal of some restrictions on the economy should not be viewed as a license to dither yet again. The State of Disaster is an extraordinary measure that cannot be extended indefinitely.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government is closely studying the proposed health regulations that will be introduced under the existing Public Healthcare legislation, as mentioned by the President. We will push back hard against any measures that hurt the provincial economy, and which are not rooted in the best possible science or scientific advice, factoring in all recent evidence. It cannot be allowed to be a backdoor to sneak unnecessary disaster regulations back in again.

Hon Speaker, as I close off, I want to acknowledge the resilience shown by those working in the events, the hospitality, the tourism and the catering industry, our artists. What I call the "experiential economy". I really know that these last two years have taken their toll on you, on your industry, on the people that have lost their jobs in that industry, and I really want to say that while it has

been crippling, we must be there to support you to open again, and I think those last comments and last changes have already given us a step forward, and we must embrace in helping all of you in this experiential economy, claw back those jobs that we have lost.

Hon Speaker, as a Provincial Government we will continue to play our part ensuring that you can bounce back stronger than ever, and an approach to supporting you will be guided by our culture of collaboration and innovation.

Then, hon Speaker, finally before tabling this budget for debate, I would like to say first of all to the Chair, thank you very much for the role you play, and of course the Standing Committee, and of course need to continue to play. As I have said one of these new innovations that we want to bring into Government is actually unannounced visits to the coalface. I think this Committee should be doing exactly the same thing.

I also want to thank the Director General and everyone in the Department of the Premier. I want to thank my office and everyone in my office. I want to thank each and every public servant in this province who has gone above and beyond the call of duty over the past two years. I want to thank you on behalf of the citizens of this province. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Also, greetings to the hon Premier and other members in the House and outside.

Hon Speaker, I want to actually invite the Premier. He comes here today, and he talks about queues at SARS, and we support making proposals to reduce those, but why does this Premier not talk about the lived reality of potholes, of leaking drains, of sewerage spewed across the streets in many of our communities, running drains, the filth, the state of our water?

He does not mention that, and I challenge him today when he responds, to come with the ANC, to come with me as Leader of the Opposition and our other MPLs, to actually see the service delivery which is going on in the biggest city in this province. We have seen the absolute unwillingness to even confront the City when they set up a concentration camp for the homeless. That is what the Premier should be worried about in his Department in terms of their oversight role.

So make the proposals about SARS, that is good, and Ed Kieswetter, I am sure would listen, but come with us and actually see the reality of Cape Town. That is what I challenge you to do, and while we are about it, let us go and look at the Philippi Stadium, which has been allowed to actually – you talk about wellness and well-being, go and look at the Philippi Stadium and the absolute state of uncaring, and the unkept nature of that stadium right in the middle of our communities, which you are supposed to serve, and that is the problem, hon Premier, because in what you and your Department do, there is a thread of denialism about how race, class and gender have impacted on the lived realities of people, and the inequalities which actually exist.

It is the Premier and his Department who are supposed to give leadership in the Western Cape, not just in regard to this budget that we are debating today, but in regard to the province as a whole. We are asked, hon Speaker, today to approve R1,8 billion; a R103 million to support the Office of the Premier; R86 million for Provincial Strategic Management; R209 million for People Management; R1,2 billion for the Center for E-Innovation; R126 million for Corporate Assurance, and R54 million for Legal Services.

Last week during the Second Reading debate I said that budgets are not neutral. They reflect choices and the ideological orientation of the governing party. This budget is there to support the leadership that the Premier's Department is supposed to provide for the entire province. I do not doubt, on Speaker, the energy of the Premier, but what concerns me, hon Premier, is that you are leading this province deeper and deeper into inequality.

What concerns me, hon Premier, is your blatant disregard for the redress provisions in both the National as well as the Provincial Constitution. I am arguing today, hon Speaker, that the conduct of this Provincial Government is in certain material respects unconstitutional. This is because the party that the Premier belongs to does not believe in redress for those unfairly discriminated against under apartheid.

So that is why he would not be concerned about potholes, about the stench, about the filth, about block drains in the City of Cape Town for hundreds of thousands of people. This Premier is thus under instruction to undermine employment equity, broad-based black economic empowerment, land distribution, as well as the minimum wage.

Hon Speaker, in the Portfolio Committee discussion the hon Premier could not name, and I hope he has come here today with the name of a single provincial law or policy, that, as required by the Directives of Provincial Policy, Section 10, enshrined in our Provincial Constitution, actually advances those who are victims of unfair discrimination. I am looking forward to him just mentioning one of those policies or provincial laws.

It is obvious that under your leadership, hon Premier, through the hon Speaker, that this Province has finally abandoned any pretence of establishing a representative public service in our province, seeing Coloured, African and White public servants fairly represented at the senior management level. You have abandoned this. Instead, you have continued using the Zille term "fit for purpose" in the most cynical of ways to block employment equity in your own Department and in this province.

There is irrefutable evidence of how the DA has practiced cadre deployment, and in the process deliberately undermined employment equity. There is proof of that, and on that score, hon Speaker, we as the ANC will now launch a PAIA application to obtain all the minutes and correspondence regarding DA cadre deployment from 2009 to date. This application will be launched in April.

Hon Speaker, the hon Premier cannot make an oath to uphold the National and the provincial Constitution and the laws of this country and the province, and yet simply undermine those laws that his party does not like or support, because that is what is happening. At best you have allowed senior officials of this very Department to preside over the culling of African public servants in the Western Cape. The tragedy is that a representative and diverse public service would actually lead to a more capable, a more in tune with the needs and demands of the communities that this Government serves, but the Premier must face up to the fact that he has continued the cynical approach of the Premier but that came before him, of so-called "fit for purpose" and in the process undermined the capability of this Government. It is a tragedy, hon Speaker, that the Premier has abandoned any notion of the Western Cape as a home for all of its people.

So, hon Speaker, this is my first concern with this budget, the Department which is supposed to be inclusive and representative of the people of this province, has no plans in its own Annual Performance Plan to change this. Not a word about employment equity. When black and coloured prospective tenants, for instance, are blocked by racist landlords in this city, there is not a whimper of objection from the Premier's Office.

Hon Premier, you lead a Government which has never said a word to defend the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation, and the brutality used to deny the very right to self-determination.

This Legislature has never lit up this building in green and black and red and white of the Palestinian flag, and worst, hon Speaker, it is you, hon Speaker, who refuse to debate the Palestinian issue when that was requested by hon member Brinkhuis from Al-Jama Ah, and we have a situation where the hon member McKenzie, who is sitting in this House, wanted to call to order a staff member of this Legislature because she was wearing a Palestinian flag, or a Palestinian scarf. Yes, it is the Premier, without any authority to do so, that decides to boycott Russian Federation diplomats.

By doing so this Government and this Legislature undermine the efforts of President Ramaphosa to assist with negotiation and mediation to end the war in Ukraine, which is what we need to do. Instead, his Cabinet slavishly backs the United States of America and NATO's approach.

In essence this DA stands exposed, in fact, as the shop stewards for neo-colonialism and right-wing liberalism. In essence it is actually, hon Speaker, about seeing white lives as more valuable than black ones. I want to place on record here today that I support the position of our Government not to take sides in this war. We trust that the talks in Turkey today will result in a cessation of hostilities. This war must come to an end, the human suffering must stop, but the Cabinet's double standards, the duplicity and the racism are there for all to see.

Also from you, hon Speaker, for refusing this House to debate the Palestinian issue with, and then without consulting us, wanting to light up this Legislature. What about lighting up with the Palestinian colours? Why not? Why the double standards? Why the hypocrisy? Let us support President Ramaphosa's efforts to bring peace and security to the Ukraine. As we discuss this Budget Vote today ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... it is your party, hon Premier, which will ...

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Leader of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am rising on a point of order. Is it parliamentary for the Leader of the Opposition to engage you where you in the Chair cannot have an opinion or rebut his claims? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Mitchell. It is always very tempting because members have this one opportunity to debate. He is not part of the POC, the hon the Leader of the Opposition, but he knows the Rules and he is breaking his own rules.

So, for highlighting that, it is very important because the Chief Whip must engage the speaker in the platform that has been set for that purpose, but not here, and I would have expected that his [Inaudible.] from the majority, from the Opposition party, would actually draw his attention to that.

So, thank you for protecting the Presiding Officer. That is exactly why the Rules predetermine. Will you please proceed, hon member Dugmore, with that determination so that we do not draw the Presiding Officer into the debate, because it is procedurally unfair, and it is flawed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, could I just be reminded about how much time I still have? [Interjections.] I have got 16 minutes ... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: I will tell you now – order, order, hon members! Order, hon members. You have ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Eleven.

The SPEAKER: You have used nine minutes 18 seconds. So you are left with just over six minutes.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker.

As we discuss this Budget Vote today, it is the party of the hon Premier, the DA, that will tomorrow move a motion of no confidence against President Ramaphosa's Cabinet. This provides us with a good opportunity to actually reflect on what has been achieved under the leadership of President Ramaphosa and compare this to the leadership as provided by the Premier, and what is being done in terms of this budget.

One of the most significant articles which captures what President Ramaphosa and the ANC have achieved since his election at the ANC's 54th National Conference in 2019 at NASREC, was written by Dr Oscar van Heerden, Deputy Vice Chancellor at the University of Fort Hare.

The article tells the story about the race between the tortoise and the hare, and Dr Van Heerden writes, and I quote:

“Since he was elected in February 2018, President Ramaphosa has taken decisive steps to end State-capture, fight corruption and rebuild damaged public institutions. With regard to his promise to rid us of corruption, these are some of the measures. He replaced boards in several captured SOEs with competent, credible people. Eskom in January 2018; Denel April 2018; Transnet May 2018. He instituted the Nugent Commission of Inquiry into SARS, which found severe governance and operational failures in May 2018. He appointed new leadership at the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation (the Hawks), which has restored the credibility and stability and led to tangible action against alleged corruption. He appointed a high-level panel on the State Security Agency towards rebuilding and restoring the integrity of our intelligence services that had been stolen dry by the enemies of this country.” [Interjections.]

Yes, enemies, the enemies. Ja, the enemies. That is right.

“He appointed a high-level panel, and these are being implemented. He then rightfully terminated the employment of the then Commissioner of SARS, Mr Tom Moyane; replaced him with Mr Kieswetter following the Nugent Commission, and it does not stop there. He appointed a new National Director of Public Prosecutions.”

We now have a new Director of Public Prosecutions in the Western Cape. I want to congratulate Advocate Bell.

“The President then appointed the SIU Special Tribunal to expedite civil claims against corrupt individuals and the recovery of stolen funds. He removed Advocates Jiba and Mrwebi from the NPA based on the findings of the inquiry into their fitness to hold office. He then established the National Prosecuting Investigating Directorate.”

And I will provide a copy of all these achievements because it is the Premier’s party who tomorrow wants to put in place a motion of no confidence against the National Cabinet, and I want to say specifically, specifically I want to say that the Premier ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... that in terms of doing all of these things, this was the President and his Cabinet, but now, and the particular thing that I would like the Premier to take note of, is that when you say that the tortoise is too slow, or that he has done very little in the way of advancing the fight against corruption. Or better yet, you say that he has no backbone. He is completing this race way ahead of the hare.

President Ramaphosa has achieved the above working with his Cabinet and supported by the ANC. I would like the Premier and his advisors to pay particular attention to the conclusion of the article by Dr Van Heerden when he writes:

“The lesson of the story of the tortoise and the hare is that you can be more successful by doing things slowly and steadily than by ...”

Yes:

“... than by acting carelessly and quickly.”

It is clear that as we discuss the budget of the Department of the Premier, we remind him of the quick fix and careless announcements that he made in his SOPA address, without adequate consultation he simply announced new departments. It now appears that there is uncertainty, division and confusion, not only amongst officials within the Provincial Government, but among some of your own MECs.

More haste, hon Premier, less speed. Too little detailed planning, no concrete impact. Form, but no substance. Just like the Safety Strategy. We have never seen, up until today, a detailed business plan with measurable outcomes for the Provincial Safety Plan.

Hon member Kama exposed this yesterday. There is no accountability for what each MEC is supposed to do. That is what a Premier's department is supposed to do. What happened to the Safety Cabinet, Premier? When last did it meet? That is your job of your Department, Premier. Hold your MECs and their departments accountable, not demoralise and confuse them with changes that were not thought through. That was simply media announcements. More haste, less speed. Less impact on the ground compared to what the President has actually achieved by simply doing what he is supposed to do.

You are failing because you have failed to plan in detail. The allure of quick fixes which can be spun in the media is tempting, but they are fast losing their sparkle. The SOPA announcements, what we can call “shiny, happy people announcements”, no informing theory, no detailed analysis, the energy of the hare is misplaced, and tragically that is why this Government is failing. It is form over substance; it is careless and not thought through.

The Department trumpeted community Wi-Fi access. The people of the Western Cape were promised community Wi-Fi hotspots in every ward. One of these instances is a Broadband rollout. This was marketed as public Broadband rollout for public Wi-Fi access. Then it changed to Western Cape Broadband rollout, and now WCG Broadband. With billions spent we can safely call this project a failure as it has done nothing other than to upgrade Provincial Government and Local Government buildings. Not a single community Wi-Fi hotspot has been set up, rather some Government buildings have offered public Wi-Fi access, and there is a big difference between that. One official even admitted that while the service is available 24 hours, its range is only 80 metres.

So, what was once referred to as a mechanism to provide public Wi-Fi hotspots ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon member Dugmore ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... across the province, it now seems to have been done only in a limited way.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Dugmore, you have got less than a minute to conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Yes.

The SPEAKER: And again, please address the Presiding Officer.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: So that is why, hon Speaker, we, as the ANC, will insist on public Wi-Fi hotspots within our communities, that are planned to take into account safety, proximity and 24-hour access in the 406 wards in this province, in those where poverty, inequality and unemployment [Inaudible.] the ANC calls for public Wi-Fi hotspots within each VD in the ward. We will mobilise all Councillors in these wards, irrespective ...[Interjection.] of party affiliation, to demand accessible and safe public Wi-Fi hotspot ...[Interjection.] in every VD, in every ward, which you have failed to do ...[Interjection.] because you have failed to plan. [Applause.][Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members, order. Thank you to the Leader of the Opposition. Before I move to the next speaker, there is a hand. Hon the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, I just wanted to check with you, the hon Minister Mitchell raised on a point of order, that the hon Leader of the Opposition may not address the Presiding Officer without the Presiding Officer having an opportunity to respond, which you ruled was correct, and you then also criticised the Whippery.

Could you please just indicate, hon Speaker, which Rule basically states this, just for ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... further reference and so that we can learn, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, hon members. Hon member Sayed – order, hon members! You see when you start dealing with the Presiding Officer in that manner, you touch on Rule 59, and the other Rule that is affected by that, is Rule 62.

So, it becomes very difficult, and I think that is why we need to deal with the Rules correctly, and we continue to improve on our Rules because they are not static, but when we have them and whilst we have them, we need to apply them and respect them.

So that is the basis for which I then made that determination when that point of order was raised. If it was not raised I was not going to do that because I expect the Whippery and the hon members to be active during this debate, but I was going to defend myself when I speak in the POC as the body where I account to for those matters, but I thought it was important that I rule on that matter in the manner in which I have done so. Thank you very much, hon Sayed.

Hon members ... [Interjections.], I see – order, hon members! I see there is another hand in the online platform, hon member Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you, hon Speaker. My ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, hon member Kama, you may proceed.

Mr M KAMA: Yes, yes, thank you, hon Speaker. I actually raised my hand before hon member Sayed and wanted to check whether perhaps the directives you had given on how we continue with a hybrid, or online system, if we are allowed to clap for that wonderful speech of the Leader of the Opposition, because I am tempted to do so. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: [Laughs.] I am sure you will clap alone there; it is difficult. Hon member Kama, if I may, on our members, order. If you recall [Interjections.] if you recall, in the directive that I issued on the 17 April 2020, the difficulty was that if you clap on the microphone and everyone claps, then there is chaos, but for the hon members who are in the hybrid venue, as you will recall I made the same determination in terms of the ruling when we were in the Bergrivier Municipality in Velddrif, that, hon members, we cannot just clip the wings and curtail democracy when members want to freely clap in the Chamber or in the hybrid venue, but online it is difficult.

So hence then it is outruled in terms of the determinations as approved by this House in 2020. So – but you can clap alone and as another member, but switch off the microphone [Laughs], but thanks, hon member Kama, for creating that indication.

May I then proceed, hon members? We are now at 1 o'clock almost, we are four minutes before. I do not like breaking the order, hon members, do not [Inaudible.] the Presiding Officer. Personally, my preference is not to break in the middle of a Budget Vote. However, we will see how far we will go with the remainder of the speakers, and then determine what time we break for lunch, because the reality is that we have service providers and we do not want to have fruitless and wasteful expenditure on the food that has been prepared for members and some of the support teams here.

May I then say let us proceed to the next member. Hon member August.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Speaker, over the course of the past couple of weeks, I have listened to members constantly referring that the Western Cape is the best-run province in comparison to other provinces led by the ANC.

As residents of the Western Cape, our people are suffering most as we constantly measure ourselves up to other provinces. It is true that the standard of leadership in South Africa is extremely low, but this in no way gives the DA the moral high ground when it comes to service delivery.

What we need to do is demand accountability. Not by comparing this province with the rest of the country, but by ensuring that we remain at the forefront of meeting the basic needs of services to safeguard the human rights of our people. The Office of the Premier is an important channel in achieving these interventions as it focuses on developing strategy and achieving sound governance.

Hon Speaker, today I would like to call on the Government to consider finding commonality amongst the policy prioritisations and the budgets that go with it. Entire departments are operating in silos isolated from one another, and as much as that is how things have been since the dispensation of democracy.

We have learned that working alone is equal to working against. I am urging this Administration to start focusing on the functional programmes between Department of Health and Social Development, tackling crime by providing social interventions and community development initiatives. The Transport Department should be able to work with Tourism and Economic Development. This Government and the Office of the Premier need to start considering programmes that share in the collective objective of your departments, and perhaps this year we will start seeing service delivery for the people. Thank you, hon Speaker.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would like the Premier to reflect on what he says. He is always guided by the North Star. I want him to start looking south. Let us look at the Western Cape, which is not to the north, hon Premier, and tell me the following: here in the Western Cape the big issue is unemployment, poverty and crime. Low should be your focus if you look south and not north.

For once we have a Court ruling in the High Court about the equity laws, labour equity laws. I was very much involved in that, and we won the court case with the help of Solidarity Trade Union. Are you sure the Western Cape, public and private institutions, comply with provincial demographics when they appoint people in our hospitals, in our schools, in the private sector, the supermarkets? Are they compliant, and does it worry your Department if they are not?

Secondly, our people are already in a state of shock because of COVID. Poor, unemployed and now we allow the City of Cape Town to cut water. If you are unemployed and cannot afford to pay for water, you are put on a drip system. Does it bother you, hon Premier, that people are told to wash their hands, wash their faces, to prevent them from getting contaminated with COVID, but they got no water because it is a drip system? What is our Minister of Local Government doing about it? Does he get conditional grants in order to subsidise the water if people cannot afford?

Thirdly, I want to ask you, hon Premier, the non-filling of posts of Minister Albert Fritz, are you going to look at that? Is this a money saving exercise not to fill that position? Or do you not have competent people ...[Interjection] on your side that you can appoint in that position? [Interjection.][Time expired.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

The well-being and holistic growth of children is a matter which needs urgent attention in the Western Cape. The Children's Commissioner, Mrs Nomdo, has expressed that it remains a challenge to deliver on her mandate due to lack of resources and capacity constraints in her office.

It is worrying that the Standing Committee is not exercising proper oversight to address the challenges the Children's Commissioner is faced with. The Committee's 2020/21 Annual Report revealed that 3,000 calls to the Children's Call Centre have drastically increased to 460,000 per year. There is an urgent call from the Children's Commissioner to fully capacitate her office. She must cover a vast area and the Province should look at providing the Commissioner with a helicopter to reach more areas.

The Western Cape has a serious waste problem, and the Department has admitted that the province is running out of landfill space. The situation indicates the need for the appointment of an Environmental Commissioner. Why has the Provincial Government removed the original amendment proposed for the appointment of an Environmental Commissioner?

Residential areas with backyard dwellers and informal settlements are not receiving adequate service delivery in terms of waste removal. There are dumping sites among residential areas on the Cape Flats which are health hazards. If the current legislation in place to deal with waste management is sufficient, as the hon Premier has been stating for the past few years, then why do we have these dumping sites on the Cape Flats? Waste removal services ...[Interjection.] are obviously inadequate on the Cape Flats. [Time expired.]

Ms L BOTHA: Thank you, hon Speaker. We are from martial arts now to helicopters. Hon Speaker, I hope that with the same enthusiasm, the Leader of the Opposition will also call an end to the war of corruption that his party is engulfed in. [Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Hulle *publish* nou nog [Onduidelik.]
[An HON MEMBER: They are still publishing [Inaudible.]]

Ms L J BOTHA: And then, hon Deputy Speaker – hon Speaker, can you protect me, please? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I have been begged nicely ...[Interjections.]

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: ... hon the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms L J BOTHA: Ja, ja.

The SPEAKER: I will definitely protect you, hon member Botha. You may proceed, you are protected.

Ms L J BOTHA: Okay, thank you. The Leader of the Opposition and I have a pact in the Standing Committee, so let us stick to that, Leader of the Opposition. Thank you. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, and I hear the young lion say that he is in support of the Leader of the Opposition. I think it is for the upcoming Congress [Interjections.] and I am not too sure whether the Leader of the Opposition, whether he is a tortoise or a hare, and I am just seeing this picture, this young cub lion supporting either a tortoise or a hare. [Interjections.]

†So, through you, hon Speaker, aan die agb Opposisie Leier, ek wil sê jou onderrok steek uit, en ek wil ook daarby sê dat kyk watse gemors het die ANC in Cederberg agtergelaat. So voordat jy voor my deur vee, vee eers voor joune. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[to the hon Opposition Leader, I want to say your petticoat shows and I want to also say look what mess the ANC has left behind in Cederberg. So before you come and sweep in front of my door, sweep in front of yours first. [Interjections.]]

†Agb Speaker, die ANC is in die media hierdie week aangehaal vir alle kwessies wat hulle liever onder die mat sou wou vee. Agb Leier van die Opposisie, jy moet verseker dat daar nog stemme sal wees om jou in te stem as die Provinsiale Voorsitter. Agb Adjunk Leier, deur u, agb Speaker, jou onderrok steek uit.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, the ANC was quoted in the media this week for all kinds of issues they would rather sweep under the carpet. Hon Leader of the Opposition, you should make sure that there will still be votes to vote you in as the Provincial Chairman. Hon Deputy Leader, through you, hon Speaker, your petticoat shows.]

Hon Speaker, a caring citizen centric budget. This role of a good and fair government is not to become a clunky machine and desperately trying to pull society along, but rather to be society's greatest ally and partner, offering opportunity, creating conducive environments for businesses, promoting safe communities, and protecting our most vulnerable is the role that the Western Cape Government, led by the Department of the Premier, plays in making the Western Cape a place where everyone can prosper.

For the 2022/23 financial year, the Department of the Premier has been allocated R1,25 billion to be the awl that smooths the way for this Provincial Government to service our residents by always placing them at the heart of its work.

The Department's primary role is to enable and ensure the delivery of strategic plans and priorities throughout the entire Western Cape Government. The often-unseen work of the Department sees support offered to the 80,000 Government employees, including mental health support, and it is pushing forward innovation and new ways of delivering the best services to residents.

Consider the broadband initiative which has a two-prong effect: upgrading broadband capabilities at local municipalities and leveraging these to offer free internet connection to residents in the most rural of communities within our province. While we celebrate the access that this gives to residents, often times we underestimate what this means for the local municipalities, who are the ones at the coalface of service delivery.

So we must also welcome the allocation of R1,29 billion over the next three years for the rollout and upgrading of broadband and Wi-Fi services within our municipalities, but as we become more efficient, using technology to reach our citizens wherever they may be in the province, protecting the data and cyber systems must take priority, and so R240,6 million over the MTEF has been allocated.

We have seen how cyberattacks at our Port last year brought the maritime export and import sector to a standstill. Big banks have also been impacted by cyberattacks, where customers' information has been compromised. Ramping up security to incorporate the new culture of hybrid working means that we can ensure that residents' data is safe but protecting public money and ensuring the integrity of this Government has been further increased by a 20,44% increase in the budget for the Provincial Forensic Services.

Jealously guarding our resources is key to stopping the entrenchment of corruption that we have seen in other governments across the country, and another R7,5 million has been allocated to support local governments in the legal governance and investigative needs, and, hon Speaker, it should be pleasing to every member of this House that the budget for the Children's Commissioner has more than doubled for this financial year, in comparison to the estimated budget for the 2021/22 financial year.

More than this, hon Speaker, the budget for the 2023/24 financial year has increased by R2 million since last year. We want to see our children safe and thriving in the Western Cape, and we want a Government that serves them all. This additional funding will further the Commissioner's reach and ensure that this Government is held accountable for how it is serving our youngest residents.

Hon Speaker, the progress made by the Western Cape Safety Plan must be commended. Despite limited mandates and the under capacitation of SAPS within our province, the Western Cape Provincial Government continues to push forward to keep communities safe and root out crime.

Much has been said of the successes of the Safety Plan in the Cape Town Metro, and I commend the work the LEAP officers have done in assisting SAPS and other law enforcement officials in quelling and responding to violent crime in our communities.

However, I would like to highlight some of the other communities that have benefited from the implementation of the Safety Plan, and some of this has been highlighted by the acting Minister of Community Safety yesterday in her budget speech.

During a joint operation between the Malmesbury SAPS and the Swartland K9 units on Saturday, 25 March, five individuals were arrested for dealing Tik and being in possession of ammunition. The very next day the same K9 unit, in cooperation with the Malmesbury Crime Prevention Unit, led a joint operation that resulted in the arrest of nine individuals for the possession of a firearm. The firearm was later identified as one that was booked in earlier and stolen from a police station.

On Saturday, 19 March, members of the N7 Flying Squad, Piketberg, arrested four individuals after they were found with five shoe boxes filled with button plants with its street name "knopies". Due to the operations made possible by the Safety Plan, five individuals were arrested recently in Velddrif, who illegally slaughtered over 60 sheep within the space of two weeks.

I have also received reports of sustainable, fruitful partnerships within the Bergrivier area, which was made possible due to the same Safety Plan. It is clear that the research driven, boots on the ground approach to the Safety Plan is working, hon Speaker. It is evident from this budget that the Western Cape Government, led by the Department of the Premier, is committed to serving the residents of this province with dignity and care.

Hon Speaker, the behind the scenes work of the Department of the Premier to support our Provincial Government, and each and every local municipality in the Western Cape, is the oil that makes sure the wheels of Government turn to see a prosperous future for each and every resident within the Western Cape.

To all our frontline staffers who represent this Western Cape Government, I thank you. Thank you to our D-G, Dr Harry Malila, who leads in this quest, hon speaker. You have shown resilience in a time that this province needed it most. You have come up with innovation in order to service our communities. You are also evaluating the gaps and are addressing such.

Thank you to my colleagues on the Standing Committee who will support me on the journey as Chairperson to this Standing Committee. I also want to say, hon Speaker, that as Chairperson I look forward to welcoming the hon member Sayed to the Standing Committee of the Premier later this year. [Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, I want to thank the procedural officer, Ms Kamish-Achmat for her support to have made the transition so smoothly. Hon Speaker, the DA supports Vote 1.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, I appreciate it, and can I say thank you very much to each and every member that took part in this debate, and I would like to probably start in reverse with replying to the debates.

So first of all, to the hon Chair of the Standing Committee, the hon member Botha, thank you very much for your role as Chair, and of course for your inputs. I was not aware of the hon member Sayed actually becoming a main member on this Standing Committee, but I too join you in looking forward to welcoming him to the Standing Committee, and I presume that will obviously follow the ANC Conference.

It is probably going to be a very quick conference because there are three branches that have to get together to choose the person to lead them into the next election, and I mean you could probably do it on a WhatsApp group [Interjections.] but ja, I look forward to welcoming you, hon member Sayed. [Interjections.]

Can I also say – you commented on the Safety Plan and of course there are some other comments coming up on the Safety Plan, which I will deal with as I get to one or two of the other members, but ja, it is interesting because the Safety Plan as we announced it on day one, is an organic growing plan that continues to change, and of course if you go to the previous debate, where we spoke about the Violence Prevention Unit, that is sort of just again another iteration of the plan, and how it gets centred-learning from the Cardiff Model, learning from the Glasgow Model, learning from our own experiences, and I think Minister Mbombo actually did give everyone a bit of a workshop on that, so I will not go any further, but I will speak to the actual Safety Plan, the targets, in a short while.

I want to also say to the Hon Chairperson who also spoke about Wi-Fi and the impact of Wi-Fi, as well as the hon member Dugmore, and perhaps I will just mention our Wi-Fi rollout programme, and of course I think the hon member Dugmore has been sent a few times the full report on it, but of course we are now at 1,274 free Wi-Fi hotspots across this province. [Interjections.] You know that – and you see, hon Speaker, straightaway he says, “Linked to Government.”

That is exactly because the school is in the middle of the community. The library is in the middle of the community. They are linked to that infrastructure because of course you must link it [Interjections.] to some infrastructure. He does not seem to understand that. It is in the centre of the community; in the centre of the ward that he speaks about, and of course the interesting thing about this Wi-Fi now is that you got 3 gigs that are available free every single month to our citizens.

The exciting part as well is that we are starting to see, we are only supposed to be doing it in September/October, where we are upping to 1 gig speed, but already it is exciting to see that 22 of our schools, and maybe even more by now, are already sitting at 1 gig speed at our schools.

So it is exactly in the middle of the communities; exactly the point that he raises. What he did raise was that some of them might not be 24 hours, and he was given the answer in the Standing Committee. That where you have a 24 hour hotspot available at a school, wherever it is, what happens is people congregate around that space, and sometimes the citizens who live right there actually come and say, "Please, we have got noise at 3 o'clock in the morning, we cannot sleep because everybody is congregated around the free Wi-Fi hotspot," and so what we do is we turn the aerial system so that people could then maybe be directed to another part of the circumference of that school, or that library, so that they can pick up their Wi-Fi hotspot, and if it is not possible then what we do is we will have a 9 o'clock at night or something cut-off for that specific point, because it is an engagement with the citizens and users, and of course we need to be able to care for our citizens, we need to show them that we live our values, and of course through that engagement we might change one or two of those hotspots, but there are very few of them that actually operate outside of a 24 hour run.

Maybe one other thing that is quite interesting. The other day I was, with the report to the DG, an interesting thing on our schools and the Wi-Fi usage of our schools, do you know that the schools operating on our Wi-Fi system, if you take the volume of data that they use on a day or in a month, the schools in the Western Cape's volume of data for that period of time, is more than the volume of data used by every other school in every other province put together, and this province uses more.

So it shows you that the system is working, it is enabling our education system, it is enabling our learners to really make the biggest difference that we can, and of course this is still ongoing, and as we have said now we have got the support now through this funding grant, where we are going to go and interrogate our system once again, say well, what is the future going to look like, and what else do we need to do to get better and better? We have got to continually improve what we do, the services we give to the citizens of our province.

And then of course, Chair, you spoke about "jou onderrok steek uit." I agree, but I will get to that. I mean you spoke a lot about, you were answering the Leader of the Opposition and his hairy tortoise issues, but I will get to that just now [Interjections.]. He was talking about more haste and less speed, or less speed and more haste, I am not too sure, but ja, the hare and the tortoise, but I will get to that shortly, but thank you very much, Chair, for your inputs.

The hon member Brinkhuis, thank you very much. Jeepers, I wish that it was that easy; that the committees –in the debate we stand up and we just start allocating helicopters to people, but I do not think that is a possibility, definitely not in our country at the moment, but I do support you, hon member Brinkhuis, and say that of course we have got to make sure that we have budget available; that the Office of the Children's Commissioner is supported.

Of course, if you look at the budget in the budget book, and if you look at the support, you will see 2021/22, and obviously this was at a COVID time, she had R6 million to set up her office. It has now gone up to R13,345 million. Then of course next year it is going to be R7,72 million.

The year after R7,45 million, and of course on top of that there has been some extra funding, as I announced today, another R1 million that will go to more resources, specifically human resources, R1 million and then R2 million the next year, and R3 million the year after, over the MTEF for staff support. So I agree with you, but you can see in the numbers that that support is definitely there.

You also raised the issue around the Environmental Commissioner, and of course this has been going on for a very, very long time, and again it is about the regulatory environment we find ourselves in versus the budget that we have as a Government, and what can be achieved through this process. So of course in the Constitution there is an Environmental Commissioner. Whether it is now where we sit many, many years later after the Constitution was written in this specific Government, while I sit on this side of the House, where the argument is that in actual fact from the writing of that Constitution to where we sit today, there is a raft of new environmental legislation in place that says why would we want to just create another duplication and take money away from health or take money away from education to create this where it is not really necessary?

But the same applies because you know at one stage I used to sit on that side of the House where you are sitting, and I used to raise the same question, "Why have you not put an Environmental Commissioner in place?" and the hon member Dugmore was sitting on this side, and I remember the answers given by the hon member Essop, who was then in charge that time, and she gave exactly the same answer, that quite frankly there is enough legislation in place that we do not need it.

That is exactly what she said. Go and have a look at the Hansard. I have already sent you a copy of her Hansard. I will send it to you again if you want, but that is exactly what she said, and that is why we have taken this position. It is based on the data ... [Interjections.] but thank you very much.

Then I want to move on to the hon member Marais. Thank you very much, hon member Marais, for your inputs. Yes, I will ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, you must address the Presiding Officer.

The PREMIER: Through you, hon Speaker, to the hon member Marais. Hon Speaker, could you let him know that I definitely will fill the vacancy that was created when Minister Fritz no longer held the position, but of course it probably would be wise to do that after we finished the budget, not in the middle of this process, but shortly that vacancy will be filled. So can you thank him, or through you, for pointing that out to me.

I also would like, it is a pity that, so I cannot really ask the hon member Marais a question directly and get an answer, but perhaps as part of this reply I will form my reply as a question to say it is interesting and I wonder if it is his party's policy, that for people who do in our municipalities receive more free water allocation than any other municipality in South Africa, they get the free water allocation, but when people do not pay for the beyond the free water allocation, they then get put on a drip system.

They do not get the water turned off, it goes on to a drip system, but it seems as though his party's policy is it does not matter whether you pay for your water or you do not pay for your water, it should just be left on, and that is an interesting policy position.

One would think that with that policy position he might get more votes, but we will have to see what happens in the next election with that policy of his party.

He also says I must stop looking north and I must look south because I must focus on jobs, safety, dignity and well-being. Well, whether you look north or south, those are the focus areas of this Government: jobs, safety and well-being, and I can assure you that south, north, east or west, they will remain the focus of our Government and our recovery. We have got to get jobs back into our economy because with jobs comes dignity. With jobs also comes safety, but we have also got to focus on safety, and of course dignity and the well-being of our citizens is paramount. So that is the focus of this Government.

Then hon member Xego, thank you very much for your inputs. You spoke about the system of how we need to work together; there needs to be cross-cutting programmes and processes of how we govern. Well, I can assure you we still do, we do exactly that, and there was also an issue raised by hon member Dugmore, we have extended Cabinets for management of COVID-19, or perhaps when an insurrection is happening in our country, we put the management systems in place that we learned through COVID-19.

We also have the PCF process where we meet with our municipalities. Of course, we have got our Cabinets, and then we have also got those management meetings which we call "Mancos", which would be a safety focus, or a jobs focus, or a dignity focus, or of course a governance, a VIP 5 focus that we as a Government are making sure that we are managing our Government in the best interests of the citizens of this province.

I also want to say that – then to hon member August. Sorry, I made a mistake there. Hon member Xego, sorry, you did not raise those issues, it was the hon member August. The hon member August, can I say to you thank you very much. I think you are absolutely correct. We must not measure ourselves in the Western Cape against other ANC-run provinces. That is why we put these world class measures in place because we must do that. We must measure ourselves against other competitive regions around the world. That is why we have got regional partnerships, and quite frankly I absolutely agree with you because measuring yourself against the ANC provinces is, ja, not really stretching anything at all, but thank you very much for those inputs.

And then I want to get to the hon Leader of the Opposition. Thank you very much. I look forward to actually going with you. You said, "Please come along. Let us go and have a look," and absolutely, I want to go and have a look. Let us go and have a look. I am happy to. You said, "Come with the ANC." There again I notice that all three branches can come on this visit, we will probably all fit in one bus [Interjections.], and we will go to Beaufort West, and we will go to Kannaland, and we will go to these places, but we will also go to places in the City because they are issues. Absolutely.

There are issues where citizens face potholes, or they face sewage blockage problems, but it is interesting because I have been watching the City of Cape Town quite closely in the last couple of months, and I have been seeing a big focus on making sure that those issues that are being raised are being dealt with. Those potholes, the redoing of those roads, the dealing with the infrastructure issues around sewage. Absolutely.

So I am happy to go and have a look. The Philippi Stadium I am – I actually have asked, and Minister Marais is getting a report on the Philippi Stadium to see exactly what the issue is there. I believe it was put out to Chippa United and that perhaps they have not managed it properly, but we will go and have a look at it. Absolutely. Maybe we must go and have a look at what happened there, and how, when trying to support a local soccer team, that maybe we have got to do it differently next time, but let us go and have a look, I am very happy and I am waiting for that report so that we can see what we should do.

We need to learn, we need to continually learn as we move forward. You spoke about the deepening inequality and you specifically said in this province deepening inequality, but it is interesting, you know, inequality has got a measurement tool, it is called the Gini Coefficient, And as a member of the ANC it is probably the last thing that you should raise, a Gini Coefficient, when our country has now become the country with the worst Gini Coefficient in the world, under the leadership of the ANC. The whole, I mean it looked like, on this page, I put a heading on top here, listening to your speech which had nothing to do with our budget and everything to do with a campaign launch, or perhaps, I wrote here, a speech that you are going to put forward to address the three branches, because you spoke about Squirrel and everything that he has done, and nothing to do with this budget.

But – and of course the Gini Coefficient is really, really concerning. It is very, very concerning. You know, that while you were speaking I was looking at the jobs numbers that have just come out, and I mean let me first talk about our jobs numbers. I really am worried about this because as a province we are now, our expanded rate of unemployment is now 30,4%. We have now breached the 30% mark. That is really painful. That is really scary.

Of course our unemployment rate is 28%, and expanded, that is narrow, and expanded is at 30%, but if you want to talk about Gini coefficient, if you want to talk about deepening inequality, if you want to talk about policies that are not taking this country forward to fix the wrongs of the past and to actually find ways in which every citizen in our province, in our country, can find opportunities into the future, quite frankly that Gini Coefficient linked to a report that we have just seen now on the jobs numbers in the last quarterly report in our country, you just have to look at that graph. It is more than frightening. I am scared of the 30,4%. There is no other province with an expanded of 30%. Up to 40%.

The closest expanded unemployment rate is 40% – jeepers, it is 44%. I mean there are one, two, three, four provinces with a 50% expanded unemployment rate. That is the real cause of a Gini Coefficient that takes our citizens basically down the wrong way. It is not the promises that were made in '94 to the citizens of this country, and it is your political party, and your party's policies that are taking us in this direction.

This country has the people, it has the place, it has the raw materials, it has the natural beauty, the environment, it has everything going for it that should be the exact opposite of this, but it is your policies that are going to eventually take us all the way down, but it is also those policies that are going to lose you the next election. They are going to lose you the next election so that we are going to have to then start rebuilding this country, because ... [Interjections.] if you want to say about deeper into inequality, the ANC have really, really taken us in this country far deeper into inequality than anybody would have ever imagined.

You also mentioned that a number of issues, or a number of areas in this province where our province is being unconstitutional. Can you roll these out? Challenge us if you may or if you want to, but also at the same time I will challenge the Constitution. I will also try new things. I will also push those boundaries because, as I said in the SOPA, we cannot, we cannot have a diminishing income on the one side and more and more demand from our citizens on the other side and do the same thing over and over and over again as a Government in the middle, and expect different outcomes.

We have to do things differently. We have to try things. We must fail in things that perhaps do not work, and we must get up again, and we must go and try new things. Because if we do not do that, I promise you we are all going to crash and burn, and we need to do that, but if there is a constitutional area where we think we are going wrong, that is your job. That is the job of the opposition. That is the job of a democracy. Raise it, push those boundaries, we must either answer it or face the music, but that is exactly what we need to do, but actually give us the detail. Do not just say it, give us the actual detail.

Then you say we are culling African public servants. I want to say to you absolutely untrue. Untrue. Look at the stats. So what you are saying is absolutely untrue. Take it when I started in government two and a half years ago, and measure now, it is untrue. Absolutely.

Then you went on about the Ukraine. So let me say a few words about the Ukraine. Let me say a few words about what is happening at the moment in our northern hemisphere, where this party, who is normally the majority in opposition in this province, this party has a whole lot of stuff to say about imperialism, colonialism, human rights abuses. That is what is happening in the Ukraine right now: imperialism, human rights abuses, and you say nothing. That is unacceptable, and of course it not just a straight war that just happened. There was no Security Council United Nations application; there was no process whatsoever. In actual fact the process is that the United Nations actually condemned it outright. The United Nations condemned it outright, but you say nothing. You say we go for peace.

Quite frankly, right now your stance as a political party really brings you into question. Because of our past this country and the ANC should be someone who really understands what it feels like, and you keep quiet. You say nothing about the atrocities that are happening at the moment in the Ukraine. More than 2 million people ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, will you please take your seat. Hon member Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, just a reminder that the Premier ought to speak through you as the Speaker, not address the hon Leader of the Opposition directly.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, hon member Sayed. Hon Premier, please address the Chair.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I will speak directly to you, but I think that the hon member Sayed and the hon member Dugmore need to really listen to this because you say absolutely nothing to the more than 2 million people who have fled to Poland. The more than 4 million people, million people, almost the population of our province, who have been displaced and fled their homes, and you say nothing.

The bombing of maternity hospitals. The bombing of a place of safety where on the paving outside the place of safety they write a big thing to say "children". Let us try and do that so we at least keep people in this theatre space safe. It is target; bomb it.

It is unacceptable that you say nothing. You have to stand up and condemn in. Like we all have to stand up and condemn this kind of activity that takes place anywhere in the world. You cannot believe that this is happening in this day and age, and you cannot keep that neutral space. I understand the role that Russia played in the ending of apartheid; I understand the role that Russia played in supporting many ANC apartheid activists, training of military veterans. I understand all of that, but that does not forgive what is happening right now.

So then you have got to ask yourself why? Is this last thing about, actually it is about a whole lot of other deals that are being done between the ANC and the Russians? Is that why? What is it? What has to happen in the world for you to say, actually it does not matter what our relationship was in the past. These are human rights atrocities, these are murders, these should not be happening, and we need to stand up against ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, there seems to be another point of order, will you please take your seat. Hon member Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, is the hon Premier willing to take a question?

The PREMIER: I will take a question after my speech.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed, the Premier has just indicated afterwards he will take a question.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. We really do need to come out strongly against this kind of action in our world, especially us as South Africans.

Hon Speaker, then – I have got a whole lot of notes here, and of course I am standing between all of you and lunch. This is the part where I said speech for the three branches, because it did not sound like it had anything to do with this budget. It was about all of these things that Cyril has done; change the boards, change the panels, put in investigations, done all of these things, because of all of the money that has been stolen by the ANC, but my question is, that is great. Who has been arrested? [Interjections.]

A billion rand on the Zondo Commission; who has been arrested? What are the consequences? It does not help to put a – you know, you now take the A-Team out because they have stolen the money and put the B-Team in, and they keep stealing the money. That does not help anybody, but of course that was actually the wrong speech for this debate, and I will leave it at that. I would like to know who was arrested.

But, of course, he also spoke about more haste and less speed. Quite frankly in South Africa right now we need more haste and more speed. We have to do things differently; we have got to push harder. Those unemployment numbers are shocking. We have to make a change in the citizens' lives in this province, and in this country, and we have to do it quickly. We have to be decisive. We have to try things, and we have to move forward with speed.

You know, it is also interesting, the last point I made on his squirrel speech was we actually need to go back in Hansard because I remember him making the same speech, praising Zuma a few years ago, and now he makes another speech praising Squirrel. I am sure the Zuma one was also just before a conference or something like that. I think they were also down to a few branches at that stage, too.

But, hon Speaker, he then mentions about the new departments, and I must say that I am very excited about these new departments. He then said, "without consultation", so I just want to say to him absolutely untrue. We have been having discussions for 18 months on these new departments, but of course there is leadership consultation, and then of course there is process once you have enacted it.

So at the last Cabinet, the Cabinet has now passed the process, which puts the timelines in place, and of course that is when, you cannot have a whole lot of scenarios, we consulted with all 87,000 staff in this province. You have first got to then say we are now going through that process.

So obviously in the new Department of Infrastructure, of course which directly affects two departments, but of course will be across all of our governments. So now we go through the process. It is in the datelines and that is going to happen over the next year.

I also want to say that, whether it is the various new departments or some of the changes, every one of them have got a process that is linked to a Cabinet decision that was taken last Wednesday, that comes out of the SOPA, that comes out of the discussions that we have been having as a top management and Cabinet over the last 18 months.

But then the hon member speaks about the Safety Plan, and it is quite interesting how many times, and perhaps this is also something that we should do a bit of research in Hansard to see how many times over the last two and a half years that members of the opposition have stood up and attacked, complained, moaned, done something or said something negative about the Safety Plan.

Hon Speaker, what really interests me, and they keep on saying what are all the benchmarks and the – you know, in actual fact on the Safety Plan there is one: it is to halve the murder rate in the next seven and a half years, it was 10. Halve the murder rate, and I must say that as we continually change, as we evolve, as we try new things, as we develop new ways, as we use data differently, that for me is going to be really exciting, how the data gets used differently, and those are lessons from when the plan was put in place two and a half years ago to now; the lessons from COVID-19 on using a dashboard and data, and I must say to the Minister of Health, Minister Nomafrench Mbombo, and her data team, they are outstanding in gathering the data, and as she said earlier in the first debate, how it is actually the Health Department that feels the pain of trauma, along with our citizens, because that is where it ends up. That is where it ends up.

So it makes so much sense that when someone is stabbed, or shot, or some kind of violence, because now it is violence prevention, happens, it gets measured. Whether it is that, or the HECTIS Programme that is now administered in 27 hospitals. I mean we were quite proud of the five that we measured during the pandemic. We have rolled it out now to 27 hospitals, where we pick up trauma. That then gets fed back into every department because we need to know where it happened, why it happened, and we can start to deal with it, but that one measurement, at the end of the day, one is: halve the murder rate.

Now you cannot only police your way out of it, you also have to get to the causalities. That is the violence prevention. That is actually the most important focus area of the Safety Plan and this Government, but the most amazing thing for me is that already when Minister Bheki Cele stands up in the National Assembly and delivers the history lesson called “Crime Stats”, and he says in the 11 hotspots in the City of Cape Town where we have deployed the Safety Plan LEAP officers, it is the only place in South Africa, the only place in South Africa where there has been a stabilisation or reduction in the murder rate.

In actual fact what should be happening is the opposition members should be cheering that along, but no, they are doing the opposite, but we will continue doing what we are doing because the measurements are telling us that we are making a difference, and of course, I mean I am still absolutely astounded by our crime statistics every single day.

I mean that is why this plan is in place, because quite frankly there is no grip or handle on murder in South Africa. More than 3,000 murders in this province every single year. It cannot be. We have to zoom in and focus on it, and in actual fact we actually need every political party to be joining hands, putting good ideas on the table, really finding ways to reduce murder, crime and violence. Because if we want the Gini Coefficient to change, sorting out crime is part of that journey.

I think I have already answered the issues around the Wi-Fi because he spoke a bit about the Wi-Fi, but with that, hon Speaker, through you, can I say again to everyone who has taken part in the debate today, I want to thank them very much.

I also look forward to not only in budget debates, but anytime. As I have said we have got to be nimble, we have not only got to be, what do you say? More haste and more speed, or less haste and more speed, or more speed and less haste. We need more haste and more speed. In South Africa we need much more haste and much more speed, and we need it in dealing with unemployment, Gini Coefficients, crime, dignity, well-being. All of these areas we have to make sure that there is haste and speed.

And of course we also at the same time look forward to the further report on that speech to the three branches, on the effect of the Zondo Commission, the effect of all of those new boards and investigations, because what we want to do is we want to see the thieves in jail that have been stealing the billions from the citizens of this province. That will also change our Gini Coefficient and make a big difference in people's lives, if that stolen money ended up in services for the citizens of our province and our country. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Your Excellency, the Premier and the hon members who also participated in the budget vote.

That concludes this budget vote, and of course we are delayed for lunch. It was the best decision to remain and conclude this budget vote.

We will break for lunch until half past two, and I hope the hon members are in concurrence and if so, as soon as we are done, we will then begin with the next Budget Vote. With that point I suspend the proceedings. Until then, thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

[Business of the House suspended at 13:30 and resumed at 14:30]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 9 – Environmental Affairs and Development Planning)

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, hon Premier of the Western Cape, Provincial Cabinet colleagues and members of the Legislature, the Head of the Department and the CEO for CapeNature, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for the opportunity today to present the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning Budget to the House. Thank you to the management team at the Department for the work in preparing this budget. I believe that this budget is a true reflection of the challenges and opportunities we as a government must address in 2022 and in the near future.

Deputy Speaker, the environment has been placed left, right and centre of the global political and economic agenda in recent times. At COP26 in Glasgow last year, the message was very clear: We are causing harm to the environment, and our actions are contributing to climate change.

Deputy Speaker, for the first time in our history real money was also being committed to finance a transition to a greener economy. R130 billion was offered to South Africa at COP26 to re-imagine our electricity generation systems.

Unfortunately, as we stand here today, it is already several months later, and we are still awaiting our National Government's plan on how to approach this matter. I am concerned that we will lose this opportunity due to our uncoordinated and slow ANC National Government.

Another important international report, the Global Risk Report published by the World Economic Forum, states in 2022 that our inability to address environmental issues is the number one risk for humanity over the next decade.

Deputy Speaker, these international reports on environmental matters also affect us directly in the Western Cape. Deputy Speaker, no matter what your political affiliation is, the fact of the matter is that if you live in the Western Cape, you will in future have to cope with hotter and drier climates. Droughts and floods will be more frequent, and these events will be more intense when they happen.

That is why we have developed a Climate Change Response Strategy, working towards being a net-zero emissions province by 2050.

Deputy Speaker, the State of Environment Outlook Report 2018 makes for sober reading. It shows that the pressures on our natural systems are unsustainable: more needs to be done to protect critically sensitive and important environmental features, without which the ability of the Western Cape to adapt to the impacts from increasing population and climate change is uncertain. The state of the Western Cape's land, biodiversity and ecosystem health, inland water, climate change, oceans and coasts, and waste management are either declining or in a state of concern.

Not responding to these declining environmental trends will lead to other key risks, failing to meet provincial sustainability and resilience goals. If the approach to environmental resource management as well as service provision and economic activity do not change, the costs of doing business will increase.

Moving forward, service delivery and economic growth must be resource efficient, low carbon, and enhance societal resilience to find a more balanced approach to using limited resources.

On Estuary Management, hon Deputy Speaker, our Estuary Management Plans have been made available to the public for comment. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, together with CapeNature, are responsible for 29 draft Estuary Management Plans.

The Department and CapeNature are currently reviewing the comments received and will be able to advance some of the EMPs to finalisation and approval. In some cases, the team have identified the need to undertake additional stakeholder engagement to address critical concerns, with a view to also advancing these to finalisation and approval for implementation.

These plans set out the coordination and management of various activities and impacts that occur within the estuarine functional zone. For prioritised estuaries, this could ultimately lead to declaring them protected areas or special management areas to protect specific habitat types found in these ecosystems. Such as has been the case with the Berg River Estuary, which was recently declared a Ramsar Site under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

On Air Quality Management, it is fitting that the third iteration of our Western Cape Air Quality Management Plan (2021 – 2025) released this year, focus on air quality, air pollution and climate change. We cannot continue to think that †“die Kaapse Dokter sal al die besoedeling wegwaai nie.” [“the Cape Doctor will blow away all the pollution.”]

Hon Deputy Speaker, our investment of R10 million over the past two years to upgrade our 12 atmospheric monitoring stations is a good investment as this allows us to support local municipalities throughout the province to know in real time what the status of their air quality is, and to assist them in drafting their Air Quality Plans.

This work also plays a crucial role in our long-term plans for a greener and more sustainable environment, whilst contributing to the implementation of the Western Cape Climate Change Strategy: Vision 2050, which is currently being developed.

Deputy Speaker, examples of work we do in the field include our work in the Berg River and Breede River. These rivers are arteries of life in our province, and they sustain the economies of entire towns and communities. Alien clearing and pollution awareness campaigns are but two manners in which we promote the protection of these ecosystems. In exchange for our work to protect, nature rewards us with a healthy and safe environment to live and work in.

†Organiese afval, Adjunkspeker, daar is baie geleenthede waar die algemene publiek 'n belangrike rol kan speel om ons omgewing te beskerm. [Organic waste, Deputy Speaker, there are many opportunities where the general public can play an important role to protect our environment.]

In 2017, the Western Cape made a policy decision to restrict 50% of organics being sent to landfills by 2022, and the prohibition of all organics to landfills by 2027. The landfill restriction and prohibition on organics will also ensure that national waste diversion targets are met. In the Western Cape, 40% of all waste delivered to landfills is organic waste, estimated at more than three million tons annually. We want to increase the diversion rates of organic waste from landfills to opportunities that are value adding.

Furthermore, all licences issued by the Department have been amended and municipalities are now obliged to submit Organic Waste Diversion Plans.

Deputy Speaker, I want to thank our Environmental Quality Enforcement Directorate whose officials are our eyes and ears regarding environmental legislation and enforcement. We recently trained nine Green Scorpions to be qualified drone operators, allowing us to work more effectively and with greater safety. Officials can station themselves at a safe distance from dangerous terrain or volatile situations, in effect allowing us to do more with less.

Deputy Speaker, also a word of thanks to our officials, who assisted and supported the multi-stakeholder operation to salvage the NS Qingdao bulk carrier. This ship was at risk of an uncontrolled fire earlier this year just off the coastline, representing a real environmental disaster threat. Since then, the ship has been anchored at the Port of Saldanha Bay, from where all the affected chemical cargo was salvaged and safely disposed of at Vissershok's High Hazardous Waste facility.

Deputy Speaker, the good cooperation between SAMSA, DFFE, SA Ports Authorities, the ships' owners and our Provincial officials shows us what can be achieved through teamwork.

†Dink net wat ons kan vermag as ons hierdie vlak van samewerking van DFFE, SAPS en die Weermag kan kry ten opsigte van perlemoenstropery aan ons kus.

Speaker, CapeNature, ons bewaringsentiteit lewer 'n ongelooflike belangrike en goeie diens aan die Wes-Kaap. CapeNature het onlangs hul nuutste toerisme syfers bekend gemaak, en dit is iets om op trots te wees.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Just think what we can achieve if we get this level of cooperation from DFFE, SAPS and the Defence Force with regard to abalone poaching along our coast.

Speaker, CapeNature, our conservation entity, delivers an unbelievably important service to the Western Cape. CapeNature recently announced their latest tourism figures, and it is something to be proud of.]

CapeNature Eco-Tourism earnings increased by a record 60.5% compared to the previous financial year. What is even more remarkable is that it surpasses the pre-COVID-19 target of 2019/20. This is notwithstanding a two-year price freeze and limited access due to COVID Regulations.

Despite COVID, CapeNature has seen an increase in the number of visitors frequenting its reserves. Visitor numbers have grown by 36% at the end of February 2022, compared to the same period in 2022/21.

Top destinations and attractions remain the Whale Trail at De Hoop Nature Reserve, Algeria in the Cederberg Wilderness, Kogelberg Nature Reserve outside Kleinmond and Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve near Swellendam. CapeNature has embraced technology.

It recently launched its own visitor's app. CapeNature also partnered with a mobile mapping app, Forge, listing most of CapeNature's trails, which can be accessed offline as well. This free app goes a long way to ensuring hiking safety.

CapeNature was also announced as the first runner-up in the Reigniting Africa Tourism Travel Awards. The entity was recognised amongst 16 other entries, which acknowledges the most impactful, story-driven and positive destination campaign.

The Siyaya: Come Wild with Us Series, collaboration between CapeNature, Wesgro and SANParks and produced by Francois Odendaal Productions, was awarded the Best Documentary at the Golden Bee International Children's Film Festival held in New Delhi, India.

The extraordinary series bridges the gap between young children and nature with a deeply resonant conservation message. In 2021 CapeNature's Mbali Collection at Kogelberg Nature Reserve received the Cape Institute for Architects (CIFA) award for Architecture. The nomination and award illustrate CapeNature's efforts to produce architecturally significant, low impact tourism infrastructure that follows the entity's philosophy of 'touching the earth lightly'.

CapeNature conducts protected area management effectiveness assessments of all protected areas they manage every two years, of which the latest one was done in 2021.

The results of the 2020–2022 Assessment reflect that 94% of the area managed by CapeNature is in the sound management category of 67% and above. No protected areas were categorised as having inadequate management. CapeNature's conservation estate has already increased with 33 354 hectares in 2021/2022 through protected areas expansion and stewardship programmes, of which 12 577 hectares were formally declared as protected areas.

Deputy Speaker, but we also have to talk about Driftsands. The Driftsands Nature Reserve situated on the western boundary of Mfuleni has been subjected to continuous unlawful occupation since July 2020. COVID-19 Regulations stipulated in terms of the Disaster Management Act of 2002 prohibited CapeNature to take lawful actions to remove the unlawful structures and occupants.

Deputy Speaker, the major concern is that the unlawful structures have been erected in flood-prone areas such as the Kuils River flood plain and associated wetlands. In light of safety concerns, occupants have been asked to relocate voluntarily before the start of the winter rains. An intergovernmental task team was established to plan for disaster management and mitigate the risks.

CapeNature have also responded to 82 veld fires with a total estimated 25 000 hectares burnt to date. Most of these fires were started due to people's negligence and many of these fires could have been avoided. The combined response and support, including financial support through the Provincial

Disaster Management Centre, district and local municipalities, fire protected associations, Working on Fire, wildfire volunteer groups and CapeNature are critical in the response of veld fires in the Western Cape. Thank you to the CapeNature CEO Dr Omar, and the team. In a time where South African news is dominated by weak, corrupt and dysfunctional State-owned Entities, it is a pleasure to be associated with you. Keep up the good work!

Deputy Speaker, our planning, monitoring and protecting the environment are only one half of our work. The other half relates to the people who live and work in the Western Cape. Nothing has a greater impact on the environment than people. Because of the Western Cape's reputation as the best run province in the country, and Cape Town being recognised internationally as a destination to work and visit, we are seeing an inward migration and natural population growth of 100 000 plus people per year to the province.

†Speaker, hierdie groei in populasie beteken dat Kaapstad binne die volgende agt jaar `n stad so groot soos Bloemfontein gaan moet bou om almal te huisves wat hierna toe kom. Dit beteken water, elektrisiteit, hospitale, skole en al die infrastruktuur wat daarmee gepaard gaan.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Speaker, this growth in population means that Cape Town will have to build a city as large as Bloemfontein within the next eight years to accommodate everyone who comes here. That means water, electricity, hospitals, schools, and all the infrastructure that go along with that.]

Some of these new residents are wealthy businesspeople, bringing money and jobs and opportunities to this province as they relocate their businesses. Some are travelling across borders, through war zones to make a new beginning here. Some people arrive by plane, some arrive with moving companies, and some with only the clothes on their back.

†Ongelukkig is dit `n feit dat nasionale toelaes nie saam met mense na die Wes-Kaap kom nie. Die geld volg nie die voete nie. `n Sensus elke 10 jaar hou nie tred met die vinnige veranderende omgewing waarbinne ons leef nie. Dankie vir die goeie werk wat die span by Ontwikkelingsbeplanning vir ons in hierdie verband doen. Akkurate en opgedateerde inligting word geskep wat ons in staat stel om waardevolle beplanning te doen.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Unfortunately it is a fact that national grants do not come to the Western Cape along with the people. The money does not follow the feet. A census every ten years does not keep up with the rapidly changing environment in which we live. Thank you for the good work of the team at Development Planning in this regard. Accurate and updated information is created which enables us to do valuable planning.]

Deputy Speaker, Inclusionary Housing, one of my priorities is to promote spatial integration to build social cohesion and connected safer spaces in our towns.

We are looking forward to being the first province in South Africa to introduce an inclusionary housing policy framework. Our planning and land use management systems must pursue spatial justice in the Western Cape. Our Policy Framework will support and guide municipalities to develop their own policies and reform and to leverage the planning system to support the supply of well-located affordable housing in partnership with the private sector.

Our Regional Social Projects (RSEP) Programme is another example where we use planning as a tool to help communities to build infrastructure that improves quality of life, makes for safer spaces and creates employment, all at the same time.

Deputy Speaker, we must thank the private sector for supporting our Property Development Forum initiative, where the space is created for Government and private sector to engage one another on matters relating to development.

Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, allow me to welcome our new HOD to the Department. You will find a strong and capable team to support you. I also want to thank Karen Shippey, for your steady hand as Acting HOD and also thank you to Piet van Zyl, who retired this year after doing a great job over the last 10 years, and with that, hon Deputy Speaker, I table the 2022 Budget for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks very much. Deputy Speaker, Premier, the Leader of the Official Opposition, members present. The great Amilcar Cabral once said:

“Tell no lies, claim no easy victories. Expose lies whenever they are told.”

When the MEC of Health earlier spoke about the Health Budget she also mentioned De Doorns and she spoke as if I am not present in this meeting, specifically as I am from De Doorns. [Inaudible.]

The MEC, Deputy Speaker, was here two years back and she promised the people of De Doorns a day hospital. Two years later there is nothing. The MEC has spoken about the ambulance station that has been opened recently but what she does not tell us is the same two ambulances that we have used for the last 10 years are the only ambulances that are currently at that particular ambulance station.

Another issue, Deputy Speaker, before I get to my speech, the hon Peter Marais yesterday spoke about a vote against this particular budget, and specifically refers to the ANC, that a vote against this budget will mean that civil servants will not receive a salary, including MPLs of this particular House. For the last 10 years, Deputy Speaker, the same Freedom Front Plus have voted against the budget at National Parliament and not for once, Deputy Speaker, has a civil servant or a member of this Provincial Parliament not receive his salary. If the hon Marais is aware of anyone who has not received his salary, can he please provide us with that list, and we as the ANC will deal with that particular matter.

Also, Deputy Speaker, let me welcome the hon Mackenzie back into this House after an absence of almost a month. Deputy Speaker, the hon Mackenzie just arrived in time before the Premier can make an appointment of a new MEC for Safety, but Deputy Speaker, that hope by the hon Mackenzie disappeared like thin air when the hon Reagen Allen basically was allowed to speak after the hon Mackenzie. It is a sign, Deputy Speaker, that the hon Allen is more senior than the hon Mackenzie.

Lastly, Deputy Speaker, on this particular issue, the MEC responded to the hon Cameron Dugmore, and Deputy Speaker, the hon Dugmore was specific. Nowhere in his speech will you find where he refers to the rest of the world. He was specific by speaking about Ukraine and Palestine and the MEC finds it necessary not to respond to the issue of Palestine. Is it because, Deputy Speaker, that the people of Palestine do not have blue eyes and blonde hair like the Premier? I am not sure whether that is the case, but it seems so, Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am just concerned, are you speaking on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning as a Vote, because relevance ... [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: It is my Budget speech, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...important in the Rules, and I have not heard you talk about Environmental Affairs yet. You have been speaking about ambulances and Ukraine. So please be... [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: I am ready to, Deputy Speaker, I have 16 minutes. How many minutes do I have left?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr P MARRAN: How many minutes do I have left, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: 12 minutes 44 seconds.

Mr P MARRAN: 12 minutes 44 seconds. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. In the State of the Nation Address, President Ramaphosa said and I quote:

“We will ensure strict accordance with the environmental and other laws of our country, and where there are differences, we work together to resolve them in the interests of our country and its people. We live in one of the regions of the world that is most affected by climate change. We frequently experience droughts, floods and other extreme weather events associated with global warming.”

Pointing out the importance of protecting our environment, President Ramaphosa was speaking in the context of expanding the agricultural mining and energy sectors. In other words, while we must promote and create decent jobs and small-scale farmers as well exploring a niche energy system, protecting the environment and our natural beauty remain paramount. As policymakers, we have a constitutional duty to uphold the law and, when necessary, make new laws to ensure that not only do our people live decent sustainable lives, but that we also protect the environment.

This Department in particular is tasked with ensuring the implementing of laws and regulations that will protect our environment. Deputy Speaker, let us be clear, the people who suffer the most from climate change, and the disasters that occur are not the ones who can claim from insurance or who have access to savings. The people who suffer the most from floods, from wildfires and other disasters caused by climate change are the poor. They suffer the most. We cannot on the one hand want to tackle the second pandemic that the Premier keeps speaking about without recognition on the other end, that we must also protect the environment because it is our people who suffer the most from these national disasters. This Department is therefore not a junior one in this Provincial Government. It should be central and key. It speaks to the very kind of sustainable livelihoods that we as policymakers want to bring about for the majority of our people in this province. The question then becomes, if fighting the war of climate change requires many soldiers can one have enough soldiers?

The DA, Deputy Speaker, and we have also now listened to the response to the Premier about Environmental Affairs. The Premier also got the view that there is no need for an Environmental Commissioner. Against the thousands of people who supported the establishment of the Office of the Environmental Commissioner, this MEC and Premier have a personal opinion that we do not need extra hands on deck to fight climate change and to protect our environment. Soon the ANC will be asking this Legislature how much the public participation process, held in respect of Section 71 to 77 of the Provincial Constitution cost and whether this cannot be deemed as wasteful expenditure, when the Premier and his Cabinet already knew that they had no intention of listening to the outcome of this particular public participation process, because the outcome of this public participation process was clear. The people of the Western Cape want the Environmental Commissioner.

Even the former DA Chief Whip, Mark Wiley, made a clear submission in the participation process. The Commissioner is a must. Primarily the ANC cannot support this Vote, precisely because we think that this Vote Budget is not sufficient and that we need more institutions to support the work of this Department, the Environmental Commissioner being one of these supporting institutions. Let us remind what the Provincial Constitution, a Constitution we pledged to obey, respect and uphold as MPLs, says about the role of the Environmental Commissioner. Section 72 of that specific part of the Constitution says:

“Monitor urban and rural development which may impact on the environment, investigate complaints in respect of environmental administration, recommend the course of conduct to any provincial organ of state or municipality whose activities has been investigated, act in accordance with the principles of cooperative governance and inter-governmental relations referred to in Chapter 2 of the same Constitution, and lastly, the Commissioner may also add additional powers and functions as provided for in the Provincial Legislation.”

Deputy Speaker, the MEC of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning, does not believe it is necessary for additional instruments or soldiers to fight climate change and protect our environment. The people of Milnerton, who suffered the fact that the lagoon is always polluted, do not agree with him. The small scale – in substance – fisherfolk of False Bay suffering from poisoned snoek, do not agree with him. People living near Kuils River, where the sewerage from the Zandvliet Wastewater Treatment Works spills, do not agree with him. The people of Zeekoevlei who are fearing another sewerage spill will not agree with him and I am not sure after the disaster at Clifton that the people of Clifton will agree with him as well, yet, even more so, I do believe that the officials within his own Department do not agree with him. When presenting his budget in the Standing Committee the Department officials complained about how municipalities, especially the City of Cape Town, flout environmental laws and regulations, and there are almost no consequences. While the hon Van der Westhuizen as usual try to point the finger to National Government, the officials were clear that they try their outmost to have an inter-governmental approach to ensure that municipalities – municipalities, hon Van der Westhuizen – are environmentally compliant. The officials of the Department also recognised the lack of basic services delivered by the municipality such as the City of Cape Town, which causes pollution and which has a devastating impact on our rivers and environment. They mentioned the lack of adequate services to provide people with adequate living conditions. For this Department and its budget, very little provision is made for contraventions of environmental laws. The Department must rely on mediation as there is no budget for prosecution and for Courts. In other words, culprits such as the City of Cape Town are getting away with environmental murder.

Indeed, as pointed out to us, the APP speaks about 275 criminal charges, 175 administrative notices, but there are almost no repercussions for these criminal acts by the City of Cape Town and even worse, still no funds to follow up. The ANC agrees with Department officials, the first responsibility of private land is the land-owner, because therefore I never understand why the police or law enforcement must be called in to evict people from private property. Be that as it may, we deeply regret what happened to Driftsands and the ANC will welcome an engagement with CapeNature to work with the community now settled in the nature reserve to resolve that issue, but we simply cannot give up on the nature reserve. We hope there is political will from CapeNature to resolve the Driftsands Reserve challenge and we certainly hope that it is not because of the area that the nature reserve finds itself in, or because it was not cost effective that CapeNature can so easily dispose of a nature reserve.

Deputy Speaker, the reality is that the tragedy of Driftsands Nature Reserve speaks to the lack of service delivery by the DA-led City of Cape Town in this Provincial Government. 8000 families, not only 8000 people but 8000 families, we are told moved onto the Reserve from Mfuleni. CapeNature had this budget, and this budget makes no provision for them to protect the land. Previous backyarders of those who were renting were evicted. Why did these people not have houses? Why could these people not be moved to serviced sites? Is the Provincial Department of Human Settlements getting involved or is the MEC of Human Settlements more interested in its DA leadership ambitions?

What a relief it would have been for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Development and Planning, to work with their counterparts in Human Settlements because their counterparts in Human Settlements were forced by the Environmental Commissioner to tackle the challenges at Driftsands.

The ANC welcomes the compliance promotion attitude of the Department, but the reality is that other provincial departments are letting them down, and hence enforcement becomes necessity.

Deputy Speaker, earlier I mentioned President Ramaphosa's words in the SONA, expressing sentiments of protecting the environment amidst the economic drives, agriculture, mining and energy. The ANC therefore welcomes the Department's engagement on the cases of Renosterveld and Sandveld. We are pleased that the Department is engaging in a strategic partnership to ensure that amidst our economic opportunities the environment is also protected.

We are also pleased that the Department will look into the matter of the farming which local small-scale farmers have been waiting for quite some time to move indigenous vegetation. I will have a meeting with them on Thursday. Yet the reality is that this budget is letting the Department down. Funds are appropriated for consultants, R29 million for impact management while in Programme 4 nearly 60% of the budget is for COO. The ANC, through a public-private partnership, will rather allocate to ensure that a lab is built to ensure water quality service sampling.

It does not make sense to be paying private entities millions upon million of rands per annum when these can and should be insured by the State. We believe the biodiversity budget is too little while the MEC as usual blames National Government. This Department in the face of the fight against climate change does not need the blame game. It needs the MEC and the MEC for Finance to make the right budget choices.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC will encourage the Department, in particular its HOD, to ensure that it has its own GBV policies. GBV is not simply sexual harassment. It entails more than that. We welcome the Gender Mainstream Forum and the two contact persons provided by the Department, but all I can say, Deputy Speaker, this is not enough. Whilst we welcome the deal at Government Mainstream Gender, we live in the hope that they will mainstream race and disability too. We recognise the Gender Mainstreaming Survey conducted and the zero-tolerance approach in order to tackle the culture within the Department, no doubt, Provincial Government, a sexist culture that runs throughout this Provincial Government, and certain officials were fired because of this culture.

We are pleased that officials reported that Sexual Harassment Policies will refresh and relook, in the light of the Fritz saga. However, what we can clearly say is that the Gender Mainstream Forum, the Sexual Harassment Policies, the two representatives are simply not working. This Department and this Provincial Government need a clear GBV Policy.

Deputy Speaker, this budget let this key Department down and therefore the ANC cannot support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Deputy Speaker, greetings, and greetings to the Ministers at large. In the Western Cape there is an imbalance when it comes to creating a sustainable environment and better living conditions for our people. The Provincial Government and municipalities often prioritise urban areas whilst neglecting townships and informal settlements.

In this province, Deputy Speaker, and under the DA Government the constitutional right to an adequate water supply does not... [poor connectivity.]

These communities are expected to fend for themselves and see to it they get access to water. Those who are considered lucky received a few litres a day from unreliable mobile water trucks. Instead of addressing issues of water security with actual water supply, this Government would rather blame people for establishing informal settlements, the same Government which is failing dismally when it comes to building people's houses. This Government would ...[Inaudible – audio connection lost.] in townships and backyard dwellers.

Deputy Speaker, solid waste management is also a major issue in townships and informal settlements. The Government is struggling with clearing illegally disposed waste and reducing landfill waste. Such failure on the part of the Government often results as a health hazard to communities. Health and wellbeing of people staying in informal settlements should be prioritized as well as they should not be treated like sub-humans.

Deputy Speaker, urban planning and inclusivity are at the heart of spatial planning and the Department is not doing much in this regard. This is a sphere where the Department was supposed to work in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Human Settlements and municipalities in giving effect to the provisions of social development.

Deputy Speaker, this is a sphere where the Department is supposed to work in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Human Settlements. It will take years and a new government for urban planning, which is based on inclusivity to take place in the Western Cape. We are often told how the money is spent on spatial planning, but the actual accommodation of our people does not take place.

It is for these reasons Deputy Speaker, that the EFF does not support this particular Vote. I thank you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

It is a fact that the province's most challenging environmental issues are linked to the widespread poverty, lack of basic services and inequitable allocation of environmental costs in communities. Al Jama–Ah therefore once again appeals to those implementing and making decisions on environmental matters, to be just and transparent. It is normally the poor that bear the brunt of unjust environmental practices, despite our Constitution, stating that everyone has a right to an environment that is not harmful to the health, and that the environment is protected.

Al Jama–Ah calls for the appointment of an Environmental Commissioner. The past 10 years have proven that there is no accountability from officials in the Department. Almost all of Cape Town's popular beaches are amongst the 31 polluted sites along the coastline. The sewage pollution into our water alleys is still occurring, causing harm to people, animals and marine life.

I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Agbare Adjunkspeaker, die welstand van die omgewing is ons almal se verantwoordelikheid. Elkeen het 'n rol te speel maar die daarstel van wetgewing is die verantwoordelikheid van hierdie en ander wetgewende liggame. Ons as Provinsiale Parlement, en dit is 'n groot verantwoordelikheid om deur wetgewing en ander maatreëls die omgewing te beskerm.

Agbare Brinkhuis het so pas aangehaal uit die Grondwet en ek wil graag dieselfde doen. Artikel 24 van die Grondwet is duidelik en ek haal aan:

- “(a) Elkeen het die reg op 'n omgewing wat nie skadelik vir hul gesondheid of welsyn is nie; en
- (b) Op die beskerming van die omgewing wat ter wille van huidige en toekomstige geslagte deur redelike wetgewende en ander maatreëls wat besoedeling en ekologiese agteruitgang voorkom, bewaring bevorder, en die ekologiese volhoubare ontwikkeling en aanwending van natuurlike hulpbronne verseker, terwyl dit regverdigbare ekonomiese en maatskaplike ontwikkeling bevorder.”

Besluite en optredes wat 'n invloed op die omgewing het, is meestal langtermyn van aard. Ongelukkig dui wetenskaplikes al die afgelope aantal jare aan dat die eise wat tans aan die omgewing gestel word op die lange duur onthoudbaar is. Dit word ook bevestig in die Departement van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning se 2018 Verslag met die Titel “Vooruitsig vir die Omgewing.”

Die Afrikaanse kunstenaar en sanger, Nataniel le Roux, het met digterlike vryheid 'n lied geskryf oor die druk waaronder Moeder Aarde verkeer. Die lied wys ons daarop dat ons maar een Moeder Aarde het. Vergun my om 'n paar strofes uit hierdie lied voor te lees:

“lewers klink die eggo
Nog 'n skoot uit 'n geweer
lewers vlug daar diere

En 'n groot boom val neer
 lewers in die verte
 Word nog 'n stad gebou
 lewers vaar 'n vragskip
 Oor die see se laaste blou
 En iewers onder alles
 Sug moeder aarde swaar..."

En dan die refrein:

"Sy vryf haar moeë bene
 Sy't 'n lang pad geloop
 Sy wonder oor haar kinders
 Dis haar heel laaste hoop
 Sy vou haar hande saam
 Soos 'n eensaam gebed
 O, wanneer gaan ons leer
 Sy's al wat ons het.
 Moeder aarde draai haar om
 Uit die son se ergste brand
 En sy droom van digte woude
 En haar oë waai vol sand
 Sy soek na haar kinders
 Maar hul dans nou met musiek
 Langs duisend vuil riviere
 Langs berge van plastiek."

Agbare Speaker, agbare lede, sien u ook die son se brand al feller? Sien u ook die gevaar van vuil riviere? Sien u ook die groeiende berge van plastiek?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, the wellbeing of the environment is the responsibility of all of us. Everyone has a role to play but the creating of legislation is the responsibility of this and other legislative bodies. We as Provincial Parliament, and it is a big responsibility to protect the environment through legislation and other measures.

Honourable Brinkhuis has just quoted from the Constitution and I would like to do the same. Section 24 of the Constitution is clear and I quote:

"Everyone has the right –

- (a) To an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- (b) To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that –
 - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
 - (ii) promote conservation; and
 - (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development."

Decisions and actions that have an impact on the environment, are most of the time long term in nature. Unfortunately scientists have indicated for the past few years that the demands that are currently placed on the environment are unbearable in the long term. It is also confirmed in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning's 2018 Report entitled "Environment Outlook Report."

The South African artist and singer, Nataniel le Roux, wrote a poem with poetic freedom about the pressure under which Mother Earth finds itself. The song shows us that we only have one Mother Earth. Allow me to read a few lines from this song:

*“Iewers klink die eggo
Nog ’n skoot uit ’n geweer
Iewers vlug daar diere
En ’n groot boom val neer
Iewers in die verte
Word nog ’n stad gebou
Iewers vaar ’n vragskip
Oor die see se laaste blou
En iewers onder alles
Sug moeder aarde swaar...”*

And then the refrain:

*“Sy vryf haar moeë bene
Sy’t ’n lang pad geloop
Sy wonder oor haar kinders
Dis haar heel laaste hoop
Sy vou haar hande saam
Soos ’n eensaam gebed
O, wanneer gaan ons leer
Sy’s al wat ons het.
Moeder aarde draai haar om
Uit die son se ergste brand
En sy droom van digte woude
En haar oë waai vol sand
Sy soek na haar kinders
Maar hul dans nou met musiek
Langs duisend vuil riviere
Langs berge van plastiek.”*

Honourable Speaker, honourable members, do you also see the sun burning more and more intensely? Do you also see the danger of polluted rivers? Do you also see the growing mountains of plastic?]

To preserve and care for the environment is every person's responsibility. We are, however, fortunate that some people and entities dedicate their time, knowledge and resources to concentrate on this. I wish to acknowledge the important watchdog role that environmental activists are playing. Yet, we also need the professional input, the specialised knowledge and dedication as provided by the staff of this Department.

It has repeatedly been said and confirmed by visitors to the Western Cape that the Western Cape is blessed with great natural beauty. This is then also the reason why we are such a popular tourist destination, and why many films and advertisements are shot in the Western Cape. Over the last week, many road and mountain bike cyclists and their supporters have flocked to the Western Cape to enjoy our great weather and incredible landscapes.

This leads to highly sustainable income sources, but also confirms the importance of conservation and finding the right balance between conservation and sensitive developments. Finding this balance is often difficult. The situation is complicated by the fact that the latest research and generally accepted best practices are often intended for developed countries. We cannot deny that the needs of a developing country such as ours, with high levels of unemployment, with a need to accelerate economic growth differ vastly from countries that have already developed their economies. These short-term needs often seem to be in conflict with the conservation of the environment.

As stated earlier, caring for the environment is the shared responsibility of all, including all three spheres of Government, Local, Provincial and National. By law, certain important responsibilities rest with the central Government. The Standing Committee lastly invited the National Minister of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Barbara Creecy and her officials to attend a meeting and to assist us as members in our oversight role over the Provincial Department. The central Government provides some funding towards the clearing of alien vegetation and we need to ensure that the Western Cape is spending the funding prudently. It is with regret that I need to inform this House that Minister Creecy made it quite clear in her response, that she is not open to this kind of cooperation with the Western Cape. In the great interest and importance of the environment, I am formally requesting her again to reconsider her unwillingness to cooperate and assist us in our oversight role over this Provincial Department.

Unfortunately, I have to ask myself, why is she so reluctant to engage at this level, when many other national departments such as National Treasury welcome engagements with provinces. I can only imagine that she fears that such cooperation may expose the many failures of her Department, failures to manage the sustainability of stocks of wild abalone, crayfish, and many marine fish species. Let me remind this House that many of the species of alien vegetation that threaten our natural Fynbos vegetation and that now need to be cleared at great cost were introduced to South Africa by the former National Department of Forestry. Let me again remind the House of the high levels of unemployment amongst the former employees of the National Department of Forestry, communities that still stay in the *bosdorpe*, far from commercial centres, schools, clinics and other services, communities that have been deserted by National Government, its former employer and now turn to local DA governments in the Western Cape to address their plight.

I regret this lack of cooperation between the different spheres of Government. Current legislation regarding exploration and mining is also failing to recognise the benefits that the active cooperation of all three spheres of Government would be able to bring when it comes to the management of the environment.

The Western Cape has never benefited from mining to the extent that many of our northern provinces have. In the process however, we have been saved from some of the dangers and risks associated with mining, particularly the deadly effects of acid mine water. The spill of acid mine water recently wiped out almost all aquatic life along a 60 kilometre stretch of the Wilge and Olifants River, feeding the Loskop Dam. Despite our limited exposure to the benefits of mining, there are currently huge concerns about the possible environmental degradation due to mining activities along the West Coast.

I have personally seen some of the damage caused by past diamond mining along the Northern Cape's coastline. One can only hope that the National departments responsible for mineral resources and the environment have the capacity to ensure that these mining companies operate within the environmental limitations set by current legislation.

Although we do not have the pollution problems associated with mining, or nearly the same volume of untreated sewage being dumped into our rivers as seen in northern provinces, we have our own serious problems with periodic sewerage spills and hon Marran rightly referred to this. This is, however, often caused by malicious damage to sewerage infrastructure.

This damage ranges from cable theft to items such as spent fire and gas cylinders being dumped in sewerage systems. No sewerage pump is designed to withstand this kind of abuse. I believe that these actions are forms of sabotage – sabotage of our environment.

I call on all law enforcement agencies to investigate and act decisively against individuals that abuse public infrastructure built to treat effluent. As stated at the beginning of my speech, we all have responsibility to conserve the environment and this includes the wider public. We all know that many manufacturing processes combined with emissions from internal combustion engines are detrimental to air quality, and I am grateful that Minister Bredell also referred to our atmospheric measuring. This was clearly noticed when the quality of the air in the Western Cape improved vastly during the severe Level 5 Lockdown period. Many countries have taken steps to promote the use of battery powered vehicles. These vehicles are not only better for the environment, but they also have a much lower running cost than vehicles running on petrol or diesel. The running costs are in general about 1/3 of the cost of traditional vehicles. A general switch to electric vehicles at this stage will unfortunately put our already highly constrained electricity supply under further strain. Again, Eskom is not only limiting economic growth, it is also forcing us to rely on petrol and diesel and Eskom itself is a major contributor to the high levels of air pollution in particularly Mpumalanga. I referred last week to the lambasting that Minister Creecy received from the Courts for her Department's ineptness and inability to finalise its policy on air pollution.

However, many forms of pollution are not clearly visible. Air pollution goes a lot further than smoke, which is clearly visible. Water pollution is also not easy to spot and therefore sometimes go unnoticed for long periods. Contrary to this, solid waste pollution is clearly visible. Littering and illegal dumping remain a serious and international problem and cleanup campaigns have been met with different successes in various communities. I believe the time is right for another national cleanup campaign. Fortunately, great strides have been made in terms of recycling, and we are learning every day of ways to decrease the volumes of solid waste. Waste reduction starts at the packaging stage and more communities are introducing waste separation at source. I want to thank all citizens that co-operate in this regard, contributing to a better future for our children. Many authorities struggle with the annual requirement to do topographical studies regarding the available airspace for waste-disposal facilities.

This Department's budget over the medium term includes amounts to assist municipalities in this regard. The Department is also playing an important role in the planning and establishment of regional waste disposal sites. As stated earlier, conservation and environmental issues are often long-term initiatives and our successes or failures will only be fully appraised by future generations.

I am proud of the work that CapeNature is doing in the Western Cape. CapeNature is managing large structures of public land in the province, but it is also the main implementing agent for many initiatives such as the clearing of alien vegetation earlier referred to. Due to budget constraints the emphasis on alien clearing is however contained to water-catchment areas. Teams from CapeNature also assist in the fighting of wildfires as Minister Bredell referred to earlier. CapeNature is also employing large numbers of young people under the Expanded Public Works Programme. Many young South Africans have been given an opportunity to gain work experience and develop their knowledge and skills through this scheme. My heart bleeds, however, for those young people who have grasped this opportunity with both hands yet failed to find employment once their fixed term employment agreements expired, and for this, unfortunately, the National Government and its economic policies must be held responsible.

Great advances have been made in the management of tourist facilities in the nature reserves under the control of CapeNature. I am particularly pleased by the progress in facilitating online bookings and the fact that potential tourists are now able to see for themselves the availability of facilities and accommodation online. All indications are that the investments in tourism facilities are not only contributing greatly to social wellbeing and the positive appraisal of our natural assets, but that it is also generating a net income for CapeNature. The support of tourism is contributing to the much-needed economic recovery of the Western Cape, following the economic damage caused by COVID-19 regulations. Unfortunately, there are also various threats to our reserves and Minister Bredell referred to the Driftsands Reserve, which was a strategically placed urban reserve protecting one of the last tracks of remaining Cape Flats dune land vegetation and I welcome the promised support by the hon Marran to see what we can still save of this reserve.

Its location allowed the land to be used for educational purposes and as a traditional initiation site. The COVID-19 Regulations prohibiting the removal of shelters have contributed to the illegal occupation and invasion of the Driftsands Reserve, and as was referred to earlier, some of the areas invaded were unsafe. During the course of last summer hundreds of shacks were erected on an unstable dam wall. This may have seemed to be safe during the summer season. However, we are aware of the annual flooding during winter and the pressures to then find suitable alternative sites for relocation.

Various Court orders and actions claimed at protecting the site reportedly costing as much as R335 million, were unsuccessful in preventing this illegal land invasion.

On the Development Planning side the Department is at an advanced stage to finalise documentation to guide municipalities on policies ensuring that the advancement of integrated housing be done according to best practices.

The Department is also actively engaging with municipal planning officials and advancing practices that promotes safety through clever design practices. The work of these officials is also important in order to plan for future mobility and spatial transformation in the Western Cape.

We also need to improve the capacity for urban management at local Government level, one of various risks identified and linked to planning.

One only has to look at the bottom line of this Department's budget for the upcoming year to note just how constrained the overall budget is. Unfortunately, every year brings with it its immediate needs and important but longer-term initiatives are often moved to the outer years. Often the choice is between the construction of another school to accommodate a fast-growing youth population and the longer term conservation actions. It should therefore not come as a surprise to learn that this Department's budget for the upcoming year sees a 9% cut, when compared with the final amount spent some two years ago in 2019/2020. The total expenditure budget for the upcoming year amounts to just over R568 million rand.

I am grateful to report that the majority of the members on the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs and Development Planning supported the budget of Vote 9 for the Department, and the ANC voted against this budget, but unfortunately did not at the time indicate whether they find the amount set aside for this budget too big or too small, or where they would have liked the difference in the amount to be allocated to or come from.

I would like to put a friendly request to the Leader of the Opposition that in the future please indicate how the ANC's alternative budget would have looked like. You owe it to the voters to put an alternative and not only to vote against everything.

I therefore ask all members of this House to support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you Deputy Speaker, and thank you, I am going to start with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, hon Andricus van der Westhuizen.

I want to thank you for your leadership, your oversight role. We are colleagues, but that does not prevent you from being strict with us and hold us accountable, so thank you very much for your role in protecting our environment.

Deputy Speaker, the rest is very difficult to answer. I do understand that the ANC has got a Congress this year, and the hon Marran, Deputy Speaker, he touched on ambulances, Ukraine, human settlements, the response of the Premier, agriculture, gender. He was all over the show, so he then realised that he must talk about the environment and no surprise he jumped onto this, †sy kitaar sonder snare, die *Environmental Commissioner* [his guitar without strings, the Environmental Commissioner.]

†Hon Speaker, aan die agbare Marran, ons het 7,1 miljoen mense in die Wes-Kaap. So ek kan ook die argument hê dat 99% van die mense stem saam met my op hierdie stadium, so ons kan maar net so goed kyk, ons kan maar net so goed kyk – maar ek is oop vir enige oortuiging, as daar, agbare Deputy Speaker, enige meriete is, ons is nooit bang vir oorsig nie, maar ons moet teruggaan na die Grondwet toe, oorsig met 'n mag, sodat die *Environmental Commissioner* kan optree, maar oorsig, vir die rol van oorsig gaan niemand help nie en wat die agbare Marran nalaat om te sê is dat ons kan 10 *Environmental Commissioners* aangestel het as die ANC Nasionale Regering hierdie land nie in bankrotskap bestuur het nie. Ons het nie geld nie. As hierdie Departement R15 miljoen kry moet ons gaan kyk waar kan ons hierdie R15 miljoen tot voordeel van die omgewing en ons nageslag aanwend, en waar ek tans staan gaan dit nie die Omgewingskommissaris wees nie, tensy iemand my anders kan oortuig. So hy kan maar van daardie deuntjie afklim. Daar is 'n proses en ons sal die proses respekteer.

Agbare Speaker, ja, verder is dit moeilik. Hy het gepraat oor energie. Dit is nogal interessant dat hy energie genoem het, die agbare Marran, en dan gooi hy President Ramaphosa se naam hier in, seker ook hom te ondersteun by sy Kongres, maar hy moet net onthou die agbare President was die *Deputy President* onder Zuma wat verantwoordelik was vir Eskom. So kom ons los dit maar daar. Dis 'n totale mislukking en net een groot besoedelstorie wat baie hartseer is.

Die hele Driftsands-aangeleentheid, ons Departement is baie ernstig daaroor en Karen en haar taakspan werk al 18 maande, omdat ons vrees lewensverlies en ek wil regtig 'n beroep doen op alle politieke partye om ons te help. Mense moet vrywillig skuif na areas wat geïdentifiseer is vir veiligheid. Mense moenie nou kom met lang lyste of waglyste te probeer spring nie. Ons gaan kinders en vrouens se lewens in gevaar stel, want daar wag, daar is 'n ramp wat net wag om te gebeur met die eerste vloed wat kom so ons is baie senuweeagtig as 'n Departement, en ons doen alles moontlik en ons vra rêrig dat mense met ons moet saam wees.

Die oorlog in hierdie land is teen armoede en ek wil die agbare Marran weer herinner dat as sy party nie hierdie land in bankrotskap bestuur het nie, sal ons omgewing veilig gewees het, want armoede eet die omgewing op. So 'n arm mens het ongelukkig ander behoeftes as wat ons vandag dink ons het.

Laastens, agbare Deputy Speaker, ek wonder hoekom beweeg al die mense Kaap toe. Die antwoord is eintlik baie maklik. Hulle vlug van ANC-regering, so, agbare *Deputy Speaker*, ek is baie trots op wat ons bereik in ons Departement en ek wil regtig vir die agbare Marran vra hy moenie subtiel my amptenare in politiek probeer betrek nie.

Die agbare Dugmore het my gevra om eendag by hulle te staan, as hulle 'n komitee het, die ANC, of ons amptenare hulle kan kom inlig en toelig – met die grootste liefde, maar jy verskoon hulle dan en ons trek nie ons amptenary nie.

Ons moet staat en party skei. Ons het die hoogs bekwame amptenare en ek het baie respek vir my amptenare se kwalifikasies, ag, en se opinies.

Ons doen ook ons uiterste bes om ons rade tot verantwoording te bring, maar daar is interregeringsverhoudings. Ja, daar is al 'n klomp direkteiewe uitgereik teenoor die Stad. Ja, daar is probleme. Die probleem is nie hofsake nie. Dan mors ons geld op 'n hofsak wat eintlik in die omgewing moes gegaan het, so ons is heeldag besig met interregeringsverhoudings en ons Groen Skerpioene-span tree op binne die wetgewende raamwerk so streng as wat hulle kan. Ons is besig met 'n redelike skuif van ons denke ook om nie net die munisipale bestuurder op 'n direktief se naam te noem nie, maar ook die burgemeester, want as dit hof toe gaan, gaan altwee tot verantwoording geroep word. So ons skram nie weg daarvan nie en sommer net so terloops die enigste direktief wat ons dit al gedoen het was in 'n DA-beheerde Raad, so ons speel nie politiek met die omgewing nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Speaker, to the hon Marran, we have 7,1 million people in die Western Cape. So I can also have the argument that 99% of the people agrees with me at this stage, so we can just look so well, we can just look so well – but I'm open to any conviction, if there is any merit, hon Deputy Speaker, we are never afraid of oversight, but we should go back to the Constitution, oversight with power, so that the Environmental Commissioner can act, but oversight, for the role of oversight no-one is going to help and what hon Marran does not say is that we could have appointed 10 Environmental Commissioners if the ANC National Government had not governed this country into bankruptcy. We do not have money. If this Department gets R15 million, we have to go and look where we can apply this R15 million to the advantage of the environment and our next generations, and where I'm currently standing it is not going to be the Environmental Commissioner, unless someone can convince me otherwise. So he might as well get off that tune. There is a process and we will respect the process.

Hon Speaker, yes, further it is difficult. He spoke about energy. It is quite interesting that he mentioned energy, the hon Marran, and then he throws in the name of President Ramaphosa, probably to support him at his Congress, but he should remember that the hon President was the Deputy President under Zuma who was responsible for Eskom. So let us rather leave it there. It is a total failure and just one big pollution story which is very sad.

The whole Driftsands issue, our Department is very serious about it and Karen and her task team have been working for 18 months, because we fear loss of life and I really want to appeal to all political parties to help us. People must move voluntarily to areas that are identified as safe. People should not now come with long lists and try to jump the queue. We are going to put women and children's lives at risk, because there is waiting, there is a disaster that is waiting to happen with the first flood that comes so we are very nervous as a Department, and we do everything possible and ask people to work with us.

The war in this country is against poverty and I just want to remind the hon Marran again that if his party had not governed this country into bankruptcy, our environment would have been safe, because poverty devours the environment. So a poor person unfortunately has other needs than what we today think we have.

Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, I wonder why all the people are moving to the Cape. The answer is actually quite simple. They flee from ANC government, so, hon Deputy Speaker, I am proud of what we have achieved in our Department and I really want to ask hon Marran not to subtly try and draw my officials into politics.

The hon Dugmore asked me to one day stand by them, when they have a committee, the ANC, if our officials can come and inform them – with the greatest pleasure, but you excuse them and we don't draw our officials.

We have to separate state and party. We have highly capable officials and I have a lot of respect for my officials' qualifications, oh, and opinions. We also do our best to bring our councils to account, but there are intergovernmental relations. Yes, a lot of directives had been issued to the City. Yes, there are problems. The problem is not Court cases. Then we waste money on a Court case that should rather have gone towards the environment, so we are busy all day with intergovernmental relations and our Green Scorpions act within the legislative framework as strictly as they can. We are busy with a fair shift in our thinking to not just mention the municipal manager's name on a directive, but also the Mayor, because if it goes to Court, both will be called to account. So we do not shy away from that and just by the way, the only directive we have done was in a DA controlled Council, so we do not play politics with the environment.]

To the hon Makamba-Botya, the water-issue, I struggled to follow but water quality and quantity for us is very important. We need to plan it and we need to be ready because the environment moves in cycles. The next drought, when will it be? We do not know, but we need to plan, and if you look at and that is why it is so important, hon member, to get the population, the movement, the population growth figures correct to understand that, because in a 12-month period 108,000 people moving to the Western Cape, meaning that we need 21,7 million litres of water a day extra, so in the next eight years, we need to build half of Wemmershoek Dam, and we know we cannot trust the ANC to build any dams because that will be another corruption scandal again like, ask the KZN people, so we need to make plans. So, we work very closely with our municipalities to see how we can work on a variety of concepts, from desalination, to boreholes, etc, to help them. Informal housing and definitely from where I am standing, myself and the Minister of Human Settlements work very closely together with the Inclusionary Housing Policy and we will be the first Province that announced on that and we will then walk the path with our municipalities to support them.

†Agbare Speaker, agbare Brinkhuis is 100% reg, die armste van die armste gaan die *brunt bear* as dit kom by die omgewing, maar weereens armoede is die oorsaak van die omgewing wat swaarkry en die oorsaak van die armoede in hierdie land is ongelukkig die ANC. Dis die waarheid. Dis waar ons staan en ons moet almal nou hande vat en kyk hoe kan ons onself hier uitlig want as ons nie in korrupsieskandale verval het oor die afgelope jare nie, was dit nou die geleentheid. Ons sou een van die beste groeiende ekonomieë in die land in die wêreld gehad het, so namens myself wil ek dan my *Ministry* ook bedank vir hulle harde werk, hulle ondersteuning, en onder die leiding van Marius du Randt, baie dankie dat ek altyd op julle kan staatmaak. Dankie, agbare Adjunkspeaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, hon Brinkhuis is 100% correct, the poorest of the poor are going to bear the brunt, when it comes to the environment, but again, poverty is the cause of the environment suffering and the cause of poverty in this country is unfortunately the ANC. That is the truth. That is where we stand and we now have to all take hands and see how we can lift ourselves out of this because if we had not become swamped in corruption scandals over the past years, this was now the opportunity. We would have been one of the best growing economies in the world, so on behalf of myself I would like to also thank my Ministry for their hard work, their support, and under the leadership of Marius du Randt, thank you that I can always depend on you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

[Debate concluded.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 14 – Local Government)

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: †Agbare [Hon] Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet colleagues, members of the Legislature, Head of the Department, ladies and gentlemen.

†Dankie vir die geleentheid om vandag die Departement van Plaaslike Regering se begroting voor te lê. *Deputy Speaker*, ons leef in 'n era waar die wêreld so vinnig verander dat regerings regeer die wêreld sukkel om by te bly met hul basiese verantwoordelikhede teenoor die mense wat hulle dien. Ons in Suid Afrika ervaar dit ook, en as Provinsiale Regering is ons nie hiervan uitgesluit nie. Die Departement van Plaaslike Regering is ook nie hierby uitgesluit nie.

Ek wil in die begin ons *HOD* van Plaaslike Regering en sy span dankie sê vir die goeie werk wat hulle onder dikwels baie moeilike omstandighede doen. Dit was nie 'n maklike jaar tot dusver nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Thank you for the opportunity to table the Department of Local Government's Budget today. Deputy Speaker, we live in an era where the world is changing so quickly that governments all over the world are struggling to keep up with their basic responsibilities to the people they are serving. We in South Africa are also experiencing that, and as Provincial Government we are not excluded from that. The Department of Local Government is also not excluded from it.

I would like to in the beginning thank the *HOD* of Local Government for the good work they do, often under trying circumstances. It has not been an easy year thus far.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, this budget presented today by the Department of Local Government reflects this new reality of the fast-changing environment in which we support and guide municipalities in the Western Cape.

The Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Act is a good example of how times are changing and how we have to adapt. Last year saw the adoption of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Act. Premier Winde has then assigned the powers and functions relating to the Act to me. This creates new responsibilities for the Department to, amongst others, develop policy and new legislation as stipulated in the Act.

Deputy Speaker, the Local Government elections from last year gave us a new political landscape characterised by coalitions. Coalition governments work in theory, but on the ground, there are, and we are faced with many, many challenges.

†Speaker, ons raadslede gaan volwasse moet raak. Ons gaan moet leer om ons kleinlike politieke geskille eenkant te sit en ons sal moet leer om saam te werk tot voordeel van die publiek wat ons belowe het om te dien.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Speaker, our Councillors will have to become adults. We will have to learn to put aside our petty political differences and we will have to learn to work together to the advantage of the public we promised to serve.]

Eskom is the elephant in the room. Deputy Speaker, we cannot debate local government without addressing the elephant in the room, Eskom. We especially need to talk about municipalities that do not pay Eskom. The amounts owed to Eskom by South Africa's Local Government are truly shocking. The debt owed to Eskom, older than 90 days, the Western Cape Municipalities, R134,7 million; Northern Cape Municipalities, R2,5 billion; North West Municipalities, R2,7 billion; Mpumalanga Municipalities R12,4 billion; Limpopo Municipalities, R968,1 million; KZN Municipalities, R428,2 million; Gauteng Municipalities, R4,87 million; Free State Municipalities, R15,01 billion; Eastern Cape Municipalities, R1,87 billion. The total debt owed by the Western Cape Municipalities amount to 3% of the total municipal debt owed to Eskom. It should be noted that there are currently only four municipalities in the Western Cape that have high outstanding debt older than 90 days. The total debt over 90 days for these municipalities collectively amounts to R134,7 million for the period ending January 2022.

†Adjunkspeaker, al is die Wes-Kaap by verre die provinsie met die minste skuld aan Eskom, het ons daadwerklike planne en prosesse in plek om hierdie situasie te bestuur en te voorkom.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, even if the Western Cape is by far the province with the least debt to Eskom, we have real plans and processes in place to manage and prevent this situation.]

The Western Cape Department of Local Government in collaboration with the Provincial Treasury have instituted preventative measures in an aim to reduce debt owed to Eskom by municipalities. These measures include the regular monitoring of debt amounts owed by municipalities, as well as ensuring the effective implementation of and adherence to signed payment arrangements between municipalities and Eskom, to ensure that these arrangements are honoured.

Deputy Speaker, non-payment to Eskom is a symptom of a larger underlying problem facing local governments throughout the country, a culture of weak or no financial management. My Department of Local Government is currently working on several initiatives to address this, and to provide the support needed to improve, where necessary.

†Adjunkspeaker, ons vind dat verskillende munisipaliteite het wyd uiteenlopende pryse vir dieselfde basiese dienste. Sommige dorpe is op pad om mense uit hul huise uit te belas as gevolg van hul tariefstrukture. Die Departement van Plaaslike Regering is daarom met 'n projek besig waar ons munisipaliteite gaan help om opnuut na hul tariefstrukture te kyk sodat daar meer eenvormigheid kan wees. Dit moet ook realisties en markverwant wees om volhoubaar te kan wees.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, we find that different municipalities have widely different prices for the same basic services. Some towns are on their way to tax people out of their homes as a result of their tariff structures. The Department of Local Government is therefore busy with a project where we are going to assist municipalities to look at their tariff structures again so that there can be more uniformity. It also has to be realistic and market related to be sustainable.]

A municipality's ability to effectively collect rates and services rendered are crucial for long term financial sustainability. We are providing guidance, support and turnaround advice to local governments if they need to improve in this regard.

†Deputy Speaker, munisipaliteite wat nie gesonde finansiële bestuur toepas nie, het ook dikwels geen beheer oor hul personeel komponent nie. Daar waar die plaaslike regering se personeelkoste nie die inkomste van die munisipaliteit reflekteer nie, help die Departement met advies en kundigheid om volhoubare menslike hulpbronne strategieë te ontwikkel en te implementeer.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, municipalities that do not apply sound financial management often also do not have control over their staff component. Where the local government's staff costs do not reflect the income of the municipality, the Department assists with advice and expertise to develop and implement sustainable human resources.]

Deputy Speaker, as Government we need to engage with our citizens and we need to do this every day, and not just before an election. In order to improve citizen engagement, the Department is implementing the very successful Thusong Centre Programme, where we bring a host of Government services to grassroots levels in our communities. We have also rolled out mobile Thusong Centres to cater for small and far-flung municipalities.

†Hon Deputy Speaker, daar is 'n gesegde in Afrikaans dat jy nie die wiel hoef oor te herontwerp nie. "You do not have to reinvent the wheel."

In die Wes-Kaap het ons die Joint District and Metro Approach (JDMA) ontwikkel. Dit is 'n raamwerk waar ons samewerking tussen rolspelers vanuit alle oorde aanmoedig om saam met mekaar te werk oor departementele mandate en grense heen. Die JDMA werk baie goed waar mense dit implementeer. Ons het die COVID-19 pandemie daarvolgens bestuur. Ons gebruik dit om die Droogte Aksie Plan te bestuur. Die Provinsiale Ekonomiese Herstelplan word volgens die JDMA-beginsels bestuur.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, there is a saying in Afrikaans that you do not have to reinvent the wheel. "You do not have to reinvent the wheel."

In the Western Cape we have developed the Joint District and Metro Approach (JDMA). It is a framework where we encourage cooperation between role players from all over across departmental mandates and boundaries. The JDMA works very well where people implement it. We managed the COVID-19 pandemic according to that. We use it to manage the Drought Action Plan. The Provincial Economic Recovery Plan is managed according to the JDMA principles.]

Deputy Speaker, the JDMA works well, and more and more districts and local municipalities are seeing the results and are learning to use it in their unique settings.

Now for reinventing the wheel: the National District Development Model (DDM), this approach wants to see the National ANC Minister being delegated to manage and oversee the so-called One Plan in the district municipalities. We have not seen a One Plan, Deputy Speaker. I can only speculate, but it seems the ANC is seeking the Trojan-Horse effect to get access to the Western Cape.

†Laat ek egter u herinner. Die Wes-Kaap word tans deur die DA regeer. Los die DDM en werk eerder saam met ons volgens die bestaande gevestigde suksesvolle JDMA model.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[But let me remind you. The Western Cape is currently governed by the DA. Leave the DDM and rather cooperate with us in accordance with the existing established successful JDMA model.]

Deputy Speaker, if there is one thing we have learnt through all the recent challenges of COVID, drought, and the economic upheavals of recent years, it is this: when you have limited resources, the only way to be successful is if you can collaborate across fences and borders in order to achieve a common goal. This is the same lesson our coalition Councillors must learn if they are to see lasting stability and prosperity in their towns and cities.

†En daar is geleentheid om groot sukses te ontsluit as ons kan saamwerk. Geld gaan net daar waar daar vrede is. My Departement doen werk in hierdie verband om munisipaliteite te help om hulself te posisioneer vir investering.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

And there is opportunity to unlock great success if we cooperate. Money only goes there where there is peace. My Department is doing work in this regard to help municipalities to position themselves for investing.

The potential to derive maximum positive benefits from infrastructure investment is one such initiative to maximise investment. Traditionally the challenges associated with attracting private sector investment includes, amongst others, misalignment of infrastructure planning and coordination between the three spheres of government; ageing infrastructure and lack of maintenance; a weak economic outlook impacting the fiscal environment leading to reduced allocations from National and Provincial Government to support capital infrastructure investment.

To promote infrastructure development, the Department will focus on the following initiatives: the development of the provincial-wide Infrastructure Master Plan: Energy, Water and Roads; the development of a special purpose vehicle to facilitate the infrastructure financing model; drive the Support Infrastructure Grant and the Division of Revenue Act reform; the development of Asset Management and Maintenance Programmes to safeguard infrastructure investments; the development of a 15-year Western Cape Integrated Drought and Water Response Plan to secure water resilience in this province.

Deputy Speaker, our Disaster Management Centre is another example of collaboration leading to success. Our track record with wildfire prevention and control speaks for itself. 90% of the fires are managed within the first hour after reporting. We achieve this through excellent teamwork between the diverse range of national, provincial and local role players.

This includes district municipalities, local municipalities, various fire-fighting units, locally and nationally, as well as CapeNature. These role players can quickly mobilise to use resources closest to the reported fire, and we send aerial support sooner than later to quickly put out small fires before they become runaway fires, and it is not only wildfire coordination. The Disaster Management Centre is currently providing coordination support to the Department of Agriculture to manage the locust outbreak in some of our rural areas.

Deputy Speaker, a word of congratulations to our Disaster Management Centre. It was recognised at the 77th Annual Batho Pele Excellence Awards as the Best Responsive Government Institution of the Year 2021/22. Thank you to Colin Deiner and his entire team for being available 24/7 to jump in whenever there is a looming threat or an active disaster.

†Speaker, ons moet ook oor swak munisipaliteite praat. Die groot gros van ons werk in die Departement word hier gefokus. Dit is waar ons munisipaliteite wat in die intensiewesorg is van die operasietafel probeer kry tot in die waaksaal waar hulle kan herstel, en dan hopelik volkome herstel om ontslaan te word. Maar die pasiënt moet ook sy kant bring. Hy moet die medisyne wat voorgeskryf word drink, Deputy Speaker, anders kan daardie siek munisipaliteit in die lykshuis eindig.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Speaker, we also have to talk about poor municipalities. The largest part of our work in the Department is focused here. That is where we try to get our municipalities finding themselves in intensive care from the operating table to the ward where they can recover, and then hopefully recover to be discharged. But the patient also has to play his part. He must drink the medicine prescribed for him, Deputy Speaker, otherwise that sick municipality may end up in the morgue.]

Speaker, we work very hard to support municipalities, so they do not fail, but at the same time, we have to respect the fact that South Africa is a democracy, and local government is an independent sphere of government.

I am often approached by concerning residents who say I must place a struggling local government under administration. Administration is not a silver bullet that makes all problems disappear. It is a long process, and it needs to adhere to strict legal prescripts. It is not a guarantee that the process of administration will yield the desired results.

In a democracy, you have the opportunity to address issues at the ballot box. This system of regular free and fair elections is still working in South Africa, and people need to know the importance and impact this has on their experience of the elected local government.

Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government will fight to keep municipalities out of the morgue, but then all involved must be mature enough to acknowledge mistakes and to prepare to do the correct things, even when it is difficult.

We are currently walking this path with Beaufort West Municipality, and officials from the Department and the municipal leadership is working in good faith, but Deputy Speaker, there are also good stories. There are also good stories in the municipal domain, and if you look, hon Deputy Speaker, in research that was done by News 24 – it is not my research, News 24 has done this research – they state that out of the best run municipalities in South Africa there is still hope because 14 of those out of 20 are within the Western Cape. So I want to congratulate all our municipalities.

If you then look at other research of the worst-run municipalities and the best-run municipalities, and to take this list, hon Deputy Speaker, the best-run municipalities, Cape Agulhas, Overstrand, Hessequa, Swartland, Saldanha Bay, Mossel Bay, Cape Town, Witzenberg, Prince Albert, George, Breede Valley, Stellenbosch, Knysna, Bitou, Berg River, Swellendam, Langeberg, Drakenstein, there is a common factor – all run by the DA. There is also a common factor to the worst-run municipalities: Oudtshoorn, Matzikama, Beaufort West, Kannaland, Laingsburg and Cederberg. I will leave it there, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude to thank my Department for the hard work. Every single day they serve the people of this province to the best of their ability with limited resources. We try our utmost best and if you look at the results of independent studies, I believe that we are on the right track. I thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Thank you also to MEC Bredell for his input.

Deputy Speaker, at the outset, I want to raise an issue, which affects the very role and mandate of this Legislature and this Portfolio Committee in particular, especially in regard to how it affects our role in the budget. Deputy Speaker, if we are unable to play our oversight role, without fear or favour, then we face a real threat to our constitutional democracy. We have a situation where the City of Cape Town has indicated that they are unwilling to answer questions that we as members of this Legislature, direct to the MEC for Local Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, if you can just take your seat. There is a point of order. Hon Bosman, what is your point of order?

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Through you, Deputy Speaker, I would like the hon Dugmore to tell the House why he is speaking on Local Government and not the shadow MEC, Danville Smith, who is online.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, I recognise you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, thank you very much. I think just to respond on behalf of the ANC, the hon Smith is still on the step-aside as per the ANC resolutions, thank you. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is fine. I will accept what the Chief Whip of the Opposition Party is going to say. You may continue, hon Dugmore. [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker, Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, one minute.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, that is very much unlike the DA councillor Nora Grose, who is facing actual charges for money laundering, but remains a Councillor.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, my apologies. Hon Marran, what is your point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker, just in addition to what the hon Khalid raised, the hon Dugmore is the main member for Local Government. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I heard your Chief Whip. Thank you very much. Hon Dugmore, you may begin.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, so Deputy Speaker, the issue that I am raising is that the City of Cape Town has indicated that they are unwilling to answer questions that we as members of this Legislature propose for written reply to the MEC who then conveys those questions to the City.

Now for example, the City of Cape Town receives many grants from this Provincial Government and various departments in the province and some of these are conditional. So if we as members wish to direct questions to the MEC regarding information about how such funds have been spent, the City argues that they have no obligation to answer these questions and that is the situation that we are dealing with right now. So, Deputy Speaker, I want to put it on record that we as the ANC are very unhappy about the manner in which MEC Bredell is handling this matter. The MEC should in fact be supporting the oversight role of this Legislature and our right to ask questions. There is no province run by the ANC where those MECs are refusing to take questions and refer them to Local Government, not a single one, so what is it about that the DA in the City of Cape Town has to hide... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...that they have simply decided that they are not going to answer questions coming from this Legislature. So, it appears that the Provincial Government, this MEC and Premier Winde are not prepared to take on the City of Cape Town, actually as if they are scared of the City of Cape Town. If the City is allowed to refuse to be held accountable by us as members of this Legislature especially in a Budget Vote like this, this Committee would then be in an untenable situation.

I give notice that I will as Leader of the Opposition bring this matter to the attention of the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs to request her to investigate declaring in intergovernmental dispute in this regard and further... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... that I will write to both South African Local Government Association nationally and in the Western Cape... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to investigate this matter. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I have, for example, Deputy Speaker, reported wide-scale corruption within the City of Cape Town Housing Maintenance Department where officials have received bribes in the form of vehicles and cash from favoured service providers and I have requested, Deputy Speaker, that the SIU approaches our President to issue a proclamation to investigate the City. It is clear that the City of Cape Town has a lot they want to hide, but, Deputy Speaker, it must be pointed out that the above stance was communicated at the time when hon Plato, who is now in this House, having lost out the factional battle to those forces that were supporting Geordin Hill-Lewis. It was under Mayor Plato that they indicated they refuse to answer these questions. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So the issue would be and please... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I will ask through you that the MEC Bredell can respond... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore...

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Does Geordin Hill-Lewis, the new Mayor of Cape Town, does he have the same position that he will not answer questions coming from us?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, take your seat please, your Chief Whip is... Hon Sayed, well, he is the Chief Whip of the Opposition. He is the Whip of the Opposition, yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I know I am being handed positions, Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No-no-no, no intention, hon... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker, just on a point of order, I do not know if it is – but it is just that we cannot necessarily hear the hon Dugmore because of the heckling that is happening on the side of the ruling party, Deputy Speaker. Could they maybe just tone down?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks very much, hon Sayed. Yes, a little bit on the loud side. Heckling is allowed, but not continuous. If we can allow hon Dugmore to continue with his speech.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, so I would like the MEC to indicate to us whether Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis has the same attitude as his predecessor in actually refusing to answer questions from this House and I really would appeal. I really would appeal, Deputy Speaker, hon Botha indicated and I am not sure what she was referring to that there is a pact between us. I am not aware of any pact. But if there is any pact I would like her to support us on this that hon Botha should be vocal in insisting that the City of Cape Town must respond to these... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...must respond to these questions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Please, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can I continue? Thank you. The Department in the budget book acknowledges its mandate as drawn from Chapter 7 of the Constitution, that what MEC Bredell's Department is supposed to do, is firstly to establish municipalities.

I also want to indicate that MEC Bredell did not properly introduce... Oh, no, that was from the previous Department, his new HOD – we still have HOD Paulsen, greetings to you – that your mandate is to establish municipalities consistent with national legislation. Secondly, to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities without fear or favour, take off your DA hat, to regulate the performance of municipalities in terms of their functions, and finally, to intervene where there is a non-fulfilment of legislative executive or financial obligations to promote. Now I would argue, Deputy Speaker, that the failure of the City of Cape Town to in any way see themselves accountable to this Legislature is unconstitutional, and I wish that this MEC would have the guts to stand up... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and protect the rights of this House to hold Local Governments accountable in the context of cooperative governance. But then secondly, I want to get on to a subject that the MEC is very familiar with. It is called DA cadre deployment to Local Government.

Deputy Speaker, it was this hon MEC who was found to have contravened the executive ethics code for members of the Executive, to remind hon members in case they have forgotten, it was MEC Bredell, who was also the DA Provincial Chair at the time who wrote a letter to the DA caucus in George trying to influence them not to support an equity candidate, who in fact was recommended by his own Department. This was done on a DA letterhead. This was a public service post. How does this conduct align with mandate number four, which I read out earlier?

The DA has made much, Deputy Speaker, of ANC cadre deployment yet, when I wrote to the then Acting Provincial Chair of the DA in the Province, Albert Fritz, for copies of all minutes and correspondence about the DA cadre deployment from 2009 to date, I did not even get a response. Maybe that is understandable, given the issues surrounding former MEC Fritz at the time, but then I was informed that MEC Simmers is now the Acting Provincial Leader of the DA. Once again, no response to our request to provide minutes and all correspondence related to DA cadre deployment, and then I had shared in the National Assembly, a second letter, which actually proves once again beyond reasonable doubt how the DA National Leadership – not MEC Bredell in this instance, but the National Leadership actually got involved not only in cadre deployment, but actually re-advertising a post to especially cater for a DA loyalist, irrespective of his qualifications. The letter is written by the former FedEx Chair, James Selfe, and is dated 17 March 2017 and writing to the then George Mayor, Selfe says: “Councillor Van Wyk had a legitimate expectation that he would be appointed to the administration.”

The contents reveal a manipulative process to re-advertise a public service position to specifically cater for a DA Councillor, Leon van Wyk, irrespective of who had applied... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, take your seat please. We have the hon Chief Whip of the House. Hon Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise on Rule 44, relevance.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, if this is a point of relevance, are you going to make a ruling or would you like me to address this?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to make a ruling. I am just – Rule 44 is really... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Are you ignoring it?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not ignoring it. It is normally 44 is just a caution which I have used before, so a caution. Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay, thank you. Yes, well the Chief Whip herself, you know, can hardly stand up as someone who was relevant in her speech. You would remember what she said about Health.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): You have had the chance to raise a point of order and you did not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, but what I am trying to say, Deputy Speaker, that this is the tip of the iceberg. We are talking about a Local Government Department, its budget, it is supposed to have oversight over municipalities.

†Maar hoe sê hulle, die jakkals hier is eintlik saam met die hoenders! Die jakkals speel saam met die hoenders. Dis wat gebeur. Die eintlike persoon wat veronderstel is om die hoenders veilig te hou is besig om daai hoenders op te vreet! Dis eintlik wat gebeur hierso.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[But how do they say, the fox is amongst the chickens. The fox is playing with the chickens. That's what is happening. The actual person who is supposed to keep the chickens safe is eating those chickens! That's what is actually happening here.]

And this is what we must correct. I think as the MEC matures, Deputy Speaker, we hope that he will begin to understand this mandate better, like he is trying to do with the Treasury in Beaufort West... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...where there is a real process to try and turn that municipality around. I think the MEC must realise he is too old for this party politics. He might just do – †wat hy weet hy moet doen. Hy moet die Grondwet volg en hy moet die regte ding doen [that he knows that he must do. He must follow the Constitution and he must do the right thing.] If he will do that, then this Province has a better chance, so, Deputy Speaker, the DA has not responded... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to our request to make available all these minutes and we initially set a deadline of 1 February to get this information and that is why, as I indicated in the debate on Vote 1, that we will now, Deputy Speaker, be launching in the month of April a PAIA application to get all of this information. I want to appeal to the MEC. He is going to respond later.

†Kan hy net vir ons sê hoeveel mense was hy opdrag gegee om *jobs* te gee? Hy moet net vir ons nou vandag sê. Vertel maar die waarheid. Hoeveel DA lede was jy gevra om te akkommodeer?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Can he just tell us how many people he was instructed to give jobs? He must just tell us today. Just tell the truth. How many DA members were you asked to accommodate?]

Just tell us now; then we do not have to go to the PAIA application. Come true, come to this House and tell us what you actually did. Because we would like you, for instance, to explain the deployment to Theewaterskloof of a DA former Councillor without qualifications or experience compared to the others who had applied, who was then appointed to this particular municipality.

The third issue that I want to talk about is Credit Control Policy. We agree that part of sustaining our municipalities is to do what our Government had talked about in the past, which was the Masakhane Campaign, pay for the services that you use, but given the economic climate at the moment, what has crept in, is an unacceptable policy where a poor person possibly in a certain month uses more than the free allocation of water, and because they have other people staying at their house, possibly in a backyard, they use more than the water now. That indigent person wants to go and buy electricity, so they have R50 to buy electricity for the weekend. They go and buy that electricity from mainly DA-run municipalities and instead of getting the full R50 worth of electricity, that R50 suddenly becomes a R10 of electricity, with the other money having to go to settle an account.

Now this is biting the poor and I and you have referred, and this Committee has been promised a legal opinion, I believe, before I was asked to, to be the main member on this Committee, and the Committee discussed that. The MEC would recall, and hopefully the Department is going to give us that legal opinion. But how do we without undermining the culture of paying for what you use to actually penalise the poor in this way and we as the ANC are saying, we have to find a better way because we cannot penalise someone who literally has a R50 for the weekend for electricity, but they are being penalised, so the credit control policy is critical. Number 4, I would like to ask this MEC if he agrees with the fact that it is wrong that the DA both in the Swartland Municipality, as well as the Berg River Municipality have appointed one of their own members as the Chairperson of MPAC. If we are actually serious about a new start on financial accountability, if we are actually serious about this, an Opposition member, whether they are ANC or whether DA, it does not govern... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is the DA or it is Freedom Front or it is the PA, whoever, let us agree with the principle that MPAC must be chaired by an Opposition member. That is what we need to do, and I would like to ask the MEC not to come here and talk, because the reality is, in the National Assembly an Opposition member chairs the Public Accounts Committee. In this Province the ANC chairs the Public Accounts Committee. Why is it then that in places like Berg River and Swartland the DA chairs the ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is wrong. Can I continue?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. I hope I am getting... So MPAC positions is the other one. The fifth point I want to raise relates to the role of Local Government in land audits. The MEC, Deputy Speaker, would be aware that we raised this matter and unfortunately, we have a situation in our country where the original sin of land dispossession, remains with us and we are trying land restitution, security of tenure and the redistribution of land to deal with this and all of our municipalities are sitting with municipal land, they are sitting with trust land, Provincial Government land, SOE land, National land as well, so we need audits, which are clear and transparent and we do not need an excuse, which says that if you publish an audit that is accessible, it is going to open the way to land invasion. It is the DA's coalition partner, the EFF, who wants to cause chaos by simply invading any piece of land, and what the DA is doing by not... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja, your coalition partner, yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Your coalition partner, and what the DA is doing by not releasing land they are creating chaos as well. We need, as the President says, a social compact to get these audits and your Department, through you, Deputy Speaker, of Local Government has a role to play in guiding municipalities with appropriate information technology to develop these land audits so we can incorporate those in the IDPs before the budgets are adopted, and actually release land starting in this year. The tension that is caused is because there is no transparency. There are all sorts of deals like in Swartland, where the ACVV suddenly got hold of a piece of land. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...and where the Mayor's wife was on the ACVV, all of this kind of thing, so let us be open. Let us release the land, and also, well located private land, we take Paradise Park in Hermanus. They are historically so-called white poor people living and here you have a developer who wants to simply come in and remove their properties and what we are saying that is a perfect case for expropriation so that that land in the middle and close to Hermanus can be used for integrated human settlements, for all those who need it, whether they are White, African or Coloured. That is why we need this legislation and the longer we undermine the land, the dispossession of land in this country... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You are almost at your end.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...the more we are actually going to find that we do not achieve equality, and these are the important things that Local Government can actually get involved in.

Then we talk about the traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act. I want to remind this House, Deputy Speaker, that the Democratic Alliance voted against this legislation in Parliament.

Let me remind you, the DA stood against the Khoi and the San people in the National Assembly, they voted against this legislation. Now it has been signed into law by our President, and we have to implement it. [Interjection.] and we must do that. Thank you. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There was a bit of a mishmash there about different departments, but I will accept that. Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. [Interjections.] We now move to hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. To hon Dugmore, I just want to say that the ANC is actually doing the very same thing that the EFF is doing, invading land, so I do not know why he is coming here and making accusations to the EFF.

Deputy Speaker, the Department of Local Government with its oversight role, has a duty to make sure that the province has well governed municipalities. However, in the Western Cape, whilst other municipalities are prioritised by the DA-led Provincial Government, others are neglected.

Towards the end of 2021 Beaufort West, Cederberg, Kannaland and Matzikama Municipalities were all indebted to Eskom to the tune of close to R80 million. Instead of the Local Government Minister intervening in these municipalities with the aim to assist them to comply with the good financial governance his response was to the effect that all those municipalities are not under the DA governance and therefore they should be neglected. But it is strange that the Minister could say that as if they are not a constituency of DA in those specific municipalities. So under the leadership of MEC Anton Bredell, society must know that municipalities are not going to be treated the same by his DA-led Provincial Government. The problem with this level of short-sightedness... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, one minute, if you can just take your seat. Hon Bosman, is that a new hand?

Mr G BOSMAN: Yes, it is, hon Deputy Speaker. I am not sure if my sound failed me but I just want a point of clarity. Did the hon Makamba-Botya say that the EFF and the ANC are both invading land?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would have to check the Hansard, hon Bosman. Unfortunately, I would not be able to clarify that as yet until I have checked the Hansard. Thank you very much. That is not a point of order. Hon Makamba-Botya, you may continue.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Society trusts the Department with taxpayers' money in order to make sure that all municipalities are well governed irrespective of which party governs which municipality. Providing resources and assistance to municipalities along skewed lines based on party political patronage equals to abdication of duty, and what should then follow is the Minister resigning as they are no longer capable of executing their duties in a fair, trustworthy and professional manner. Communities must not suffer due to the incapability and negligence of a Minister who cannot run his Department.

The Minister of Local Government cannot be trusted with the proper utilisation of taxpayers' money, and therefore the EFF, Deputy Speaker, will not be in support of this Vote. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise hon Botha.

†n AGBARE LID: Gooi kole!

[An HON MEMBER: Throw coals!]

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I shall do my own point of order. [Laughter.] Deputy Speaker, the hon Leader of the Opposition has a short memory. Cederberg still owes a presentation to this House Standing Committee. Where was he? Cederberg still owes a report to a Standing Committee of this Parliament. Where was he? And then in regard to the MPAC Chair, Cederberg, when the ANC was in Government, that MPAC chair was an ANC member. Where was he? So, and then I do not even talk about Cederberg that has been managed by the Secretary General in the West Coast. Where was the hon Leader of the Opposition?

Deputy Speaker, the President recently said during that very, very significant week that we endured in this country, and I quote:

“The fact that they, fire-fighters and emergency services, were here in a short space of time, is something that we should be grateful for, that we do have one City that works and we do have a Province that works and we do have a Government that works when the chips are down.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, that is the President of our country who said that, who is also the President of the ANC. Viva President! You saw what the DA can do in this country. [Interjection.]

I rise to speak on Vote 14, Local Government, the allocated funds towards the Department of Local Government's budget are valued at R309 301 000. I see it better than the previous President, hon Leader of the Opposition, which is a slight decrease from the previous financial year. The reason for this decrease is due to the decreased funds the Province has received from the National Government. But despite this reduction, I have full confidence in this Western Cape Provincial Government, Local Government Department that it will continue to deliver on its mandates and serve the people of our province in a significant way.

The budget for the upcoming financial year will focus on monitoring performances in our local municipalities. A key driver of strengthening service delivery is strong checks and balances to ensure that municipalities are held accountable, this should include Cederberg and Beaufort West.

It is crucial that the Department continues to monitor, cooperate and provide support to municipalities as they transition following the Local Government Elections and in many cases in tense coalition processes. The R15 million allocation towards assisting our municipalities for successful transition is welcome, Deputy Speaker.

This will help us build strong and well-run municipalities as we have done in the past. Deputy Speaker, this previous election season has introduced to the province, a number of new Councillors who are young and with magnificent potential. The Department will also be providing them with the necessary guidance and support to ensure they succeed in their new roles and responsibilities.

R20,6 million has been allocated to reinforce municipal support interventions. The Department will be present to provide hands-on support to local governments in this province. These interventions are necessary for pushing forward local governments that can produce reliable and efficient services to our people.

To assist new councillors' transition into the Local Government sphere, the Department will provide capacity building for them to be able to address critical areas of governance and to strengthen oversight. The Department will also engage councillors on provincial legislation to enhance the ideals of good governance in the Western Cape. The Department's commitment to strengthening oversight and public participation must be commended. To this end R17,5 million has been allocated to further enhance public participation. Municipalities over the medium term will have more funds to initiate programmes that enhance activity citizenry. Strong governments are built where citizens are at the core and are actively engaged. I am proud to see the Department planning and funding more of these programmes.

Deputy Speaker, it is no secret that municipalities have played a critical role in supporting the Province's Recovery Plan from the effects of the global pandemic. The Municipal Infrastructure Grant has specifically driven the lead role in this regard, by creating many job opportunities. The Department will once again continue with these projects in the new financial year. The Community Work Programmes, in particular, have assisted in driving economic recovery and development. Approximately 17,700 jobs have been created through the CWPs and this has brought significant relief to many families, as well as young people who have benefited from this initiative. Many have gained work experience through CWPs and have turned out more employable in the outside world where they will seek permanent employment.

South Africa has been straddled with a record high unemployment rate, especially among our young people. While the job opportunities created by the CWP are not permanent, we recognise the role this initiative plays towards bringing relief to those who are in need and upskilling the unemployed within our Western Cape province. Strengthening governance in municipalities is important for building towns and cities that attract investment. This upcoming financial year, we trust that the work of the Western Cape Provincial Government and the Department will create cities and municipalities that will attract businesses and investment.

Deputy Speaker, I want to encourage our local municipalities to support local business to the best of their ability and with available resources; also for municipalities to strengthen the platform of local economic development. They are many ways in which local governments can create an environment for businesses to thrive, for example... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order member, I know your colleague is being distracted.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. For example, the City of Cape Town has recently announced that it opened the first round for independent power producers in order to procure 300 megawatts of renewable energy. This is not only a move towards energy independence, but also highlights how a capable government can build environments to attract investors.

Deputy Speaker, I am encouraged by the Western Cape Government's plans to attract more investors through upgrading existing infrastructure and embarking on further infrastructure development projects, which will ultimately contribute to addressing the scourge of unemployment and create an environment for businesses to operate efficiently.

Deputy Speaker, we must acknowledge the role Thusong Centres continue to play in bringing Government services to our communities. These centres ensure that Government works for all its citizens by ensuring that people have access to services that may have been difficult for them to access under normal circumstances. The centres also host various outreach and training workshops, as well as clinic services in some instances. These have proven to be effective as the number of people attending the centres continue to increase. I therefore welcome the initiative shown by the Provincial Government to utilise the centres to assist in combating the scourge of GBV in our province. The Department has indicated that it will further strengthen its working relationship with the Department of Social Development to implement GBV programmes at all our Thusong Centres. With cases of GBV in the country on the rise, initiatives like these are important for building awareness and ultimately saving lives. The budget allocation increasing under Programme 2 by 57% from the 2121/2022 financial year is welcomed. This increase is due to the additional funds that have been allocated for project management support to be given to the Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Finance Facility Programmes (SIDAFF).

The Department has allocated R3 million towards our SIDAFF Programmes. This will play an important role in shoring up infrastructure development in the province's secondary cities as well as boosting economic development.

The Department last month approved the path towards recovery for the Beaufort West Municipality. I am pleased to see the cooperation from both the municipality and the Department to get Beaufort West finances back on track. This cooperation will hopefully pave the way towards bringing financial stability and sustainable service delivery to Beaufort West. Speaker, I would like to pause and also ask the Minister to give, if he can, a status update on the Cederberg Matzikama finances within that Municipality.

Deputy Speaker, the 20% increase for Disaster Management is welcomed as well as the R5,3 million towards upgrading the Disaster Management Centre.

I would also like to thank our fire-fighting teams in the province for their hard work and dedication during the recent fire season on the West Coast.

Without their never-ending commitment on the ground we would have seen more harm, the additional R2 million for the Fire Strategy this year to increase and strengthen capacity for fire services is therefore very welcome.

As noted by the President following the fire at the National Parliament, Western Cape Fire officials conduct their work speedily professionally and with great commitment and as the Minister alluded in his speech, also the accolade for receiving an award. Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape has consistently ranked at the top when it comes to the performance of local governments. Ratings Africa last year revealed that top performing local municipalities in South Africa are from the Western Cape and maybe Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition did not hear me. Ratings Africa last year revealed that the top performing local municipalities in South Africa are from the Western Cape Province.

Local government is at the coalface of service delivery and while we have seen numerous changes in this arena as a result of the newly formed coalition governments, I have full confidence that the Department will closely monitor and strengthen these governments. The Department or this Department plays an important role in ensuring that Local Government remain consistent in providing quality service delivery to residents, continue to foster an environment for economic growth and job creation and strengthens good practices.

Deputy Speaker, I thank the HOD of this Department, I am new to this role as the Standing Committee Chair, but I trust that we will foster as the Standing Committee a relationship with this Department.

Deputy Speaker, it is due to commitments by this Department that municipalities in this province continue to outperform municipalities across the country. I believe that this budget will further strengthen Local Government in the upcoming financial year. I also want to pay homage to all Mayors, some of them who are in the gallery, to all Mayors responsible and councillors who are the first in line for coalface service delivery on the ground, and they are often, very often last to get the accolade they deserve, but when things go wrong then it is their fault. Deputy Speaker, therefore the DA supports this Budget Vote 14. I thank you. [Applause.]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Baie dankie, agbare *Deputy Speaker*. Hierdie een is nogal moeilik om te antwoord. Deputy Speaker, laat ek begin deur vir die agbare Botha te bedank. Sy is wel nuut in die portefeulje maar sy is 'n ou hand, so ja, ek sien uit om saam te werk. Ek weet ook sy is 'n ou juffrou, so sy gaan streng wees met ons, so ons is reg. Ons is altyd reg vir oorsig en goeie interaksie, soos ek altyd sê. Ek weet ons harte is op die regte plek. Ons dien ons mense van ons gemeenskap, so ek sien rêrig uit daarna om saam te werk en ek wil ook haar voorganger, die agbare Derrick America bedank vir sy samewerking in die portefeulje.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. This one is actually difficult to answer. Deputy Speaker, let me begin by thanking the hon Botha. She is indeed new in the portfolio but she is an old hand so yes, I'm looking forward to work together. I also know she is an old teacher so she is going to be strict with us, so we are ready. We are always ready for oversight and good interaction, as I always say. I know our hearts are in the right place. We serve our people of our community, so I really look forward to cooperate and I also want to thank her predecessor, Derrick America, for his cooperation in the portfolio.]

To the hon Makamba-Botya, on Eskom, I think there is a communication problem there. We do support all the municipalities. It is just a trend, if you look at the trend, and I can prove that we treat all the municipalities the same, because currently the Matzikama Municipality is run by the DA and their Eskom account moves in the wrong direction, but we are busy with them.

The Cederberg Municipality – but that is an interesting story, you know. When the DA took over Cederberg, they managed the Eskom account down, then the ANC took over for a short period. Then it jumped to R40 million. Now the current Mayor is again moving into the right direction, they are moving down with that, so they are adhering to their agreement. We support them et cetera, et cetera. On the ANC-run municipalities I can only pray for them.

†Hon Deputy Speaker, aan die agbare Dugmore, ek sou so skaam gewees het om vandag in die Huis te praat as ek in die ANC was want ek sou *decline* het, rêrigwaar. Ek sou *decline* het want die gemors waarin hierdie land se ekonomie is, lê op een party se skouers, en dis die ANC, en ek weet nie, ek hoor ek is oud vandag, dan is hy hardhorend, want daai boodskap kry hy tog net nie. Nege jaar lank het hulle die Zuma faksie ondersteun wat hierdie land in die afgrond in bestuur het, mense tot 'n skamele R300... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Dugmore, I would have been ashamed to speak in the House today if I had been in the ANC because I would have declined, really. I would have declined because the mess in which this country's economy is, lies on one party's shoulders, and that is the ANC, and I don't know, I hear I'm old today, then he is deaf, because that message he just doesn't get. For nine years they supported the Zuma faction that governed this country into the abyss, people to a mere R300... [Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agbare Speaker, mense is tot 'n skamele R300 genoop loop staan in 'n *queue* in 'n plek soos Oudtshoorn, 2000 mense. Hulle het al mekaar met 'n mes doodgesteek in die *queue*. Dis wat die ANC aan mense doen, agbare Speaker. Agbare Speaker, so ja, ek weet nie die obsessie wat die agbare Dugmore het met die Stad Kaapstad nie en ek het hom al geantwoord so hopelik kan hy - sukkel hy om die antwoord te hoor, so ons gee maar weer die antwoord. Die Stad het 'n regsopinie gekry.

Ons het nie saamgestem met die regsopinie nie. Ek was ook ongelukkig met die regsopinie. Ons het 'n senior advokaat se opinie gekry en die opinie is baie duidelik. Ek mors nie geld agter die ANC aan nie. Julle het nie stemme gekry nie. Die ANC het nie stemme gekry nie. Hoeveel stemme het julle in die stad gekry? 12?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, people have been obliged to go and stand in a queue for a mere R300 in a place like Oudtshoorn, 2000 people. They have already stabbed each other to death in the queue. That is what the ANC does to people, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, so yes, I don't know about the obsession that the hon Dugmore has with the City of Cape Town and I have already answered him, so hopefully he can – he struggles to hear the answer, so we give the answer again. The City got a legal opinion. We did not agree with the legal opinion. I was also not satisfied with the legal opinion. We got a senior advocate's opinion and the opinion is very clear. I do not waste money on the ANC. You did not get votes. The ANC did not get votes. How many votes did you get in the city? 12?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

†n AGB LID: Jy is bang vir die Stad Kaapstad.

[An HON MEMBER: You are afraid of the City of Cape Town.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! One minute, hon Minister. If you can just wait, please. Hon members online, please, if I note that you are shouting over the microphone you will be muted. Please can we have some order. Thank you. Thank you, hon Minister, you may proceed.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agbare mnr die Adjunkspeaker, daar is 'n regsopinie wat baie duidelik is, waar ek nie oorsig het nie hoef die Munisipaliteit nie die vraag te antwoord nie, en dit maak sin. Jy kan dit debatteer maar dit maak sin, want die ANC het tog seker 'n raadslid of twee in die Stad wat 'n vraag kan formuleer. Nou vra die vraag dan daar. Dis wat die regsopinie sê: vra jou vraag daar waar jy verteenwoordiging het. So as hulle nie verteenwoordiging daar het nie, dan sal ons 'n ander plan maak dan sal ons maar vra of daar 'n ander party is wat namens hulle die vrae kan vra. [Tussenwerpsels.]

So, agbare Deputy Speaker, ek verstaan nie lekker *wide-scale corruption*, die agbare Dugmore het darem toe gesê hy het dit vir die SIU gegee. Dis presies as jy, as enige een van hierdie lede weet van korrupsie moet hulle 'n saak gaan maak. Anders is ons deel daarvan, so laat ons kyk wat daar gaan gebeur.

Hy noem dan die burgemeester en die ANC Raadslede, ek weet nie lekker waarnatoe hy stuur nie, hy probeer nou 'n wig indryf tussen die vorige en die nuwe Burgemeester maar hulle kan enige tyd vir die Burgemeester in die Stad se Raad vrae vra, daar is 'n sessie vir vrae vra, so hulle kan dit net gebruik op... U sien die Agbare Dugmore fokus vreeslik op die DA. Ek weet nie hoekom nie.

Of hy 'n nuwe tuiste gaan soek na die Kongres nie, maar hy gaan nie welkom wees nie, so hy hoef nie - nee, ons worry glad nie, ons sê net nee. Nee is 'n baie mooi antwoord. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, there is legal opinion that is very clear, where I do not have oversight the Municipality does not have to answer the question, and that makes sense. You can debate it, but it makes sense, because the ANC surely has a councillor or two in the City who can formulate a question. Now ask the question then there. That is what the legal opinion says, ask your question there where you have representation. So if they do not have representation there, then we will have to make another plan, then we will have to ask if there is another party that can ask questions on their behalf. [Interjections.]

So, hon Deputy Speaker, I do not understand so well the wide-scale corruption, the hon Dugmore then did say he gave it to the SIU. That is precisely if you, if any one of these members knows of corruption they must go and make a case. Otherwise we are part thereof, so let us see what is going to happen there.

He mentions then the Mayor and the ANC councillors, I'm not sure where he is heading, he is now trying to drive a wedge between the previous and the new Mayor but they can at any time ask the Mayor in the City Council questions, there is a session for questions, so they can use it on...you see the hon Dugmore focuses seriously on the DA. I don't know why. If he is going to seek a new home after the Congress, but he won't be welcome, so he does not have to – no, we don't worry at all, we just say no. No is a very good answer. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order members.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: So dit is een van daardie dinge, maar ja, miskien moet hy maar fokus op sy party. Fokus maar daarop maar daai party is nie redbaar nie. Hy noem dan 'n klomp name en dis lekker, dis hartseer dat ons vryheid van spraak gebruik om op mense se lewens te probeer trap. Die huidige persoon wie se naam hy genoem het is nie aangestel nie, want die DA het gesê dit werk nie so nie. Ek verstaan ook, ek wil ook nie hê dat die agbare Dugmore of die ANC moet probeer verstaan nie, want hulle verstaan nie dissipline nie. Hulle verstaan nie die woord integriteit nie. So wanneer ek skryf vir 'n DA en al my DA, hier is 'n paar DA burgemeesters, en ek weet, ons sê dit altyd wanneer ons oplei ook, ons gaan baie strenger met 'n DA burgemeester wees want ons meet julle aan 'n hoër standaard want dit skuld ons die publiek, as die ANC burgemeester. Hoekom moet ek my bekommer daarvoor? So wanneer 'n DA-raad 'n komitee wat onderhoude doen se verslag bespreek, 'n DA-koukus, is daar 'n probleem. Ek het 'n probleem daarmee, en ja, skuldig bevind daarvoor, en ek hou by my standpunt, dit hoort nie in 'n politieke koukus, 'n aanstelling nie.

Agbare Dugmore sal dit nooit verstaan nie. Hy sal altyd probeer draai en probeer aangaan want hy is hardhorend so, agbare Speaker... [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: So it is one of those things, but yes, perhaps he should focus on his party. Focus on that but that party cannot be saved. He mentions then a lot of names and that's good, it is sad that we use freedom of speech to try and step on people's lives. The present person whose name he mentioned was not appointed, because the DA said that is not how it works. I also understand, I also do not want the hon Dugmore or the ANC should try to understand, because they don't understand discipline. They do not understand the word integrity. So when I write a DA, and all my DAs, there are a few DA Mayors here, and we know, we always say it when we train as well, we are going to be much stricter on a DA Mayor because we measure you at a higher standard because we owe it to the public, than an ANC Mayor. Why should I worry about it? So when a DA Council discusses the report of a committee conducting interviews, a DA caucus, there is a problem. I have a problem with that, and yes, found guilty for that, and I keep to my standpoin, it does not belong in a political caucus, an appointment.

Hon Dugmore will never understand that. He will always try and turn and go on because he is deaf so, hon Speaker... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: So agbare Speaker, so dit is waar dit is en ons gaan aan. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: So hon Speaker, so that is where it is and we are carrying on. [Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Sy vraag wat hy – sy direkte vraag wat die agbare Dugmore my gevra het, hoeveel mense het ek opdrag gekry om aan te stel, niks. Die antwoord is baie eenvoudig so hy kan skryf en hy kan PAIA tot hy blou is. Dan agbare Speaker, die ekonomiese klimaat, ek sal glad nie daarvoor praat as ek hy is nie. Dit is eintlik so hartseer dat na COVID, kyk wat het iets soos CapeNature reggekry. 60% groei en en en... Hierdie land se ekonomie kon ontplof het, maar daar is ongelukkig niks oor nie, want die ANC het hom gestuur tot daar net klip en sand oor is. Daar is rêrig nie een plantjie oor nie so die hele kwessie van MPAC het ek geantwoord en weereens hy het seker kollegas op Nasionaal wat weet hoe om Wetgewing te skryf. Maak dit dan 'n verpligting. Ek het nie 'n probleem dat Opposisie - ek dink dit is reg as Opposisie dit moet wees, maar as jy sulke swak kwaliteit raadslede dan stuur na rade toe en hulle het die vrymoedigheid om te sê: "Luister hier, ons gaan nou iemand sit wat 'n balansstaat kan lees wat in die stoel sit."

Dan is dit nou maar ook so, en gelukkig die rade wat hy noem moet hy maar gaan kyk na... [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: his question that he – his direct question that hon Dugmore asked me, how many people did I got instruction for to appoint, nothing. The answer is very simple so he can write and he can PAIA until he is blue. Then hon Speaker, the economic climate, I will not talk about that at all if I were he. It is actually so sad after COVID, look what had something like CapeNature achieved. 60% growth and and and... this country's economy could have exploded, but unfortunately there is nothing left, because the ANC drove it until there were just stone and sand left. There is really no little plant left so the whole issue of MPAC I have replied to and again, he probably has colleagues at National who knows how to write legislation. Then make it obligatory. I do not have a problem that Opposition - I think it is right that Opposition has to be that, but if you then send such poor quality councillors to councils and they have the courage to say, "Listen here, we are now going to put someone in the chair who can read a balance sheet." Then it is like that, and we, the councils he mentions he must go and look at... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Al waarna hy moet gaan kyk is na hulle bestuursrekord. Nee, nie wat ek sê nie, gaan kyk wat onafhanklike studies sê. Die rade wat hy noem is van die besbestuurde rade in die land. Maar die ANC sal dit nooit verstaan nie.

Agbare Deputy Speaker, ek sal die geld daarop wed, wat ek nie het nie, dat hier kom 'n kongres by die ANC. Na daai kongres gaan die ANC weer nog 'n taakspan hê. Hulle gaan nie hulle verkiesings hê nie. Hulle gaan nog 'n taakspan in die lewe roep. So ek wil tog vra vir die mense wat persele verhuur in die Kaap, sorg net dat julle julle geld voor die tyd kry want as jy SARS nie kan betaal nie, as jy mense se pensioengeld en se UIF geld, ek wil – agbare, dis 'n skande. Dis 'n skande, en dan wil jy 'n land bestuur. Dis geen wonder ons mense verval in armoede nie. Dis geen wonder die werkloosheidsyfer is oor 50% nie.

Agbare Speaker, weereens met die span amptenare in die Wes-Kaap sal ek oorlog toe gaan. Die span amptenare in die Wes-Kaap speel nie politiek nie. Hulle doen hulle uiterste bes. Hulle sal foute maak want ons is almal mense. [Tussenwerpsel.] Al wanneer daar politiek is, is wanneer die ANC sal kom politiek maak daarvan. My amptenare ken my. Hulle weet ek speel nie politiek nie. Ek onderskei tussen staat en party, want aan die einde van die dag dien ek die mense van my gemeenskap. Ons dien nie die party nie. Dankie. [Applous.]

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: All he has to go and look at is their management record. No, not what I say, go and look at what independent studies say. The councils he mentions are some of the best governed councils in the country. But the ANC will never understand it.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I will put money on that, there is a congress coming at the ANC. After that congress the ANC is going to have another task team. They are not going to have their elections. They are going to establish another task team. So I just want to ask the people leasing sites in the Cape, see to it that you get your money in advance because if you cannot pay SARS, if you cannot pay people's pension money and their UIF money, I want to – hon, it is a disgrace. It is a disgrace, and then you want to govern a country. It is no wonder that our people are plunging into poverty. It is no wonder the unemployment figure is over 50%.

Hon Speaker, again with the team of officials in the Western Cape I will go to war. The team of officials in the Western Cape does not play politics. They do their very best. They will make mistakes because we are all just people. [Interjection.] The only time when there is politics is when the ANC will make and play politics. My officials know me. They know I don't play politics. I make a distinction between State and party, because at the end of the day I serve the people of my community. We don't serve the party. Thank you. [Applause.]

[Debate concluded.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 10 – Transport and Public Works)

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker; hon Premier; Cabinet colleagues; Chairperson and other members of the Standing Committee; honourable members; the Head of the Department and senior officials; members of the media; citizens of the Western Cape:

Given the fact that the Second Adjustment Budget for the Vote 10 is limited to one item, I am sure that the members will understand, Deputy Speaker, if I table and deal with this matter right up front before I move onto Vote 10 of the Budget because I think it is important that I just table and speak to that.

The Second Adjustment Budget consists of an amount of R43 396 000 from the Provincial Road Maintenance Grant reallocated to the Western Cape by National Treasury for the original allocation to various under-performing provinces.

This amount has been redirected to the following project: the reseal of the Ashton – Swellendam road in the Cape Winelands; the reseal of the N2 near Villiersdorp in the Overberg; the reseal of Holgaten in the Garden Route and therefore hon Deputy Speaker, I table it for consideration.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I now turn to the 2022/23 Budget for Vote 10. I do so against the backdrop of what my Cabinet Colleague, the Minister of Finance, in tabling the Provincial Budget on 14 March, referred on more than one occasion to as *A Budget to Push Forward*. He tabled a budget which reflected the courage shown by this Western Cape Government in tackling a string of challenges which we have all, as Government and as citizens of this Province, faced down in recent years from the Covid Pandemic, through poor economic growth and job losses, to the inability of the National Government to provide essential services for which it and its poorly run State-owned enterprises are responsible.

Deputy Speaker, Minister Maynier's budget to Push Forward is not a backward, looking, feeling sorry for ourselves budget. It is a budget which looks ahead with a positive vision of what the Western Cape can be and what it can do for its people.

And so, Deputy Speaker, this *Budget to Push Forward* as a Government, allocates over the MTEF, amongst others, the following:

R19,6 billion for jobs
R4,4 billion for safety
R111,3 billion for well-being, and
R30,3 billion for infrastructure

Hon Deputy Speaker, I highlight these specific aspects of the *Budget to Push Forward* because the Department of Transport and Public Works is directly and materially involved in each one of these critical areas of the Western Cape Government's vision. I am proud of the extensive range of vital activities covered by my Department.

As a result, as I have visited the various districts in the Western Cape, I have been able to see evidence of the contributions made by my Department to improving the lives of people in the Western Cape, whether in the form of a new or improved school, more accessible health facilities, upgrading of Youth Care Centres and shared services buildings, Deputy Speaker, which brings the Western Cape Government closer to people.

However, Deputy Speaker, it would be a mistake to think that Department of Transport and Public Work's contribution is only limited to the provision of physical infrastructure and amenities.

†Ek het byvoorbeeld *Deputy Speaker*, nou saam met ons Provinsiale Verkeersdienste gewerk en het talle padblokkades en ander verkeersveiligheid en wetstoepassingsbedrywighede bygewoon. Ek is die meeste beïndruk *Deputy Speaker*, deur die toewyding en professionaliteit van ons verkeersbeamptes onder allerlei omstandighede – laataand in gure weer, onder druk by ongelukstonele, waar hulle gedreig word met fisieke geweld ens., ensovoorts. En hierdie diens word in die belang van ons veiligheid gelewer op 'n 24/7 basis deur die enigste provinsie waarin verkeerswetstoepassing 24 uur per dag werksaam is. *Deputy Speaker*, hierdie vroue en mans verdien ons dank en lof.

Terselfdertyd, agb Adjunkspeaker, het ons vervoerbeamptes die weg gebaan met die ontwikkeling van geskikte tegnologie om die reikwydte van ons verkeersbeamptes uit te brei en om ons kapasiteit om padverkeer en openbare vervoerstelsels te monitor en te bestuur en te verbeter. Agb Adjunkspeaker, baie van ons het die geleentheid gehad om demonstrasies van die Vervoernode in werking by te woon en het self die potensiaal wat in-huis bestaan vir beter en doeltreffender openbare vervoerbedrywighede gesien.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[I have for instance, Deputy Speaker, worked closely with our Provincial Traffic Department and attended numerous road blocks and other traffic safety and law enforcement activities. I was impressed the most by the dedication and professionalism of our traffic officials under all circumstances – late night, Deputy Speaker, in atrocious weather, under pressure at accident scenes, where they are threatened with physical violence, etc., etc. And this service is delivered in the interest of our safety on a 24/7 basis by the only province, where traffic law enforcement is applied 24 hours per day. Deputy Speaker, these women and men deserve our thanks and praise.

At the same time, hon Deputy Speaker, our transport officials paved the way with the development of appropriate technology to expand the reach of our traffic officials and to monitor, manage and improve our capacity of road traffic and public transport systems. Hon Deputy Speaker, many of us had the opportunity to attend the demonstrations and the Transport Node in practice and saw the potential existing in-house for better and more effective public transport activities.]

Deputy Speaker, the Integrated Transport Intelligence Hub was established in 2018. The Department of Transport and Public Works aimed to develop a centralised data management system, known as the Transportation Data Hub, to bring together Departmental data streams in a standardised way to support effective land transport decision-making.

It was proposed that the Branch establish the capacity to perform “Platform Functions” across the Western Cape, which would provide the technological systems required to support public transport improvement, including Intelligent Transport, ticketing, passenger information and data platforms. There was also a focus on addressing data, regulatory and enforcement issues in partner municipalities. The Data Hub, Deputy Speaker, created an opportunity through technology interventions to support the core needs of the Branch in addressing the following challenges experienced at the time of drafting the original business case:

Insufficient capacity and funding for the delivery of improved local transport systems; a lack of comprehensive and good quality data on land transport in municipalities, including poor quality public transport data; the ineffective public transport service; driver and public operator behaviour; unsafe and overloaded vehicles and pedestrian fatalities, Deputy Speaker.

The development of the Data Hub aimed to draw together data resources and create a facility through which land transport planning, licensing, monitoring, operations, regulations and enforcement can be transformed. Branch users can be empowered through timeous access to integrated, high quality, reliable real-time and historic data. Deputy Speaker, this is a core facility in the extension of our traffic management capacity and the development of integrated, technology-rich public transport.

But Deputy Speaker, let me now turn to the budget itself. What are the nuts and the bolts of the overall Vote 10 budget for 2022/2023 and beyond which we are here to address this afternoon? The budget for the Department for 2022/2023 amounts to R9,106 billion. This constitutes a downward adjustment of R63,112 million from the Adjustments Estimates for 2021/22. In the two later years of the MTEF, Deputy Speaker, this amounts an increase to R9,3 billion for 2023/2024 and to R9,6 billion for 2024/2025.

Deputy Speaker, the increases referred to are largely the result of an additional road infrastructure allocation to stabilise and better align the budget and projects over the medium term. In my relatively short time in office, I have come to understand how important our road network is to the economy of the Western Cape and to the well-being of our citizens. The availability of additional funds over the MTEF will enable the Department and the Roads Branch, in particular, to address even more of the challenges facing particularly rural communities and communities dependent on the extensive gravel road network – a network which is vulnerable Deputy Speaker, to increasingly severe weather conditions and these details of the entire road network are set out in the Road Asset Management.

Deputy Speaker, I am delighted to report to this House that since assuming office I have had the pleasure of visiting and opening a number of important road projects across this Province. Amongst these are the Aberdeen Road or the R61, linking the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape; the Haaskraal Road in the Cape Winelands; the Ashton Arch Bridge, Deputy Speaker, a first in South Africa; Oosbosch Street in Paarl, in partnership with the Drakenstein Municipality.

In addition to this, Deputy Speaker, there are currently over 50 large roads projects in construction under the control and management of my Department.

The following key projects will commence implementation during this coming financial year: The upgrade of MR281 which is Rooihoogte and Draaiberg; periodic maintenance between Klaarstroom to Beaufort West; the upgrade of the Louis Fourie road in Mossel Bay; the rehabilitation and periodic maintenance of the road between Paarl to Franschhoek; the upgrade and rehabilitation of the road of Protea and Waarburgh road, and the improvement of MR533 between St Helena to Stompneusbaai.

Deputy Speaker, all these projects are of economic importance and contribute significantly to the integration of communities and to the general mobility needed for a healthy society.

In addition, there are numerous projects in the planning and the design phase. But Deputy Speaker, to complete the budget overview it is necessary to highlight that Department of Transport and Public Works functions on the basis of six programmes, each with specific responsibilities.

The budget allocations for each of these is as follows:

For Administration – R252 697 million
Public Works Infrastructure – R2 194 billion
Transport Infrastructure – R3 953 billion
Transport Operations – R1 700 billion
Transport Regulation – R937 952 million, and
Community Based Programmes - R67 904 million

Deputy Speaker, members may also notice that in this budget specific programmes and budget allocations have been set aside as priority allocations. Programmes 2, 3, 4 and 5 have been identified as being likely to be impacted by the announcements made by the Premier in regard to changes in the departmental structure of the Western Cape Government. Provincial Treasury has instituted specific limitations concerning virements to and from programmes 2 and 3 and such virements will require prior approval from Provincial Treasury. Deputy Speaker, even virements between these two programmes requires the accounting officer to notify the Treasury.

Deputy Speaker, at present, the Department of Public Transport and Public Works is the infrastructure implementing agent for both education and for health and the Department is therefore scheduled in this financial year under discussion to spend an additional amount of R1 364 billion on behalf of the Western Cape Education Department and an additional amount of R560 267 million on behalf of the Department of Health. The strategic decisions Deputy Speaker, about these health and education projects are planned and taken by these two various departments and implemented by Department of Transport and Public Works.

I specifically mention this existing arrangement as in tabling the Provincial Budget on the 14 March, Minister Maynier made the following announcement, and I quote:

“We are preparing to withdraw Provincial Treasury Instruction 16B, which will bring much needed competition to the infrastructure space, by ensuring that the Department of Transport and Public Works will be the preferred but not the exclusive implementer of infrastructure projects for the Education Department and Health Department in the Western Cape”.
Close quote.

This announcement, Deputy Speaker, has received some media coverage and was last Friday, the subject of a media release by my colleague, the Minister of Finance, which stressed that the purpose of the intention of withdrawal of Provincial Treasury Regulation 16B was to introduce an element of choice and greater competition in the use of implementing agents.

As the Minister, Deputy Speaker, currently responsible for supplying the implementing agency function to Health and Education, I have provided the relevant Ministers with an indication of what services are currently being provided by the Department in delivering the implementing agency function to their departments. This will enable them to make an informed decision about service choices in the future.

As an illustration, Deputy Speaker, the Department that delivered the following on behalf of the Western Cape Education Department during the 2021/2022 financial year:

601 Capital projects, which includes new facilities, expansions, upgrades and additions as well as mobile classrooms;

226 Maintenance projects, which includes preventative maintenance, corrective maintenance, scheduled maintenance as well as ablutions and fencing.

Deputy Speaker, allow me now to move on or turn over to Commuter transport initiatives. Vote 10 as tabled in this House, provides an amount of R70 million for the undertaking of a collaborative and orderly winding down and evaluation of the Blue Dot Taxi Pilot.

Over the last year, Deputy Speaker, we have worked tirelessly with the minibus taxi industry on the Blue Dot Taxi Pilot project, to drive behaviour change, service quality improvements and formalisation. This is why the violence perpetrated by certain elements within the industry on March 24th must not be completely misread.

The vast majority of Blue Dot Taxis, played no part whatsoever in the events of March 24th and only two of the eight regions currently participating in Blue Dot, namely CATA and CODETA, were involved in the alleged violence and unrest which occurred on that day. Blue Dot Taxis also found themselves victims of the day's events, with at least 18 vehicles damaged or destroyed.

Deputy Speaker, it is my firm belief, that it is unacceptable actions of these bad elements, which should not be used to undermine the hard work and the many successes which have been achieved through Blue Dot over the last year.

As the Premier has noted, Blue Dot is a new tool for responding to incidents of violence. After the unacceptable events of 24 March, my Department immediately placed the regions involved in red status, meaning they were unable to benefit from Blue Dot. This action ensured that there were real consequences for unlawful behaviour, hitting those involved where it counts, in their pockets. In addition to this, Deputy Speaker, I have implanted a range of regulatory sanctions which I have at my disposal.

Deputy Speaker, I think at this time it is pertinent to remind ourselves that the Blue Dot Pilot is not the only successful motorised public transport initiative launched by Department of Transport and Public Works in recent years.

I want to move on to the George Integrated Public Transport Network. The George Integrated Public Transport Network and the GO GEORGE bus service was spearheaded by the Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works, in partnership with the Municipality of George through the transformation of the George Mini-Bus Taxi Industry, Deputy Speaker.

The George Integrated Public Transport Network was the first non-metro nationally to be awarded PTNG funding by the National Department of Transport, and to date is one of a handful of non-metros in which a system is operational.

The first phase of the GIPTN went live in December 2014 with phase 1, where after phase 2 in March 2015, phase 3 in May 2015 and phase 4B in March 2020 were rolled out, with the department targeting the planned roll-out of the next phase to Thembalethu which is phase 4A in the 3rd financial quarter of this year.

Deputy Speaker, the current operation services approximately, 14000 average weekday passengers monitored from September 2021 to February 2022. Following the impact of COVID-19, in February 2022, the service had 16 096 weekday passengers recorded, their highest yet with a 56% of households within 500 metres Deputy Speaker, of a GO GEORGE service. With the roll-out of phase 4A, this service will cater for approximately 26 000 average weekday passengers, with 78% of households estimated to be within s500 metre of a GO GEORGE service.

Deputy Speaker, recently, the George Municipality obtained an interdict against attempts by certain elements of the Minibus Taxi industry to disrupt this service. My Department will support the legal actions initiated by the Municipality, to protect this valuable public transport asset which serves the people of George. Deputy Speaker, I think it is important to highlight that.

Municipalities: the planning authorities, are responsible, for determining the supply and the demand and I believe that this must be done in a more proactive manner by all municipalities. Deputy Speaker, this is something that must be addressed as a result of the current B97 route conflict. In addition, I will initiate a re-assessment of the overall regulatory regime for public transport, where it is within my competence to do so, in order to ensure that it is in line with changing circumstances.

Deputy Speaker, in the same manner, I recently approved changes to criteria for the certification of Vehicle Testing Stations, to accommodate shifting economic and population realities. This can open further business opportunities. Not all commuter transport arrangements have to be large scale in order to make a difference to the lives of the people that we serve.

I want to turn to the Provincial Sustainable Transport Programme, which was initiated by the Department of Transport and Public Works, to support the development and implementation of sustainable transport systems in the Western Cape. The programme aims to develop transport systems through forming partnerships with key stakeholders, including with local municipalities, communities and businesses.

Deputy Speaker, the first such partnership was established between the Department and Stellenbosch Municipality as far back as 2016. We currently have similar partnerships with the Overstrand and Swartland Municipalities. The focus, Deputy Speaker, is on improving the conditions for walking and cycling. Within the Western Cape non-metro areas, 35% of people walk to work as their primary mode of transport, and 46% of learners walk to school. Our bicycle distribution programme, of which I had the privilege of being a part of, has been an instant success and the benefits to the communities involved have been immediate.

Deputy Speaker, finally, I want to commend my Department, through its Government Motor Transport Trading Entity, for the far-thinking development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy. This strategy will enable the Western Cape Government to play a leading role in developments in this critical area – an area which will become of even greater importance in the light of climate change challenges.

Deputy Speaker, projects which have been identified and in some cases already implemented include: the procurement and testing of 13 electric vehicles; the planning of a provincial electric vehicle charging network; research into the conversion of existing vehicles to electric vehicles; battery recycling and repurposing opportunities; the development of a technology management platforms, and a 3-phase five year implementation plan, Deputy Speaker. These visionary developments can only be to the benefit of the economy and the well-being of the people of this Province and beyond.

Deputy Speaker, in closing I would like to thank my Cabinet colleagues, the members of the Standing Committee with which we work, the members of this House and the excellent, hard-working HOD of my Department, as well as her staff, some of whom are in attendance online today.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the contribution and to say thanks to my Ministry staff, under the leadership of Mr Clive Roos. Thank you very much to every single member of my staff and team, thank you very much for being there and assisting with putting together my first budget speech. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon to you, the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and all the hon members. The ANC declines support for this budget, hon Deputy Speaker. However, before I spell out the reasons why we declined the support, allow me to thank hon America, who is the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, for the manner in which he has chaired the Committee so far, but also for his generosity for allowing the hon Mackenzie, who was the previous Chairperson, to participate in this Budget speech, otherwise he would not have had another opportunity to participate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is customary for us to commence a speech by quoting either President Ramaphosa, a National Minister in respect of the subject, but today I want to commence my intervention in this Budget Vote by reiterating the point made by Ms Buyelwa Myende, a member of the public and a leader of Sanco in Dunoon, who attended and participated in the Standing Committee's deliberation on the Budget Vote.

Ms Myende expressed her deep dissatisfaction by the way the poor in this province and in her community are treated. She conveyed how she believes this Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town undermine and trample on the rights of people living in communities such as Dunoon.

“This budget does not speak to the reality of the lives of our people living in such places as Dunoon.”

insisted Ms Myende.

“Taxis, a form of transport used exclusively by poor people, are being impounded.”

said Ms Myende. She had to come and hear that in the Committee that there are no PRA or permits backlogs, yet she knows of at least 57 instances where operators are awaiting for their permits due to so-called backlogs.

Deputy Speaker, unfortunately the hon Chairperson who was chairing the meeting, hon America, who I have just paid tribute to, made a very unfortunate remark in response to Ms Myende. He said to Ms Myende and the representative from the Dunoon Taxi Association, that their comments were not in relation to the budget. If anything, as Ms Myende herself said, this budget that the Committee was discussing does not speak to the reality of our people's lives. The sentiment expressed by Ms Myende and experienced by hundreds of thousands, if not millions of our people across our province, speaks to a complete disconnection between the DA Provincial Government administration and the poor.

In fact, the sentiments speak to the very disconnection between this budget and our communities. Yet even more so, it speaks to the DA's inability to govern this province. Take for example, the fact that according to the HOD of the Department, the IRT or BRT models in this province have all but collapsed. For a Provincial Government who continuously demands competencies over rail and ports, this Government cannot even govern and manage the number one public transport industry in our province at the moment, which is the taxis. The IRT or BRT model has collapsed because the DA treat taxis like children and does not see them as equal partners, contributing a considerable amount to the Provincial GDP.

Whenever there is a crisis in the province, the National Transport Minister must run and come to the rescue of the Department and the MEC. For months, if not years, MyCiti could not run between Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain and the CBD because the DA has an inability to govern, that is to bring parties around the table and negotiate. And I hope with these recent protests that the taxi industry has had, we are not going to have the National Minister again having to come and intervene in this crisis.

No, for the DA it is either their way or the highway. They still have the *baas* mentality. So, what does the DA prefer, what is their model of public transport? Firstly, they want the race system so that they can privatise it. Secondly, they wish to continue heavily subsidising Golden Arrow which is a private company.

Finally, they want to develop their own companies such as MyCiti and GoGeorge, all because they want to ignore the taxis which are their number one public transport industry in the country.

In fact, they want to do away with the taxis. They call the taxi operators all kinds of names, that they are instigating violence when they are protesting for their rights, they even call them hooligans, they are instigators; they describe them as destructive and chaotic. Instead of respecting these operators who contribute to the provincial economy, being disappointed in them when it is the failure of this Provincial Government to issue permits and treating them like children with carrot and stick operations. Golden Arrow and MyCiti do not operate on an incentive scheme. Why must the taxis then operate on an incentive scheme like the Blue Dot?

Hon Deputy Speaker, it would seem that we have had an ally in the Transport Standing Committee, myself and hon Nkondlo, in the person of hon Maseko because sometimes hon Maseko asks the right and pointed questions. The hon Maseko has been right in asking the Department about the engagement between the Department and the taxis. Hopefully when it comes from one of their own, they will start listening to the cries of the taxis and the taxi industry. Hon Maseko is further correct in demanding that our communities must have a public transport system that works for them. She is also right about the lack of capacity in the City of Cape Town, but we will get to that in a moment.

To make matters worse, this Department itself does not know whether the Blue Dot, which is the carrot and stick operation, is going to continue or not as the Minister has just pronounced that they are busy with the process of winding it down. In other words, we will be back to square one in so far as working with the Taxi Association is concerned if we lose Blue Dot, despite our reservations about this programme. Blue Dot is considered more sustainable by the Department, but the Department does not know if Blue Dot will continue to exist, or if it will be expanded.

Despite the Public Transport Operation grants being firmly in place, taxis which are the largest providers of public transport to the workers of this province and the only source of public transport to our poor communities, are not being taken seriously by the Department. We are still nowhere near the subsidisation of taxis required to boost our public transport system, but the DA-led Provincial Government worries about trains and ports. The DA is still nowhere near caring about public transport on our roads.

A question was asked about the Department's ability to map and plan where the increase in population will take place, where the human settlements viz-a-viz the economic hubs will be and where the increase in routes will be. This often-interpreted plan for transport and sketching scenarios for the future is kicked to municipalities by the Provincial Department. The Department throws its hands up in the air and says that because of the increased population, new human settlements, the new routes are the duty of municipalities. Instead, the Department says they act according to the municipal plan and this plan explains the public transport crisis in this DA-led Provincial Government.

It means that our people will continue to suffer because they have a Provincial Government who just simply cannot govern and work with the City of Cape Town. They do not want to work with the taxis and work with all the stakeholders in ensuring an effective public transport system. But of course, herein lies the challenge, Deputy Speaker, there is no political will from the DA-led Province or the DA-led City of Cape Town or the DA-led Drakenstein Municipality to strengthen the public transport system.

For the DA, the taxi market must sort out the taxi problems. For the DA it is better to shift concentration to rail and ports and not to resolve the issues of the taxi industry because if they could have their way, they would do away with the taxis altogether.

It is this market-based ideology that also governed this Department's co-source model. R56 million has been appropriated for consultants in Programme 1 which is Administration, a non-core function of this Department. When further asked about consultants, we were told that this Department has always had a co-source model, in other words outsource, make the State smaller, do not upskill the State and do not retain skills, especially skills in infrastructure.

Talking about infrastructure, my colleagues in the ANC were very excited when the Premier announced the new Infrastructure Department because Gauteng also has an Infrastructure Department, and it seems the Premier is learning a thing or two from Gauteng. But now our hopes were dashed when we heard that we must still wait a whole year before this announcement is implemented. But it is also in infrastructure that we seem to be again agreeing with hon Maseko when she joined the discussion. Maybe we know why she might not have been made part of the debate and another member has been put in instead.

You see, hon Deputy Speaker, if the hon was going to speak here, she was going to point out, like she did in the Standing Committee, how the APP indicates that 61% of this Department's budget goes to infrastructure. It is also worth repeating what the hon member said in the Standing Committee, it is worth also repeating it here today, how she raised a serious lack of capacity in the City of Cape Town when it comes to infrastructure.

The City of Cape Town delays projects, especially in regard to the Better Living Model and funds from the USDG are continuously returned and returned all the time. But the bit of infrastructure that the ANC would be particularly interested in, is the planning and eventually, to use the words of the HOD which were, and I quote,

“Generate broad benefit from Leeuwenhof.”

This is an interesting development, hon Deputy Speaker, because we have seen private fund-raising events being advertised and this event taking place at Leeuwenhof and so while we may support charities, we must remember the clear line between the private use or private gain of the public resource which is Leeuwenhof. If Leeuwenhof is open for fund-raising, then we must certainly ask that it be open to all organisations who wish to raise funds there.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes the Department's engagement with Minister Patel and the National Department of Trade and Industry and competition, especially in respect of local content and the specifics of local content and procurement. The ANC will always encourage a cooperative model of governance and trusts that the new MEC for Community Safety, if the Department still exists next year, will work more cooperatively with his National counterpart. It is in that regard that the ANC cannot distance itself from the sentiments of Ms Myende and therefore it is for that reason that we decline support for this budget, hon Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you Minister Mitchell for your budget, indeed a great budget speech and congratulations on your almost first year in service.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to try and be as diplomatic as possible and because I do not attack people personally and I am rather going to quote former President Thabo Mbeki who said two weeks ago, the ANC must improve the quality of their thinking. He further went on to say the problem with the ANC ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, member ... [Interjection.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ... in the Western Cape, is they do not have the capacity to think ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you can just take your seat.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I rise on two points of order, Deputy Speaker. The first one is that I have noticed that hon Mackenzie spoke directly to the MEC, that is number one. Number two, just not a point of order but caution, in terms of relevance Deputy Speaker ... [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It is a maiden speech. [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, hon Dugmore this relevance thing has been very fluid across the House today, but I shall watch hon Mackenzie carefully.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Like I said I am quoting – in response to hon member Mvimbi, I would rather quote their own leaders.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will watch carefully and please ... [Interjections.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I will be diplomatic; I will be diplomatic.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... address me. Thank you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: So just manage my time, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, just please address me, thank you very much hon Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hon Deputy Speaker ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There we go.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I will be diplomatic. So it was former President Thabo Mbeki who said two weeks ago the ANC Western Cape must improve the quality of their thinking. His exact words actually said, "there should be a capacity to think of the ANC Western Cape". And he further said, "he does not see the members who think in this room". He was addressing the ANC Forum two weeks ago. The members who think are not in this room today.

There is actually a video clip available on TikTok bizarrely. I do not know who posted it on TikTok. But anyway, and he said, "comrades should be asking themselves if they are fit for the job". This is former President Thabo Mbeki.

Now the members in the House are the highest members of the ANC in the Western Cape and this is the former President addressing their forum. This is a damning indictment of the poor quality of leadership, and hon Mvimbi, who is a member of Public Works and Transport for many years, would have raised a matter as simple as the DA want the taxi industry to fail. Yet he has been a member ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ... here in this House when we invited the taxi industry to the meeting, he was present with Minister Mitchell and the taxi leadership, SANTACO in this Parliament. He spoke for nearly 20 minutes. He spoke for 30 seconds on the rail that has collapsed in the province because of the ANC. That is the quality of leadership former President Thabo Mbeki [Inaudible.]. So let me repeat what he said, "the ANC in the Western Cape must improve the quality of their thinking, they are not fit for the job".

Hon [Inaudible.] will not be taking advice from the ANC on anything, hon Deputy Speaker. We welcome the R9,1 billion allocated to this Department and Public Works as part of the budget to push forward. The budget is set against the background of declining revenue, due to the ANC that left this Government fiscus in tatters.

We should thank Minister Mitchell for steering the ship and dealing with a difficult period during the taxi violence. It is almost a year since he has been in office and his hard work has been appreciated. I also want to express hon Deputy Speaker, our thoughts and prayers for the victims of taxi violence. We have witnessed again recently how taxi violence has flared up and we all know that more than 88 people were killed during the height of taxi violence last year with limited conditions.

Hon members, that is the sad part because not once did member Mvimbi, via you, who is a member of the Committee or any member of the ANC, raise the issue about the poor conviction rate of the taxi murders in this country. 88 people were murdered, 3% conviction rate. Not once did the ANC say let us march to the office of our National Director of Western Cape Public Prosecutions, let us march to the National Director of Public Prosecutions in Parliament, no justice for the victims. The ANC must improve the quality of their thinking.

Hon members, it is appalling that the NPA continues to fail to prosecute people for these heinous crimes, a young child was shot. Not once did the ANC raise an issue about it. Minister Mitchell was on the ground. Minister Mitchell, consistently throughout the province, travelled to engage with the taxi industry. We appreciate the other people who came on board, the late comers, †laat kommers het ingekom, [late comers came in], to take over, to come and take pictures for the media but I know for a fact, because I met with Minister Mitchell with the taxi industry in Mitchells Plain. He was on the ground meeting with the people at the height of the pandemic.

We saw last week, hon Deputy Speaker, the violence caused by the rogue elements of the taxi industry. R4 million worth of damage and I sincerely hope my colleague, J P Smith of which the members of this Parliament have sleepless nights about, will go and lay charges so that the R4 million in damages can be recouped by the City of Cape Town and we hope that the National Prosecution Authority will actually prosecute those individuals responsible.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there is a sustainable solution. The sustainable solution, hon Dugmore, via you Deputy Speaker, is the criminals in the taxi industry must be prosecuted. The taxi industry is a great industry, which provides an incredible service for hundreds of thousands of commuters, not only in Cape Town in the Western Cape but in the country. But if you do not criminalise, prosecute the criminals in the taxi industry, nothing will happen. The same way that you do not prosecute criminals in the State Capture, nothing will happen. They will continue to steal and steal and steal. That is the solution, via you Deputy Speaker, hon Dugmore.

It is bizarre that hon Mvimbi, who has been a member of the Committee for many years can indicate, and I know him as a member who enjoys reading, that he did not read it in the Report. It says there they have allocated R17 million in funding for the Blue Dot system. How can he manage to say there is no money available? It is bizarre because I know he is a member who loves reading. The ANC must improve the quality of their thinking.

Hon Deputy Speaker, via you, I was there when Minister Mitchell and the Premier opened the beautiful Ashton Bridge. This concrete bridge was the first transversal launch in the country, and it is the quality of infrastructure that the Western Cape Government continues to build. We want to thank all the contractors, the sub-contractors, the community of Ashton and the suppliers who built this great bridge and we will continue to ask Minister Mitchell and his team, to continue with investing in infrastructure because this is what this Western Cape Government is famous for and that is why we will continue to support our colleague Daylin Mitchell.

Hon Deputy Speaker, via you, last week I took a businessman around Mitchells Plain to show him the rail infrastructure or the lack of rail infrastructure. He was shocked to see the devastating impact on rail because he wants to build a call centre in Mitchells Plain. He was asking how people are going to get to work? And I explained to him that the rail system is being destroyed by the ANC. Hon Mvimbi again mentioned earlier on, via you Deputy Speaker, that we have too much attention on rail. Of course, we pay a lot of attention in rail because rail is one of the backbones of infrastructure in the Western Cape, so we need to fix rail in the Western Cape.

The Lenteguer Station, Mitchells Plain like many other stations across the country, Kapteinsklip, completely destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people cannot get to work because of the rail infrastructure under the leadership of the ANC. And what do the ANC Ministers do during the global pandemic level 5? They spent R19 million on buying new cars, R19 million during level 5. Where were they driving to? Only goodness knows, but R19 million to buy brand new cars while we were in hard lockdown, while the poor, the middle-class and the poor which the ANC always stands up and say they are fighting for, are paying the high cost of lack of rail, the high cost of taxis. The taxi fares went up by another 9% two weeks ago. The fuel price is going up by R2,30 next month in April. That is the reality of bad management, bad governance.

Somebody said earlier you cannot eat clean audits. Well, you can eat clean audits because clean audits allow you not to steal money, not to buy R19 million worth of cars during a global pandemic while the poor are suffering. Fix the rail system, which is what a clean audit will enable you to do. In fact, hon Deputy Speaker, my colleague Dr Leon Schriber and to quote him, he said,

“There is one elite class of South Africans who are exempt from the cost of living; the very ANC Cabinet that caused the poverty crisis in the first place.”

That is the reality of the mismanagement of rail transport and the terrible non-prosecution of criminals in the taxi industry. Not the taxi industry, the criminals in the taxi industry, 88 murders hon Deputy Speaker, three convictions. Not one of the ANC members has raised the issue out there.

So while the ANC continues to enrich themselves and taking a backseat on these important matters, we must welcome the continued engagements by my colleagues, Minister Mitchell and the City of Cape Town, to get rail back on track. If it was not for the pressure applied by Minister Mitchell and we had meetings with PRASA Chairperson and the PRASA CEO. If he and the Premier did not apply the pressure, the rail system, the Southern and Northern lines, would not have come back on track. A year in the duty and he managed to get some of the rail lines back on track. That is the quality of people on this side of the bench and in the words of President Thabo Mbeki, the ANC in the Western Cape must improve the quality of their thinking.

We therefore fully support the Budget Vote and all the work done by Transport and Public Works to get the Western Cape Government working.

We thank the Minister, his Department and all his officials in ensuring that this Western Cape Government continues to work. The DA fully supports this Budget Vote. I thank you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, Al Jama-Ah wants to express our concern for the ongoing taxi violence on the Cape Flats, especially, and the taxi killings. Just this morning, another taxi driver was shot dead in the Delft area opposite Council Camp, near Eindhoven in Delft. We call on the Western Cape Government to play a better oversight role, so that we can have an end to these taxi killings on the Cape Flats. Thank you very much, Speaker.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and good afternoon, colleagues and hon Minister. Deputy Speaker, the DA welcomes the allocated funds towards the Department of Transport and Public Works, which exceed R9 billion for the 2023 financial year. All things being equal, and touch wood that Russia will cease its aggression towards Ukraine, this is the year of economic growth through various infrastructure projects and development. And this is also the year of jobs through our infrastructure, rollout projects, and the year of fighting harder for reliable and effective public transport systems in the Western Cape, Deputy Chair.

The ANC has conveniently forgotten that Ukraine was part of the USSR, and they often say that Russia was there in the darkest hour of the liberation struggle, but Ukraine was part of the USSR at the time. So, Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the Minister of Finance, hon Maynier, for putting an emphasis in this budget, in his budget speech, that in this financial period the building and upgrading of roads will be vital in our efforts in driving economic growth in our province. Not only will this bring better and quality roads to the province, but thousands of jobs will be created, and thousands of families will benefit and experience economic relief. Whilst the province is on the road to economic recovery from COVID-19, a focus on developing infrastructure will play a significant role in building a growing economy in the Western Cape for the Western Cape and its people.

So, Deputy Speaker, the Department will place a special focus on transport development through improving, as the Minister was saying, mobility infrastructure. The George Integrated Public Transport Network is a success story in this regard. Thousands of George residents each day rely on GoGeorge buses, because of their reliability and effectiveness. The Department will be expanding this project to further communities in George, which will see almost double its capacity. The rollout of Phase 4A to Thembalethu will be accelerated this year. We welcome the Department's continued support for services like this, to ensure that people have access to good and reliable public transport for work, to go to school, and for leisure purposes. Therefore, it goes without saying, that this Department recognises its role in preventing and creating awareness regarding the many road accidents that occur in the province, especially during the festive season and on the other holidays.

I support the promotion of road safety initiatives that helps build a network of drivers and commuters who internalise an awareness and respect for the rules of the road, and participate in an all-hands-on-deck approach that will ultimately save lives. Deputy Speaker, all lives matter. And so, once the pandemic impacted infrastructure planning and delivery, I am pleased that the Department had managed to achieve the completion of several projects. These include the additional 40 bed dormitory at the Outeniqua Child and Youth Care Centre facility in George, the completion of the roof replacement of the Saartjie Baartman Centre, destroyed by fire, as well as the Conradie Park mixed income housing project that was finalised, and the first housing units handed over to its tenants. This, amongst many other completed projects, are significant milestones, given the pandemic and the limitations brought on by the national State of Disaster. And there are many in the province, but, similarly, there are not many provinces in this country that can tell the success story such as this.

In this financial year Provincial Department of Public Works is again expected to create 550 jobs. The Western Cape Government does not seem to only speak of economic recovery but continues to act on it. Over R60,5 million has been allocated to the construction for the child and youth care centres, while 27, almost R28 million has been allocated towards the maintenance of these facilities. This will create further jobs for vulnerable people, while creating safe spaces for children and youth.

Deputy Speaker, last year the Department made public the Road Asset Management Plan report. Through this report, the need for road infrastructure development was highlighted. I therefore welcome the commitment towards road investments. An additional amount of R337 million had been earmarked as an additional funding for road infrastructure and maintenance in the province to address the backlogs that were highlighted by the Road Asset Management Plan report. While these funds are going to play a significant role in addressing maintenance issues with our roads in the province, we really require more from the National Government. According to the Road Asset Management Plan report, as I was saying previously, 73% of all our surface roads in the province has surpassed life span of 25 years. This is the result of cumulative budget cuts from National Government, which puts further strain on the daily commuting in the Western Cape. Even though this does not pose an immediate threat to general safety, it does mean the costs to replace our road infrastructure will increase exponentially if left unattended.

Despite these challenges, Deputy Speaker, the province's commitment to bettering road infrastructure will ensure our roads remain in good condition. Throughout this budget, the Department has shown the importance of road infrastructure, and the significant role it plays in linking communities, and enhancing the economy. Further to enhancing the economy through transport systems, the Blue Dot taxis, that have been vilified by hon Mvimbi, the pilot project has been a great success. Whilst incentivising better taxi services, and improving driver behaviour in the taxi industry, R17 million had been allocated for the extension of this programme in this coming financial year.

I want to ask hon Mvimbi, name me another province where this is taking place, and I guess it will be very difficult for him, because this is the only province where an incentivised programme with the taxi industry is being, sort of, established. This programme is the first in South Africa and had eight new companies established as a result thereof, with over 519 operators and 924 drivers trained. There is no doubt, Deputy Chair, that more will be seen of this initiative in the future as we move into the outer financial years.

Our traffic law enforcement has continued to play a critical role in providing critical traffic services, the Minister alluded to it, across the province, as well as in conjunction with the South African Police Services, to oversee the enforcement of the State of Disaster regulations. This will be done even better in this coming financial year, as more training officers will be trained, and they will ensure that effective traffic services and safer roads for our drivers and commuters are being delivered.

Although the management of rail services is not under the Provincial Government, the Department has played a critical role in helping PRASA to fund rail services and its infrastructure assets. I am pleased to see the Department showing more interest and enthusiasm to helping the national entity of PRASA to improve the services for our commuters in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, an economically just society is one in which economic opportunities are available to all, and people who have the capabilities to make use of those opportunities. We are not there yet. South Africa is still an economically unjust society, due to a history of apartheid, as well as governance failures and corruption. In a democratic era, there are skewed and shrinking opportunities for all. South Africa desperately needs a radically different approach to address the exclusion of our people. Over two decades of political freedom have not resulted in adequate improvement in the socio economic prospects of the majority of South Africans. If we wish to create an economically inclusive and non-racial society, we must address inequalities of opportunity to complement our hard-won political freedoms. Most importantly, we must get rid of the current ANC National Government. So, as the Democratic Alliance and the Western Cape Government, in particular, we are committed to beat the past and build a better future for all South Africans.

It is evidently clear in the performance and prioritisation of the works of the Department of Transport and Public Works, this Department is acutely aware of the pivotal role it plays in the realisation of that ideal, in beating the past and building a better future. Spatial inequalities caused by apartheid, spatial design, and perpetuated by failed land reform, a history of legislated discrimination, this Government and Department seek to address these challenges head-on, and recognises that in its work, a whole society approach is required. It requires Government, business, communities, families and individuals to work hand-in-hand to overcome them. One of the most powerful ways Government can amplify its impact is to leverage private sector involvement and procurement, in a way it selects the companies and chooses to do business with. Where competing companies can provide goods and services at the same level of functionality and price, this policy should give preference to the company which makes the most positive socio-economic impact, as measured by the sustainable development goals, and not narrow criteria that benefit an already well connected political elite, and Gucci entrepreneurs.

Therefore, competency should be a priority in procurement, because unfulfilled or poorly delivered contracts hurt those most reliant on Government services. So, Deputy Speaker, in Government we would also need to set our own priorities. Our priority interventions in Government must be geared to address the key drivers of inequality of opportunity. Infrastructure development is a key driver for progress and a critical enabler for productivity and sustainable economic growth. It contributes significantly to human development, poverty reduction, and attainment of the millennium development goals.

So, Deputy Speaker, as we move towards the full implementation of the Provincial Recovery Plan, we must be mindful of the restrictive financial environment we find ourselves in. As a Department, the Department of Transport and Public Works will co-lead the jobs priority. Therefore, infrastructure development and maintenance play a critical role in creating economic growth, which, amongst many other benefits, will create much needed jobs.

Together, Deputy Speaker, we can beat the past and build a better future for all. The DA, therefore, fully supports this budget. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Alright. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much for all the contributions by all the members. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think it is important that I start from the top, because the amount of times that we are re-giving the information to hon Mvimbi, in particular, I actually wanted to get up and say please refer to all my previous features, please refer to all my previous questions that you posed to me, and read it. But I think in the interests of the citizens of this province, let me respond.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Mvimbi raises Du Noon Taxi Association, in particular, and SANCO, which attended the Standing Committee, we have answered the Du Noon Taxi Association and SANCO in that Standing Committee, but I went further, Deputy Speaker, we have engaged them. I have had a meeting with the Du Noon Taxi Association and the SANCO representative in last week, I think, or last week, and there are certain resolutions that were taken, and we are in the process. So, if the hon Mvimbi wants to come to Parliament, use a budget speech to play politics with the lives of the people of Du Noon, I am not going to entertain him. But, for the record, Du Noon Taxi Association has been engaged. The 57 permits, in fact, are being, it is not being issued by the Provincial Registrar's Office, because the municipalities, Deputy Speaker, are the planning authorities when it comes to route planning, we are merely the regulatory framework.

I completely agree that Du Noon, there is a need, and I have engaged the City of Cape Town, in particular, as the local municipality, but I went further, and I asked that the Department obtains a legal opinion on whether I am able to override certain municipalities if I do not agree, and there is a need. And if the hon Mvimbi listened to my speech, I spoke about it, so I am not going to repeat myself.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Mvimbi goes on about Golden Arrow, and Golden Arrow, and Golden Arrow. Golden Arrow is being funded through a national grant given by the National Department of Transport. Golden Arrow is merely a service provider, like many other service providers across the country. All provinces have received this grant, and they have service providers, so I think it is disingenuous for hon Mvimbi to come here and lambaste a service provider that is not able to defend, and stand up and defend him, or defend them, and for the incredible service that Golden Arrow is providing to the citizens of this province, and, in particular, with a failed rail system.

If you look at B97, when we closed it, the implementation of B97 on providing that service to the citizens or the residents of that municipality between, on that particular route, it was Golden Arrow who stepped in and is provided that service. So, I think it is disingenuous for hon Mvimbi to come here and to try and create an impression that there is monopoly for certain service providers.

I want to take it further, hon Deputy Speaker, the George, the GoGeorge, I do not know, and I will provide it again, on the day of my announcement as the MEC for Transport and Public Works in this province, on the 24th, I think it was on the 24th of March, we were in George at GoGeorge, where we were provided, as a Standing Committee, with the information that 100% of GoGeorge, hon Deputy Speaker, is owned by the minibus taxi industry. So, I do not know, again, why the perception has been created in this House, that it is the Department, and that it is this Government. It is the minibus taxi industry who owns GoGeorge. If the hon Mvimbi was not aware, now he is aware, and I am not going to repeat myself in this House again.

With regard to the subsidisation, hon Deputy Speaker, so when we speak about the minibus taxi industry, which I have a very, very good relationship with, through SANTACO and the various associations, the Western Cape Government is the only province in this country that is providing that engagement, that constant engagement with the minibus taxi industry. We are the only department that is prepared to assist with the formalisation of the industry. The formalisation does not come from Government. It is the industry that wants to be formalised. With formalisation go regulatory aspects. And with that kind of engagement with the industry, it is happening on a daily basis.

If you look at the amount of money being invested through the Blue Dot into the minibus taxi industry, versus the R5 000, the measly R5 000,00 that the National Department is now trying to provide to operators across the country, after months and months of engagement, and begging the National Minister to step in, to actually adhere to the promise that he was making.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think I must go a little bit further. And I want to bring hon Brinkhuis' point in. The reality is that taxi violence is a concern to all of us. And if it is not a concern, then there is a fundamental problem, because the minibus taxi industry, in particular, provides 70% of commuters with transport to and from economic opportunities across this province. 70% of people rely on a safe and reliable public transport, and when, with me being responsible for public transport in this province, when it affects a commuter, I will step in.

So, hon Mvimbi's comment about us treating the industry like children, I will take every available mechanism at my disposal to protect the commuters and passengers of this province, as well as those operators who are being caught in the crossfire, because not all minibus taxi operators are in between this.

If hon Mvimbi can just see all the letters after the 24th of March, of that thuggery that happened, that was called a march of minibus taxi associations and we said, please, please, we are not part of this, please do not link us with this. Hon Mvimbi does not know that, or does not see that, and does not want to know that. A march, we all support that if you have concerns you can march, but then stick to the rules and do not infringe on the rights of other people. That particular march caused R4 million of damage and infrastructure. Hon Deputy Speaker, the buses that were burned, the people that got injured, the personal vehicles that have been damaged in that process, that, to me, is not a march. It is thuggery, and I have called on SAPS to deal with those responsible in the harshest possible form. And I will never stand back for thugs that are trying to operate the industry. Because not all operators, and not all taxi service providers, and association are part of this. And I have a duty to also protect those law-abiding operators.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Mvimbi also says that the National Minister needed to step in. Let me tell the hon Mvimbi, Section 91 of the National Land Transport Act, it provides me, as the MEC responsible for public transport, with the powers to either close, or close routes and ranks. The National Minister was here as support, and we have indicated that from the beginning, he did not run here to save it, because he did not have the power to do so. It was this Government that took the decision, in the interests of the people of this province, and commuters of this province, to invoke Section 91, as the powers vested in me, as the provincial MEC, and I am going to do the same, I have published the intention to close Nyanga, that will be published in the *Government Gazette*, because if the violence continues and the unrest continues, I will do everything in my power, and the powers that I have to protect the commuters and the citizens of this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to then just lastly say I think it would be remiss of me not to say that there was a lot of comments made about, the HOD said this in the Standing Committee, and the HOD, I do not know in what Standing Committee hon Mvimbi was, and where I was, but there was definitely things that were being taken completely out of context, and I will make a commitment to the House today that I will ask the HOD, that we will revert back to the Standing Committee and re-explain the budget as it was tabled. Because some people just do not want to read it, and do not want to accept the facts.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think, lastly, I want to thank the Chair of the Standing Committee, hon America and hon Mackenzie for their contributions, and for the contributions [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He is the Deputy Chair.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: And for their [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Contributions, and for hon Mackenzie for [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: The time that he did Chair, for all the support and assistance.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, hon members, let the Minister finish.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much for your contributions, and thank you for the support and leadership, but also for holding us accountable. I think accountable Government, or accountable governance is very important, so we have always, and I have always, made myself available for interrogation at the Standing Committees, so I trust that as we go forward, we will forget about the politics, especially when it comes to public transport and the lives of the people and commuters, that we will, in fact, debate it on facts. And if you have different suggestions, or better suggestion, put it on the table. I want to use the Leader of the Opposition, somebody approached him for the vehicle testing centres, and we listened to the recommendations or comments, the proposal, and we have engaged, and subsequently, we have amended those things. And that is what you do as, when you are an opposition, you do not come here and make a whole lot of comments, and then people are not allowed to respond to that.

Deputy Speaker, before I close, I just want to remind all motorists that the end of the renewal of your motor vehicle licences is on the 31st of March. So, if you have not renewed your motor vehicle licences, please do so. And then please drive safely as you approach the Easter holiday period. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. Yes, I had to stand in a long queue to get my licence sorted out, which I am very happy about. Thank you, Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote. The Secretary will read the Sixth Order of the Day.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND TOURISM, AND THE COVID-19 TEMPORARY EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE RELIEF SCHEME (TERS), FUNDING PROCESS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND, AND THE RESPONSE/VIEWS OF THE PUBLIC IN THE WESTERN CAPE ON THIS PROCESS

(Consideration)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there will be no list of speakers, and the parties who wish to do so, will be now afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the report for a maximum of three minutes. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make that declaration if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the ANC welcomes and supports the report. The ANC raises serious concerns about the high number of private companies that we identify as having defrauded the system, and that the majority of them, unfortunately, are in the Western Cape. We call for those companies to be named, shamed, and that they are prosecuted by the criminal justice system for abusing State resources. This, once again, prove to us that white collar crime is under-estimated, and under-reported in this country. Private sector corruption must be exposed and culprits prosecuted.

We further call on workers to demand from their employers proof of having registered them for UIF, as many during this period, missed the benefit, as employers had not registered them, or others were not paying their contribution, but in many instances this deduction was still made. It is scandalous that employers will still steal from their workers. Often workers worked many years for them. We demand more capacity in the Department of Employment and Labour, particularly non-metro regions, to have access to information, and improve their monitoring to ensure early warning of those companies that are delinquents to their labour relations obligations. The Western Cape Government must, in their engagement within that, encourage employers to adhere to their responsibility to their employees, as its human right to do so. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the DA welcomes this report. It is a shining example of the Western Cape Parliament holding a national entity to account, even though we do not always get responses from National Ministers. The Standing Committee wanted to get a clear understanding of the multiple challenges facing the Unemployment Insurance Fund. To give effect to this, the Committee resolved to invite the Unemployment Insurance Fund to brief the Committee on the payment of TERS funding to applicants in the Western Cape. After the briefing, it became very clear that the Committee needed to gauge the experience of residents of the Western Cape on their experiences applying and receiving TERS funding. A public participation process was conducted and responses were received via e-mail, WhatsApp, and in response to a questionnaire that the Standing Committee put out for public comment.

Core to the feedback received from members of the public during this public engagement process, was the fact that the UIF had serious challenges, and that this national entity was in deep trouble. It could not process TERS and unemployment benefits during the hard lockdown. This was partly due to the closure of all Government services, as resulting in long queues at closed offices, and an online system, and a call centre that crashed multiple times. Deputy Speaker, this public participation process highlighted that the people of the Western Cape were desperately trying to access Government funds that they were entitled to. This report shows that the Committee was able to use the mechanisms at its disposal to assist the residents of the Western Cape. The Committee is keeping track of all outstanding UIF payments, and we will be using our NCOP colleagues to engage the UIF to make sure that this is done.

Deputy Speaker, we should also be mindful that there is a political party in this House that have not paid UIF for their staff, and we did also receive some requests during this public participation process from staff members of the African National Congress, who found out that their political party never paid their UIF. With that Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance urges the House to support this report.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, just take your seat, there is a point of order. What is your point of order? [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, no [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Just a question. Is the hon Bosman willing to share the info with us, so we can assist, because I am interested as to how he gets info directly from SARS. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, would you want to take a question?

Mr G BOSMAN: I have completed my declaration [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, hon members, order please. We are finishing off. Hon Bosman, if you can proceed.

Mr G BOSMAN: I have proceeded, hon Deputy Speaker. The Democratic Alliance urges all members of this House to support this report, and we do hope that the hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition will perhaps join our Committee once he becomes the Leader of the Opposition at the end of this year.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bosman. I am not going to open this conversation up. We have been in the House a very long time, hon Mackenzie.

So, I now note, hon members, that I have to announce that there are currently 25 hon members present, and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House, the WCPP, is that the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism be adopted. Are there any objections to the report being adopted?

HON MEMBERS: No.

Agreed to.

I therefore conclude the business for the day. The Secretary will end the meeting, and all members will be exited. Hon members, before you leave, please note that tomorrow's session will begin at ten a.m. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:07.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Assent of bill by the Premier

The Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Act (2021/22 Financial Year), 2022 (Act 1 of 2022), was assented to and signed by the Premier on 29 March 2022.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

[Hybrid sitting held with some members present in the House and some in virtual attendance through Microsoft Teams.]

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLING AND COMMITTEE REPORTS - see p. 5436**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. A very good morning to our members, our Ministers, our guests in the House and those that are connected virtually. As we proceed with the third session of our Appropriation Bills, before I proceed may I just remind you, I am sure by now I do not have to read out all the Rules, but just to ensure that you are all properly connected, that you have sufficient audio and video. If you are joining on the hybrid session and hon members, please, if I can remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sittings and in this regard I draw the attention of the hon members to Rule 40 of the Standing Rules.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2-2022]

(Debate on Vote 7 – Social Development)

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members of this august House, special guests and members of the public that are online, members of the media, fellow South Africans. Good morning, †goeie môre, [good morning] †molweni nonke [greetings everyone], As-Salaam-Alaikum [peace be unto you].

Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise to table the Budget for Vote 7 against the backdrop of two tumultuous financial years. In the wake of the COVID pandemic, our resources have had to be realigned from the original 2019-2024 Provincial Strategic Plan towards supporting the Provincial COVID Recovery Plan, and in particular, its wellbeing and dignity and safety priorities.

What was first thought to be a temporary disruption to our way of life has fundamentally transformed it and presented new challenges and exacerbated existing challenges. COVID-19 has impacted the already fragile socioeconomic landscape. Its impact has been severe and will be felt for some time to come. This is especially so given that our economy was in a technical recession before COVID-19 hit our shores. Communities are soaked in trauma as they reel from unemployment, poverty and many social ills that are prevalent in society.

Earlier this year, Deputy Speaker, the National Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana noted that the country's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by an average of only 2,1% this year.

This low growth rate has left the nation with a shortfall of funds at the very time when Government services to address socio economic ills are most needed and this situation has of course, been further aggravated by the ongoing misappropriation of public funds at a national level, most notably the very funds which were meant to procure PPE, TERS and Social Relief of Distressed payments to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable households, workers, farmers and small businesses.

Hon Deputy Speaker, although the Western Cape remains a beacon of hope in a country dominated by ineffective governance, we are not an island. The economic situation of the country is being felt by every man, woman and child in this province and other provinces. At the same time the Western Cape's population is growing rapidly as it is in South Africa's other economic centres, such as Gauteng. The Budget we table today is therefore a stark reflection of the joint challenges posed by decreasing revenue and rapidly increasing need for services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are clearly being asked to do more with less. Our budget is therefore aimed at harnessing our Department's constitutional and legislative functions in service of the Western Cape Government's COVID Recovery Plan. The Department's focus area in support of this plan into area is the provision of statutory and court ordered interventions for children and youth at risk, humanitarian relief support to communities, support to the homeless, combating the scourge of gender-based violence, improve leveraging and coordination across service delivery areas and spheres of Government to achieve greater impact and efficiency and the filling of priority service delivery frontline posts that are currently vacant.

The total Budget allocation for the Department over the 22 MTEF starts at R2 285 335 000 for 2022/2023 financial year. This amount has been adjusted to exclude the R391 million allocated to the Early Childhood Development Budget as this function is shifting on Friday, the 1st to Budget Vote 5, the Western Cape Education Department.

Taking this reduction into consideration, our budget for 2022/23 is nearly an R85 million reduction compared to the projected allocation for the year in our pre-COVID MTEF. In the outer years of the MTEF our projected Budget is R2 277 442 000 for 2023/24 and R2 340 016 000 for 2024/25. The totals therefore decrease from year one to year two by R7 893 000 and then increases by R62 574 000 in year three. This, hon Deputy Speaker, is of course subject to any further changes in the highly uncertain economic environment in which we are operating.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Budget I table today is therefore primarily characterised by either maintaining or cutting our budget allocations from the previous financial year. However, in order to aid us in our work to support the COVID Recovery Plan, the Provincial Treasury has made some additional target allocations to the Department. These include an earmarked amount of R25 million for food relief to vulnerable families that will support food distribution centres and community nutrition development centres across the province.

This amount is made over and above and existing R28 million in the Department's Baseline Budget for this purpose, bringing the total allocation for food relief to just over R53 million for 2022/23 year. This amount serves to support the Provincial COVID Recovery Plan, wellbeing and dignity priority area, responding to the food crisis that we are facing in this province as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impact thereof.

An earmarked amount of R3 million for the conversion of the Robbie Nurock Community Health Centre into a homeless shelter that will initially accommodate approximately 120 beds, with the possibility of further expansion in the future. During the COVID pandemic the Department has already increased the number of funded bed spaces for homeless adults from 1500 to about 2400 at 27 shelters each day.

We remain aware of the important role that shelters play in ensuring that many vulnerable citizens, who do not have their own homes, are treated with dignity and respect, even though there is no regulatory framework to support these individuals. The Provincial Department assists the homeless by fully or partially funding NPOs that work directly to assist and empower the homeless, with skills training, reuniting them with the families and integrating them into our communities. The Department received an additional R2 million to enable mobile connectivity with many individuals working away from the office. An additional R1 million earmarked for the digitising of the Non-Profit Organisation Management System (NPOMS) and R1 million for the development of a Mobile Client Service System to support social workers in the field more effectively to deliver efficient services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, R21 333 000 has been earmarked for the funding of non-governmental organisations which has been used across various programmes to help mitigate the large cuts to transfer funding in the Department, a serious issue that I will unpack in a moment.

Funding for safety parents we increased to make provision for a much-needed tariff increase from R27,00 rand to R34,50. I cannot thank each and every safety parent enough. Safety parents are passionate individuals who care deeply about children and help us by opening their homes as places for temporary safe care as an extraordinary measure that can be used by designated social workers or police officials where they believe on reasonable grounds that the child is in immediate danger. As a Department we believe a child's immediate and extended family is best placed for them to flourish and develop. However, if we have reason to believe that a child is unsafe in their own home, they will have to be removed through a detailed process and be placed in a temporary safe care.

Hon Deputy Speaker, R40 million is earmarked for compensation of employees to provide for the 2022/2023 Wage Agreement, which includes a 1,5% pay progression and increases in housing allowances and medical aid contributions over the MTEF. This additional allocation is currently only applicable to the 2022/23 financial year. No provision has been made yet in the MTEF for the carry-through effect of the Wage Agreement.

Apart from these additional earmarked amounts, the Department has made provision to cover all of its existing contractual obligations entered into via procurement processes and our operational expenditure received inflationary increases over the MTEF to cover statutory price hikes in areas such as security services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the additional earmarked amounts received from Treasury will assist us in our drive to implement the COVID Recovery Plan Priorities that we support, and in the case of wellbeing and dignity, that we lead. However, I return to my earlier point that this Budget sees more cuts than we can afford, and there is no avoiding the reality that we are facing a hard year ahead. Various measures have been put in place to minimise the direct impact of these cuts on service delivery to citizens.

These include, and are not limited to, we have started engagements with various NPOs in an effort to understand and assist as best we can with the limited resources available to us. No new staff or external bursaries will be awarded for the year, although current bursary obligations have and will be maintained. Maintenance budgets for office and facilities have been reduced. Austerity measures for stationery, printing and office supplies will be applied, hence my having to read my speech back-to-back. The procurement of IT equipment is being reduced, and it affects the Departmental Technology Refresh Program. The allocation for IT equipment will be maintained over the MTEF. Hon Deputy Speaker, of all the cuts, I am particularly concerned about the impact of the R25 million shortfall of funds to fill the vacant posts. The Department has had to reduce its recruitment plan to cover the shortfall. This will result in significant additional pressure on the remaining staff in the Department, who I might add have worked really hard throughout this COVID pandemic. The workforce is tired, they are stretched to capacity and face even greater demands, as we see and have to contend with an increased population growth, deepening social ills and widespread economic hardship.

I am even more concerned about the sustainability of our key partners in service delivery. The non-government organisations that we fund, many organisations have already closed their doors or are on the brink of closure due to the reduction in private sector and donor funding. COVID-19 as well as the preceding economic downturn has placed immense pressure on the NGO sector and irregular sources of funding from both private and public sectors. Therefore the work and services that NGOs – particularly in the social sector – have continued to provide, is commendable, but it is becoming increasingly unsustainable. Sadly, the Budget we table today sees a net reduction in transfers of around R40 million.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a shrinking NPO sector will render more citizens vulnerable and without adequate welfare services to assist them. In turn, this places at risk the Department's ability to cope with the needs of the citizens as enshrined in the Constitution. Services affected include child protection, humanitarian relief, youth development, and substance-use disorder services, as well as services to persons with disabilities and older persons.

We are currently involved and engaging in a series of meetings with the NGO sector and I have committed together with my team to doing everything we can to mitigate the impact of these cuts for the coming years, coming here and improving our support over the medium term.

I acknowledge and thank the entire non-governmental organisation sector, NGOs, NPOs, CPOs for their support and valuable contribution in alleviating many of the social ills and challenges faced by our most vulnerable citizens, and deeply regret that we cannot do more to sustain our support for the valuable work that you do.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I will provide a brief overview of how these additions and cuts affects each programme:

Programme 1, the decrease of R810 000 from the revised estimate of R238 895 000 in 2021 to R238 085 000 in 2022/23 is due to a reduction in baseline allocations. This will affect support services in the Department which has a knock-on effect on service delivery. In the outer years of the MTEF the budget allocation for Program 1 increases to R245 723 000 and in 2023/24 increases to R249 127 000.

Under Programme 2, Social Welfare Services, the decrease of R25 133 000 ran from the revised estimate of R1 065 000 000 in the 2021/22 year to R1 040 000 000 in 2022/23 is due to the reduction in the baseline allocations and budget pressures. The budget allocation thereafter increases to R1 049 000 000 in 2023/24 and then increases to R1 073 000 000 in 2024/25. The impact of baseline budget reductions will lead to less transfer in subsidy payments to older persons and services to people with disabilities and an inability to fill many social service posts within the Department.

Programme 3, which is children and families, the increase of R9 985 000 from the revised estimate of R438 361 000 in 2021/22 to R448 346 000 in 22/23 is due to the additional funding received for Social Development Welfare NPOs and homeless shelters. The budget allocation hereafter decreases to R448 309 000 in 2023/24 and then it goes back up to R471 134 000 in 2024/25. At the same time, there are some budget reductions which will affect social service organisations supporting families.

In terms of Programme 4, Restorative Services, the increase of R10 291 000 or 2,2% from the Revised Estimate of R458 488 000 in 2021/22 to R468 779 000 in 2022/23 is due to additional funding received for Social Development Welfare NPOs. The budget allocation thereafter increases to R474 469 000 in 2023/24, and R485 319 000 in 2024/25.

The Gender-Based Violence Programme will therefore not face significant budget cuts, but budget reductions will affect substance abuse and social crime prevention over the short term and some of these are based in our GBV NPOs.

Programme 5, Development and Research, there is a decrease of R3 488 000 or 3% in the revised budget of R93 433 000 in 2021/22 to R89 985 000 in 2022/23.

In the outer years of the MTEF, this amount is projected to decrease further to R59 927 000. Since the R25 million earmarked allocation for food relief is a once off allocation, the programme's allocation is projected to increase slightly from there to R61 804 000 in 2024/25. The immediate impact of baseline budget reductions for the year 2022/23 will lead to less transfer and subsidy payments for the EPWP Programme and Youth Cafés with the EPWP reduced to the R4 978 000 Incentive Grant.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, the reality of fiscal constraints and Government-wide reprioritisation across the MTEF demands that this Department and the entire Social Development Sector or Social Sector, establish innovative ways in which our services can be delivered to the citizens of the Western Cape.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has compounded socioeconomic uncertainties, requiring a transversal whole-of-society approach to promoting improved safety, wellbeing and dignity. We definitely need to work with other spheres and departments of Government, civil society organisations, the private sector, and most importantly communities in order to move forward towards recovery. In this regard, we will continue to build relationships with all stakeholders who have an interest in improving the lives of residents in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic will not deter the Department from striving to deliver a comprehensive network of Social Development Services both effectively and efficiently to the poor, the vulnerable and those with special needs, and, before I conclude, I would like to thank all members of this august House for their support and robust oversight. I also wish to thank the Head of Department Dr Robert MacDonald, the management and staff of the Department of Social Development, our NPO partners and importantly, all the social service professionals throughout the province who assist us daily.

I also wish to thank the hon member Gillion for support as the Chairperson to this Committee and I would like to take the opportunity to formally welcome the hon member Plato as the Chair for the Standing Committee and I wish to say thank you to all the members of the Committee. Your support has been invaluable. I thank you.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, hon Leader of the Opposition, hon MEC and hon members. Yesterday Stats SA released the Quarterly Labour Force Survey for Quarter 4 of 2021 showing that the official unemployment rate in the country increased by 0,4% to 35,3% in Quarter 4 2021 compared to Quarter 3 2021.

The increase was recorded in five provinces, with the largest increase recorded in KwaZulu-Natal, followed by Mpumalanga and the Western Cape.

The year-on-year changes to the unemployment rate in the province showed a 5,5% increase from 22,5% in Quarter 4 2020 to 28% in Quarter 4 2021. Over the same period the expanded unemployment rate increased from 26,8% to 30,4.

The Western Cape once prided by the Premier as the Province for jobs, now has an unemployment rate of over 30%. This tragedy ends really scary as the majority of the unemployed are youth, including those that are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Nationally, the NEET rate increased by 2,9% from 41,8% to 44,7% in Quarter 2021. With the Western Cape being home to 2,4 million young people between the ages of 15 and 34 years, surely we have to be concerned and scared at this latest unemployment figures. This is a ticking time bomb that can explode any second from now.

The Department in its Annual Performance Plan has noted that – are this proportionality affected by unemployment and poverty?

The Department committed that it will continue to provide programmes and interventions that facilitate the holistic, positive development of young people to be productive individuals as family and community members. As stated in the act of this Department this will be done through digital literacy skills, stimulating entrepreneurship, develop basic digital competencies to address the digital divide, with the particular emphasis of Not in Education, Employment or Training, youth in rural communities.

In addition, the Department will provide after-school programmes at Youth Cafés to support youth in transition, Grades 10 to 12, with academic and overall skills development. Further offerings at Youth Cafés includes sign language courses, sexual health related service to raise awareness and prevalence of GBV; drug and alcohol counselling as well as community-based crime prevention [Inaudible, poor connectivity.]

Hon members, in light of the above challenges and the stated interventions to address them, it is shocking that the budget for the Youth Development Programme of this Department has been cut. The Budget for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Rehabilitation Programme has been cut. During our engagements in the Standing Committee meeting we highlighted our discomfort with the direction the Department is taking to address the challenges of youth development. In response to the increased demand for services the Department cuts budget. This will not only limit access to service for youth on the ground, but it will also lead to possible job losses in the NPOs whose budget has been cut.

The Act acknowledges that drug use, misuse and abuse continue to present challenges to the health, safety and wellbeing of individual families and communities in the province. If you understand this reality, then why are you cutting the budget allocation for this? [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, if you can just take your seat please.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Deputy Speaker, we have proposed...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, just take your seat. Can I have one minute.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. Hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, just a caution, the heckling and discussions has the ability to disturb the speaker, particularly in the context of an online hybrid sitting. That is why you have amended the Rules and that... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, hon Sayed, I did not hear, was that in the House?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): In the House, yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will monitor.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): In the House. If we can just, we are not saying people must not heckle, but if it can be toned down. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will certainly check, sir, thank you very much. Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, you may continue.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker, and I thank Comrade Sayed for raising that. We have proposed in the Standing Committee meeting the urgent need for this Department and the Department of Health to partner on programmes to substance-use disorders. [Poor connectivity.]

The MEC must give us an update on the development on the Drug Master Plan aimed at combating and reducing the prevalence of substance-use disorders. What is the update regarding the establishment of Local Drug Action Committees and when will this be established in all municipalities and how will you fund them while cutting budgets? What we need is an additional Drug Rehabilitation Centre especially in working-class communities. Moreover, the EPWP and Youth Cafés are not enough to resolve the above youth challenges. We have raised in the Committee meeting that we need a Youth Development Strategy in the Province that will speak directly to these social pathologies affecting youth.

Member Kama made a seminar call to the MEC Marais during the deliberations on Vole 14, Cultural Affairs and Sport, which is the lead Department for coordinating of youth programmes in the Province. I reiterate the cause and the demand for a Youth Development Policy. If it is true that indeed a policy in this regard exists, then make a copy of such policy available.

Hon members, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on families, poverty and unemployment is not receiving the attention it deserves. The disease has left a number of children orphaned in the province.

There are a total of 28 child-headed households in the Department's database and there is no data on the number of child-headed households created by COVID-19. I call on the MEC and the Department to conduct further investigation on this.

In the face of the rising unemployment rate and the poverty level, this Budget does not make any additional allocation for humanitarian relief. The 2020 General Household Survey reported that 13% of children and 10% of the total population are living in the households reporting insufficient food. There is no doubt that this number has increased drastically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department needs to conduct its research to provide the latest data on the prevalence of child hunger and food poverty in the province.

In response to this, this Department's budget for humanitarian relief is a mere R58 million. Remember, member Mackenzie also complained about this in the Standing Committee meeting and was told that the additional R53 million for food relief, which the MEC claimed as her victory last year, was actually an allocation from the National Government.

This Government only has the R58 million to spend on Community Nutrition and Development Centres (CNDC) as well as on providing cooked meals to qualifying beneficiaries at 105 feeding sites across the province and 411 community kitchens. As already stated last week during the budget debate, this is not enough and will not bring sustainable solution for poverty. We must continue making calls for the accelerated implementation of the basic income.

I want to reiterate the call I made last week for this Provincial Government to consider increasing the number of funded CNDC in poor working-class communities. One CNDC for a large community like Stellenbosch, for instance, is not enough. There is a serious need to consider increasing this number of funded CNDCs. Moreover, hon MEC, a number of funded CNDCs operates on very small spaces and many are in need of infrastructure maintenance projects. Your Department must find means to make this possible.

The HOD Mr Robert McDonald rejected our calls out of hand and claimed that they do not have budget for humanitarian relief and additional CNDCs, and redirected us to the National Government.

Finance Minister Comrade Enoch Godongwana announced in his Budget that the Department of Social Development will receive the largest allocation of R58,6 billion over the medium term. This will go forward toward Project 4. This will go towards Project 4. ...pressed to initiate a new expanded Child Support Grant for double-orphans, this is to encourage the care of orphans within families rather than foster care. Secondly, to provide for inflationary increases to permanent social grants; thirdly, R44 billion is allocated for a 12-month extension of the R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant. Hon members, we must welcome this intervention by the National Government.

Deputy Speaker, I remain concerned by this Department's role in the hiding of Fritz's "sex for job scandal". Our questions regarding the number of Fritz' victims who are working for the Department are not fully answered. We have written to hon Plato requesting an urgent meeting to receive a detailed update from the HOD about what he knows about the Fritz scandal. We are yet to receive the data. Hon Mackenzie, whose constituency is in Mitchells Plain where the victims resided, must be given a chance to come clean about what he knows. We want the Fritz report to be made available to members.

This is an expanded investigation. Premier Winde must not treat it as his personal report. It is clear that the Premier is in contravention of Rule 73 on refusal to disclose information. [Interjection.]

It is shocking that there is no GBV policy in the Provincial Government. The budget for GBV is not enough. The Victim Empowerment Programme only has a budget of R67 million to design and implement integrated programmes and services to support care and empower victims of violence and crime, in particular women and children. This is simply not enough.

Deputy Speaker, while we welcome the commitment to provide specialised social work interventions to schoolgoing children and youth in the [Inaudible.] Risk Policy, presence in the Province, we want to remind the Department about our calls for placement of unemployed Social Work graduates in schools. There is a high demand for psychosocial support in schools. It is for this reason that we have called for the partnership between this Department and the Western Cape Educational Department to place the unemployment social work graduates in schools.

There are shortages of social workers in the Department. The official has explained that there is a shortfall of 147 social workers at coalface. This contributes to a high social-worker-to-population ratio." We are calling on the Department to create more employment opportunities for unemployed social workers graduates.

We remain alarmed by the high number of child deaths in the province. Over 1000 children died in the province in the past 12 months, including those who were murdered and those who died in accidents. This proves that Western Cape, especially the poor working-class communities, is not safe for children. A number of children fall victim to gangsterism. We need more programmes to protect children.

We welcome the Budget increase for the Child Care and Protection Programme but we are concerned with budget cuts for care and services to funding these programmes. The ongoing child murders clearly show that... [Interjection] we need to give the Children's Commissioner more funding and make it an independent entity. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need to stop, hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: We are shocked by the budget cuts for the programme service to older persons as well as services to persons with disabilities. [Interjection.] This is totally unacceptable and we will not support a budget that will weaken support to vulnerable persons.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, your time is up.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: I have told the MEC about the case of a person with disability who is facing eviction from an old-age home in Gugulethu. [Interjection.] We are calling for the MEC's urgent intervention on this matter. The ANC does not support this budget. I thank you. [Time expired.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we mute her please? Why has she not been able to be muted? All right. Can I find out why we are not able to do that, to mute, when I am asking? Please! Clearly the member cannot hear but I cannot have her take over for another 10 minutes. I am sorry, hon member, you have been muted. You were way over your time. Thank you very much, hon members. I will only do that if it really is that you are not listening or hearing me. I now recognize hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and thank you, Minister Fernandez and her Department for this Budget Vote. We in fact welcome the allocation for the 2022/2023 financial year as part of the *Budget to Push Forward*.

Hon members, hon Bakubaku-Vos made three very important statements actually, but she is directing it to the wrong people, and I am going to quote herself, so hon Bakubaku-Vos, via you, Deputy Speaker, I am quoting her. She said if you understand the realities you would not do budget cuts.

Her second statement is that Government – I presume she wanted to speak to her own political party – does not understand the impact of unemployment and COVID-19 and does not receive – I think she meant the impact or the attention it deserved and the statement, her third statement is on increased funding for social services.

Now we all wanted to do that. In fact, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to drive a Ferrari, but I cannot afford it. That is the reality of the matter, and she is not addressing the right people responsible for the situation that we find ourselves in at the moment. Minister Fernandez and her Department and the Western Cape Government have gone to extraordinary lengths to support all the organisations that rightfully so deserves funding, gender-based organisations, NGOs, many of our NGOs dealing with the social ills, including the millions of undocumented individuals that are in this country that this Department and this Government consistently in the Western Cape, like many other provinces, are trying to accommodate with social services, in hospitals in schools. That is what we are doing and the reason that we are sitting with this problem is because the party that she is a member in good standing of, including their bad partners, the GOOD party, has built a washing line instead of a proper border fence.

The reasons we are dealing with the social challenges, because our borders are porous. So with three very important statements, she needs to make in ANC branch meetings, even if it is only the three branches of the 116 that they have, that is where those statements should be addressed, and should be addressed in the National Assembly, the National Council of Provinces, so her statements are valid, but she is addressing the wrong people, because they are responsible for what we are sitting with, hon member.

Hon Ministers and hon members, we know the demand for social release has significantly increased over the last two years and it was this Western Cape Government and this Department that made available R53 million, if I remember correctly, under the last budget and this financial year, a further R25 million to strengthen food relief measures, including an additional R15 million, so she misunderstood my quote in the meeting or she did not properly read the page in the budget book and I am going to quote from that budget book:

“The Department further strengthens food relief measures to support...”

†Hulle het dit sterker gemaak, in Afrikaans. [They made it stronger, in Afrikaans.] I do not know what the Xhosa word is, but I am sure the hon member can Google it. So hon members, we strengthened, it means to make it stronger, not decrease. That is as far as I know, the Oxford definition would go. Hon member, we are sitting with a SASSA problem in this country. In fact, it was the hon Lindiwe Zulu, I think, who said the last time there is a corruption problem in her Department.

We now see that hon Bathabile Dlamini, who destroyed the Social Development Department, was found guilty and ironically on 1 April, on April Fools' Day she will be sentenced, but we are the fools. The poor are the fools on April Fools' Day, because she single-handedly destroyed Social Development SASSA in this country. It was her Social Development. Right now, if you go to Mitchells Plain, the people outside Social Development Offices stand in the rain to receive their social grants. The people outside post offices, they made no provision, the Department, that the April fool will receive on 1 April and make responsible for that, and despite, yes of course budget cuts take place, because of the National Government we have to find the best way in dealing with the province and interestingly, hon Bakubaku-Vos did not deal with a very important matter. If she goes to SASSA's website, she will see the Western Cape has 16 SASSA offices; the Northern Cape, 57, which one can understand the size of their province, but the Eastern Cape, the most corrupt province in the country, has also over 50 offices. I wonder what they do in those offices except for stealing – the words of my cousin, †“hulle gaan net werk toe om te steel in daai provinsie [they only go to work in that province to steal.]”

But in the Free State, one of the smallest provinces, we have 23 offices. If hon Bakubaku-Vos and the ANC really, really cared about social development, about gender-based violence, but all the issues they would like to talk about they should ask for consistency across the board. 16 offices versus 23, in our poor rural side of the Western Cape, it is a disgrace, and I am deplored at some of these statistics which the hon members in their inputs and via their colleagues in the NCOP or in the National Assembly, do not once raise.

Last year, we went on two oversight visits and I know the hon Bakubaku-Vos was very helpful and very good on those oversight visits, where we dealt with our senior citizens, our elder and our old age persons, and we welcome the support this Department has given to those members of our community who sadly many people do not take care of, hon Deputy Speaker, and I want to take this opportunity to ask that all of us, including members of this House, when we – if you know of people in the senior homes or the elder homes that we ask our community members, or cousins, our fathers and mothers, not to dump the individuals in these care homes. That is our collective responsibility, because it is sad to see that many of these individuals, their families, do not call them. Their families do not visit them that we really take care of us. So we do support this budget, hon Deputy Speaker.

It is tough times and it is not going to get easy when you sit with 47% unemployment caused by the National ANC Government, who sadly do not pay any attention to the unemployment crisis which is rife. It is a disaster.

That is another disaster and none of the policies that her party has implemented is dealing with their disaster. Cabinet members who waste money, Cabinet members who bizarrely tried to implement policies last year, in fact, the Social Development Minister, Minister Fernandez will respond to that 12 000 or some bizarre policy that they – they draconically where they had to withdraw after the middle class outraged about it. It was their ANC Cabinet and the ANC in the Western Cape, †tjoepstil, doodstil! [Silent, dead quiet!]

They say nothing on these critical policies that impact the Western Cape of which they are elected members of the Legislature for, so we fully support this budget and we call on all members to work with our Social Development Department, work with our communities, with all the scourge in our social ills in our communities to ensure that we can play a proactive part in helping this Department, given the terrible national governance ill policies and implications of this budget. We thank the Minister. We thank the Department and my colleagues. Let us support this Budget and work to make our communities better. I thank you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Okay. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The hunger and food security are some of the key challenges which continue to affect communities in the Western Cape. The recent figures from the General Household Survey Project that 17% of households in the province go to bed without food; this is very much concerning taking into account that such percentage does not take into account the homeless staying in the streets.

The Provincial Department of Social Development must provide more funding to NGOs that distribute food packages to those without food. The Department should also encourage the establishment of new NGOs in remote areas specifically, which it will fund to distribute food. Unemployment, Deputy Speaker, is also a major contributor to the hunger in our communities and the Department does not only assist people in getting food but must also assist them to access employment opportunities. Deputy Speaker, the Department should work with community leaders, social service personnel, and NGOs in order to identify and assist child-headed households. The Department needs to make a real intervention in this regard to make sure that children in these households get birth certificates; get registered for child support grants, enrolled for school and get adequate food assistance. Child-headed households, Deputy Speaker, remain vulnerable in our society and a big percentage of this budget must go towards their assistance.

Deputy Speaker, the Department must play a leading role to make sure that homeless people are removed from the streets and housed in decent shelters. They must be provided three meals a day and those struggling with substance addiction or abuse must also get medical social assistance. Deputy Speaker, this Department should also pay attention to the issue of crime related to GBV, unlike the Premier of the Western Cape and other Departments which do not want to accept the real impact of crime in the Western Cape. We have now recently had a case in Theewaterskloof of a councillor who has resigned because of the shenanigans that are happening in that municipality of a councillor who is not expelled yet. She has been implicated in the GBV matter.

At least this Department notes it as a real challenge with Western Cape demonstrating higher numbers of Gender Based Violence and sexual-related crimes when compared to other provinces in South Africa. This is a real challenge that must be tackled head-on and we must not be told that the Safety Plan is working whilst women and children continue to be sexually violated and abused in greater numbers on a daily basis.

This Department, Deputy Speaker, must work on measures that will prevent social ills. Shelters for women suffering from abuse must also be increased in order for every woman in this province to get assistance and care. The Department, Deputy Speaker, must also run an extensive programme which shows the youth the dangers of substance abuse as a prevention measure, and also assist those already battling with substance abuse. [Interjection.] On that note, Deputy Speaker, we are not supporting the Vote. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Deputy Speaker, Social Development has for the longest period of time proven to be the antidote to crime. In a country where crime happens at every turn of the corner, and especially in a province as unsafe as the Western Cape, it is greatly disappointing that the Western Cape Government has not positioned the Department of Social Development as a weapon with which to combat inequality and a direct intervention to decrease crime. The Department notes the importance of its function to provide a framework of social intervention. However, community driven action remains outside its area of focus.

We acknowledge that the pandemic hampered many development initiatives. However, this very Department has been struggling to adequately spread its budget priorities as it is operated in a stressed fiscal environment since before the COVID-19 outbreak.

The Provincial Department of Social Development celebrates the transfer of safe houses from the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure as a success story. Considering this Department's own shortcoming. It is quite disappointing that they are either unable or incapable to think outside the box when it comes to prioritising key interventions that can impact lives, fight inequality, and empower communities to take charge of their future.

In the 2022/23 Budget Address, MEC Maynier allocated an additional spend on Social Development of R136 million over the medium term. These funds will go far if MEC Fernandez should start considering inter-departmental programmes, especially with Community Safety for this Administration to get a holding grip on the escalating crime and community violence. Social Development can do a great deal more, and it requires those in charge to start applying their minds innovatively with the menial financial resources that they have. Thank you. Deputy Speaker.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

The wellbeing and social development of communities in the Western Cape is in a very, very big crisis. The Al Jama-ah believes that the Budget for 2022 is a far cry from the social needs of the poor and the needy and thus this budget will not address the social needs of the Western Cape. Shelters for abused women and children struggling to keep their doors open. There are still not enough psychologists and social workers to counsel school children.

Also, what plans are there to prevent children from begging at dangerous intersections on public roads? This has been happening for many, many years where young children are begging at robots during school hours and after school hours. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise hon member Plato.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hear-hear!

Mr D PLATO: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, hon Minister Fernandez. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise in support of the Provincial Budget for Vote 7. I welcome the allocation of almost R2,2 billion Rand for the Western Department of Social Development's 2022/2023 Budget.

This Department has a major role to play in the eradication of poverty, unemployment and other pervasive social ills such as gender-based violence within this province. This is a broad mandate, and one which we, as a Provincial Legislature, must make every effort to support because a strong Department of Social Development means a nurtured and guided youth, relief for the unemployed, food for the hungry and skills for the workers of tomorrow.

In fact, when one reads the Department's Annual Performance Plan and understands how much the Department has and seeks to impact the lives of the most vulnerable in the province, one can only applaud our Minister of Social Development, Sharna Fernandez and the team for a job well done. The simple fact is that the Western Cape Department of Social Development is functional and effective. We are proud of the work that the Provincial Department and its entities have achieved in the face of growing callousness and corruption by the National Department and its entities.

If there is less corruption it means there are more funds available that we do not cut budgets as the other members have indicated. That is where it is coming from. We can all see that the National Department of Social Development is on the brink of total collapse. Where have you heard, the Minister arrested and appear in Court for corruption activities and that sort of thing? In the absence of an effective ANC National Department, it has been the Provincial Government that stepped up in order to protect the dignity of the most vulnerable in society. I am sure that there are some in this House, who are itching to rebut the DA successes by highlighting the supposed successes of the African National Congress Government in terms of Social Development and Social Welfare for the vulnerable.

Speaker, there is nothing for them to boast about, especially not in relation to the following, and listen to this hon Deputy Speaker. The ANC Minister of Social Development, attempted to block NGOs and good Samaritans from providing food to the poor and vulnerable at the beginning of the lockdown, It took the DA and NGOs going to Court for this decision by Minister Lindiwe Zulu to be reversed.

While millions of poor South Africans were seeking relief from the meagre R350 Social Relief of Distress Grant, public service and police were unlawfully benefiting from this relief. When the poorest of the poor required SASSA's help during their most difficult time during the pandemic, their offices were running at minimal capacity even during those times the draconian state of disaster allowed for increased staff capacity and then I want to ask what hon Mackenzie has said hon Deputy Speaker, the long queues, people standing the whole night long. The other day I visited the office in Bellville. You cannot believe it, queues up to 500 / 600 metres long and that sort of thing and that is happening in South Africa and then we, the DA, gets criticised for not doing enough in Cape Town and in the Western Cape. But who is in charge of those offices and who is mistreating their own people? It is the ANC themselves, and we must face the brunt for that and that message the ANC must get.

During the lockdown, when our most vulnerable were seeking relief, disability grant recipients had to endure the indignity of long queues to renew their applications. These applicants were met with water cannons from the police supposedly at the behest of the National Minister of Social Development.

Deputy Speaker, in the vilest display of the ANC's disgrace the ANC National Cabinet spent R19 million on luxury cars. When millions of South Africans were desperate, had to stay behind closed doors during the hard lockdown without finding work, and when we could not go and say goodbye to our loved ones who passed from the pandemic, when the National Government and its Ministers showed disdain, this Provincial Government showed care and dignity and continues to do so going into this new financial year. The Department's projects over the last financial year focused on providing relief to the most vulnerable in our society.

[Inaudible.] on the Child Initiative Project will support our youth. The Youth Café Programmes provide skills for our teenagers and young adults. Our feeding projects provide vital food relief for the hungry and our partnerships with NPOs allow us to provide critical services to the physically and mentally disabled.

The comment about the Youth Cafés and Programmes and Projects and that sort of thing, I just want to remind the members it is not only this Department focusing on youth and youth interventions and projects. It is with other Departments exactly the same. We heard about it yesterday and the day before, education, sports, arts and culture and also some other departments, such apart from Social Development.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this Department's mandate is becoming even broader and this is it, and looking at the figures that are impacting our figures and people refuse to understand that, the in-streaming of people from other provinces could potentially increase and we see the increase already.

Looking at the last unemployment figures released by Stats SA a couple of days ago, in two provinces that are bordering the Western Cape, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, the unemployment figures have risen to well over 50%. In the Eastern Cape this figure is at 50,1% and actually in the Northern Cape 50,1% and in the Eastern Cape it stands at 53,2%.

Our residents in addition to underlying population growth mean that the Department has to serve and this is it, hon Deputy Speaker, more people with a budget that is constrained as a result of the National Government endemic looting and corruption, and we need to cater for all those people coming in. We do not say no for that and people refuse, members refuse to understand that hon Speaker, the budget needs to be stretched to cater for those people, to give them relief, to help them, to support them, and that is where our unemployment figure is also beginning to rise steadily in relation to people coming and seeking relief in the Western Cape. They cannot get it in their own province, because that is where the looting and corruption are taking place. They come and look for refuge and comfort in the Western Cape. That is what the facts are telling us.

Despite the budgetary limitations across the board, we are pleased by the continued commitment by the Department to support communities and that support, as the hon Minister has indicated in her speech that will continue. To address social ills and imbalances in the Western Cape communities is a mammoth task and a whole-of-society approach is required if we wish to overcome the present challenges in respect of the hardships our people are facing. The Department continues to support issues related to GBV and we support these measures. I am not going to say much more about that. I think the hon Minister was quite clear about GBV.

The Department addresses these issues with partners such as NPOs and other welfare organisations and even other State Departments. We duly recognise the major role played by NGOs and welfare organisations, with many of them operating under difficult circumstances. We thank the many NGOs that have and continue to partner with the Department in delivering services to our citizens.

Despite budgetary constraints brought on by the National Government we need to wage the war against poverty and other social ills. This Department is gaining momentum in making huge strides towards this objective and making impact where it most matters. This budget speaks to poverty alleviation and the eradication of GBV as well as addressing unemployment, women and children's issues and the reintegration of the homeless. GBV continues to be a key priority of the Department, and the Minister rightly said, the Department does everything possible to play a meaningful role in eradicating that problem with the stringent partnerships of our NGOs and whole-of-society approach.

Breaking the cycle of poverty and unemployment remains imperative. We welcome the Department's whole-of-society approach towards each of us playing our part in ensuring that the message of education, being the key to empowerment, is steadfastly implanted in the communities across the board.

Our people must get this message, we can overcome poverty, we can overcome hardships if we take certain steps and one of the critical steps to take is to make sure our children stay in school, hon Deputy Speaker, that they pass matric and then after matric not to go and work, that they attend a college, that they attend a university, that they obtain a form of a qualification that will open doors for them. As Nelson Mandela have rightly said a number of years ago, education and education will be the key to empowerment. I think that message stays true even years after his passing.

Deputy Speaker, we also acknowledge our social workers who have the enormous task of dealing with a variety of cases across the province. Deputy Speaker, while the continuation of the SRD Grant will go a long way in assisting the poor, the only way we can elevate our people from poverty is through creating conducive environments to shine, access opportunities, be entrepreneurial and create jobs. We especially welcome the increase of almost R10 million that is allocated to the protecting and nurturing of our youth. This funding will go a long way to ending cycles of poverty, unemployment and crime at their source, and in conclusion, finally, hon Deputy Speaker, the Budget of the Department of Social Development speaks to many pressing issues of our most vulnerable society and with programmes such as “I am the Child” and other initiatives, concentrating on the hungry, destitute, receiving the necessary assistance they require. It is with confidence and great confidence that we support this Budget Vote. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to thank all the members for their contribution to this very important debate today. I note that a lot of what I mentioned in my opening remarks has been repeated and the members are correct. Crime is on the increase, poverty is increasing, unemployment is increasing, but what has not happened is funding to the province has not increased based on the number of citizens living in this province. So we have not increased social workers, we have not increased teachers, we have not increased nurses and doctors, yet we are placed under immense pressure and I would like to believe that we have become the victims of our own success, because you see people coming from other provinces to come and enjoy the services in this province.

Allow me though, to preface my response to all the hon members and I also want to say, Deputy Speaker, it is inappropriate, in my opinion through you, for members to posit information here as fact, when it is not in fact, true. It is actually factually incorrect and I will alert you to the Stats SA GBV stats which will actually show where the highest numbers of gender based violence is. I have always been very clear that the Department of Social Development cannot or should not be politicised because hunger, gender-based violence, addiction does not know a colour. †Hy dra nie 'n *skipper* nie. Dit is nie geel of rooi of blou of groen nie. [He's not wearing a skipper. It is not yellow or red or blue or green.]

When people are hungry, we have a duty to serve them. When children are enslaved to addiction, we have a duty to serve them and so it is in this respect that I am going to respond in a manner that is unbecoming of me but I do believe that there are some real issues that need to be surfaced because we cannot be taking responsibility for a dysfunctional National Government.

It is imploding, they do not have a “send / receive” on their laptops, I have sent endless emails to SASSA. I do not even have the courtesy of a reply, not even an acknowledgement of receipt.

On the days of Minmec meetings, you get your agenda on the morning. It is a complete shambles. So I want to say that, despite all of this, this Department with just over 2500 staff have worked hard and relentlessly to keep themselves intact because the Department too have human beings who have been impacted by COVID. So I want to say that but, Deputy Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to mention the failure of SASSA, and as the hon Mackenzie mentioned, maybe the anger or the responses are misdirected, but SASSA has a duty in terms of the social services app to provide Social Relief of Distress, and what has happened, when COVID came along, SASSA no longer did school food parcels, school uniforms, starter kits for fires, they switch to SRD 350 and that was the solution to this problem. Well guess what happened? 13 million people applied and the system crashed and then my office became a call centre for the National SASSA. Do you know that a SASSA official from Namibia called the Western Cape to ask us to get in touch with SASSA. That is how bad it is.

When we talk about – the hon Mackenzie raised the number of SASSA offices, hon Deputy Speaker, I was in Khayelitsha last week. We have a shared service office which is owned by the Department of Social Development. Yet SASSA has taken over that entire office. It is a complete mess. The dignity and wellbeing of the beneficiaries waiting in that queue, there is just no regard, and again, I am going to be writing a letter and I trust that the Minister is going to respond.

It is unacceptable that in a province where we have the highest number of people with disability grants, you might remember last year I had to basically summon SASSA and thereafter we met them once a month, every Monday from 02:00 to 03:30, to help them work down that 52,000 disability grants because they had no plan on the first day that I met him, and unfortunately, SASSA has dropped the ball on the most vulnerable in this province. We talk about the draconian regulations that were implemented. Many of you will remember, we were told we could not buy chicken at Woolworths. We could not wear *plakkies*, all of the above, and then we heard about the ECD Sector or NPOs that could not serve hot food. The insanity of SAPS who should be assigned to taking care of crime, SAPS was going around acting on an imperative or a policy stance that was taken in KwaZulu Natal and went around to NPOs in this province to close NPOs from providing vulnerable hungry children with a hot meal of porridge every morning. It took civil society, hon Deputy Speaker, to step up and say, “Minister Fernandez, we support the view that you make, that children cannot be deprived of a hot meal”, whoever conjured up that regulation, but sadly, I think yesterday in the House we heard about the quality of our thinking, I think there is a need to improve the quality of our thinking. So we have the Stimulus Relief Fund, so I hear the hon member Bakubaku-Vos, and maybe I shall start from the top which is the easier way to go.

The hon Bakubaku-Vos talks about firstly, a Youth Development Strategy. The Youth Development Strategy is firmly vested in the dignity, in the wellbeing and dignity workstream and I think it is an important point and Premier has been trying to make – all the Ministers have been trying to make it but the Opposition refuses to see. We do not work in silos any longer.

I lead the dignity and wellbeing workstream together with Minister Schäfer, Minister Mbombo, Minister Marais, and Minister Meyer, because we take a cradle-to-the-grave approach. The first 1000 days is in Health, from Health the ECD and Schooling is with Minister Schäfer; Sports, Arts and Culture has a role to play with after school and Sports Arts and Culture is also the Department that leads the Youth Strategy because we now work transversally, but other departments feed into that Youth Strategy so I do need to emphasise that we have a safety workstream. DSD is part of the safety workstream because there are areas that are cross-cutting. We have a jobs and economic recovery workstream led by Minister Maynier. We are a part of that too so I would like to believe that this is the only province that has taken a different view rather than wallow in the mud of corruption that we are facing. I mean I have not switched on my TV for months. It is just gloom and doom, it is just theft and corruption. I mean, on an epic scale like we have never seen before.

We talk about Local Drug Action Committees. The plan, the draft plan is in the process. It will be in my office by mid-April.

The Western Cape Substance-Abuse Forum is very active. I attend their quarterly meetings where I can, but the Local Drug Action Committee resides in a Local Government space. So again, member Bakubaku-Vos, through the Chair to you, in the municipalities where DSD have signed memorandums of understanding and intent, Local Drug Action Committees have been established. It is in the dysfunctional municipalities where there are politics and coalition infighting that there is no regard for the rights of citizens. There is no Local Drug Action Committee. There is no Gender-based Forum. There is nothing going on. It is all about stealing money, who wears the chain and who is large and in charge and who controls an area or a precinct.

Child hunger is very real, yet it is not limited to this province. You might have seen in this morning's headline how many children have died in the Eastern Cape of poverty and malnutrition and it is sad. Any child that dies anywhere in the world is a child too many, but we also saw earlier in this week on eNCA that the KZN NPO sector has virtually collapsed, DSD have not maintained the support to them for the last six, seven years, and the system has actually crashed. So whilst there is this comparison and this bashing of what is happening, we are trying and we are almost acting in tandem with other provinces to provide them with the necessary support. They have no idea what the ECD stimulus payment is about, and remember, under Level 5 and 4, hon Deputy Speaker, 100,000 teachers, ECD teachers were placed out of work. They were mostly women. They were offered a Stimulus Relief Package. Well, guess what? The National Department of Social Development decided they would manage that process and they botched it completely. Of the R52 million that we got we only received seven batches and we have paid out just about half of that. They have now discovered that they cannot cope.

So guess what, it is now being pushed to provinces and provinces now need to run around to make sure that we can get that stimulus relief package to those vulnerable women who take care of our children.

So if we listen to understand to what is playing out here, we are all subjected to what is happening at DSD at a National level and I can tell you, without any blink, there is nothing happening there. There is a very limited understanding of what is happening on the ground, people's lived experiences and I am deeply concerned, there is a breakdown between National DSD and National Treasury and on the point of member August around celebrating houses, we were invited as the Department of Social Development Western Cape to attend a media briefing on 4 March 2020, I think it was, by Minister Zulu and Minister De Lille who had identified six properties that national owned in this province to be used for shelters. The counting province was also afforded six properties. Well guess what? The hon Herron, before the hon August came around, accused me of playing politics with gender-based violence, but in Minister De Lille's own Department, they were at odds with each other, sixes and sevens, so the memorandum was only signed in October, despite the big media launch in April, in March.

Despite all of that, together with only our Provincial Public Works and stakeholders and here the NPOs become very important. We got all six our houses up and running, functional by the 30th of June last year. Guess what the question in the National Assembly that was asked, what happened to the six safe houses in Gauteng? They were returned to National Public Works because DSD and National Public Works are at odds with each other and they still need to sort it out. So whilst member August says we celebrate, we have a lot to celebrate, because we have 26 functional shelters in this province with Saartjie Baartman being the biggest one in the country. We have 27 shelters for homeless people and if you do a comparative exercise, I would like to ask the members of the Opposition go and look what is happening in other provinces and then you can see that you can benchmark against the Western Cape.

The increase for CNDCs, I alerted member Bakubaku-Vos, I was in Genadendal, I was in Vredendal, I was in Murraysburg, I was in Klaarstroom, I see the poverty, but as a former banker having spent 30 years in banking, one needs to understand that you can only spend what you have, otherwise you are going to operate at a deficit and we are not allowed to operate overdrafts in Government despite the fact that some of the poorly run municipalities and National Government, Provincial Departments manage and run overdrafts. You can only work with the money that you have and to that end we have actually engaged, we started talking to NPOs in November last year already. Last Friday at 2:30 until 04:00 we met with at least 20 NPOs online and they agreed and they said: "Minister, with your support we are going to put something in place so that we can keep this sector afloat in this province because it is collapsing everywhere around the country."

The shortage of social workers is very real but as you would have heard that with the cuts we would need to prioritise. The Department, all the chief directors, regional directors have sat down and we are now sitting down as a team and saying where is the need the greatest.

However, hon Deputy Speaker, the number of informal settlements that have emerged over the last two years has made it increasingly difficult because in Social Development, if you understand it, areas are mapped out, NPOs work certain areas and Social Development work certain areas, and with this new development of informal settlements popping up, there is extra pressure on our social workers to go in and to serve.

So on the question, member Bakubaku-Vos, hunger and food insecurity is very real. I think last year, the R53 million we allocated, the additional money Local Government allocated was not to celebrate or to brag, it was a direct response to the inability of the National Government to deal with what was a crisis, which we had alerted them to, we raised the red flags. Similarly, with the homeless, under Level 4 and 5, there were regulations saying all homeless people had to be housed in facilities and that food would be provided through a national contract. Well, that national contract was a mere R50 million. And within four weeks it had run out. What were we to do as a Province? We could not sit back and watch our people suffer, we had to come up with a plan. So we did not do it to brag or celebrate, we did it to address the need that existed, and sadly, that regulation has resulted in what we see now on the streets in terms of homelessness, because it has come with many unintended consequences that we need to deal with.

In terms of child-headed households, we are working closely with all stakeholders. We have established, despite Home Affairs being completely dysfunctional, a good working relationship with key players there and they support the Department directly to assist us to get birth certificates for children so that we can get them in school. I also need to alert the members that there are not only Social Development social workers, there are Social Development workers in the Department of Health, in the Department of Education and in some other Department. So if there is an issue in schools, normally the school social workers, Department of Education social workers would be alerted.

If there is a need for a referral, the referral would come to DSD so I think that is also another area that we are going to deliberate on as to how we can improve our efficiencies in that area.

In terms of gender-based violence, I think it is important, if you look at – I think, I do not know if it was the hon August, but someone indicated that we have the highest rate so I just very quickly want to... I have it on my phone because I prepared and I did my homework for this engagement.

The Stats SA talks about “femicide Stats SA 2017, femicide rates across South African Provinces.” First is the Eastern Cape; second was the Northern Cape; Free State; KwaZulu Natal, it goes on and here, this is exactly. Let me tell you: the ever experienced of partner violence is the highest in the Eastern Cape for physical violence, while North West had the highest rates of sexual violence ever experienced, and on that list, it is the Eastern Cape, the North West Province, Mpumalanga, Free State and then the Western Cape.

†So dit is onderstebo gelees maar die boek is maar seker daar nou 'n probleem.
[So it was read upside down but the book is probably a problem there.]

It is my duty to alert this House to facts because it is easy to come and pedal misinformation. This is a public platform, members of the public are listening in and tuned in and we have a duty to be honourable and to speak the truth and nothing but the truth.

Hon Deputy Speaker, number three, the hon August, I have already dealt with the issue of the dysfunction that exists at the National Department of Public Works. I appreciate the fact that Minister De Lille made the effort to provide us with the six properties. However, the debacle in the Department left a lot to be desired.

Hon Brinkhuis, I agree completely with you. It is a crisis. I have raised the red flag. However, we are reliant on funding that comes from National and if there is a disconnect between the National Department of Social Development and National Treasury, we unfortunately bear the brunt. So social workers for school children, I have covered that, we have social workers in education, and they serve as a referral pathway.

Hon Plato, thank you for your inputs. I think that they were meaningful. They address the issue, but it would be remiss of me, Deputy Speaker, to say that we are facing challenging and tough times in the year ahead.

The ECD migration, the function shift happens on Friday, that cohort will be moved to Education. However, we have a statutory duty, there are certain pieces of work that the Department is compelled to do, in terms of the Children's Act, the Older Persons Act and I understand more than anyone else, the impact of substance abuse and gender-based violence, having personally experienced it. I think the issue of the Fritz scandal, I cannot comment at this stage, because I was not in that Department at that time. The Premier has led in terms of the responses, but I can assure you that if there is any woman or any man or anyone who feels the need to step forward and speak, then I think people should be afforded that. But I need to also alert this august House. I stand here as a survivor of gender-based violence and I said it once before, I only found my voice when the perpetrator died so please do spare a thought for those women, especially young women who are affected. It takes courage to stand up and to say, "Me too", and so I think we should not play politics, but understand the trauma and the secondary trauma that not only victims but perpetrators too experience and so we remain... [Interjection.]

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Deputy Speaker, Deputy Speaker, I had my hand up. I am not sure if you can allow me platform to speak to the Minister.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, do you have a point of order? I did not see your hand up. I see it now.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: My hand is up, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: It is not a point of order. I would like to know if the Minister can take a question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, no, I think I have overrun in terms of time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I will engage the hon member outside of this session.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: But I think it is important that we must acknowledge that gender-based violence is a scourge, however we have the Safety Plan and the area-based teams and I still do not think most of the members understand the concept. But I was part of the Swartland launch and DSD, SAPS, the NPA, everyone sits in that meeting. I was out in Klaarstroom on Monday evening. I was in Prince Albert yesterday at the request of SAPS to get the area based team up and running to address the issues of substance abuse, school dropouts, teenage pregnancy, crime, and-and-and, and I think it is a fundamental mind shift that needs to happen. It is not departmental any longer. It is a transversal whole-of-government approach and I also want to say it requires a whole-of-society approach and having sat in that chair, hon Deputy Speaker, for five years, I still maintain that the mudslinging that happens in this House does not benefit the citizens of this province.

What we should be talking to is how we are going to work together to improve the lived experiences of people in this province, but instead, what do we do? We do not alert the Minister or the Department. We wait for an opportunity to come into the House and grandstand as if it is meant to score brownie points and you know what that does to the electorate, they lose faith and trust in elected public servants because as far as they are concerned, we are perceived to be wasting their time and data and boosting our own agendas so I do want to ask members, let us think consciously about your contribution to any debate that you make and how you show up. Do you show up authentically in the interest of your constituents or do you show up wearing your jacket that is driven by the politics of the stomach? I thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 8 – Human Settlements)

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon Cabinet members present and also logged in virtually, members of the House present and logged in virtually, our Department's special guests, hon Deputy Speaker, for whom it is also their first time to be in the Legislature, so I do welcome them as well, but also our multitude of guests that are logged in via the innovative ways in which this Parliament has sought to reach the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, at various intervals in life, opportunities are presented to us. The question that would almost always accompany this opportunity is will you actually seize this opportunity?

This is a pertinent question, particularly from a human settlements perspective.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, hierdie is uiters belangrik, want uit 'n menslike nedersettings oogpunt word geleenthede gebied en geskep om individue en hul geliefdes se omstandighede daadwerklik en op 'n grootskaalse wyse te verander. Hetsy dit 'n tipe behuisingsgeleentheid is, hetsy dit 'n eienaarskapsgeleentheid is, of dalk 'n bemagtigingsgeleentheid – die eindresultaat is dat hierdie geleenthede drastiese verbetering teweegbring.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, this is extremely important, because from a human settlements point of view opportunities are offered and created to change individuals' circumstances actively and in a large-scale way. Whether it is a type of housing opportunity, whether it is an ownership opportunity, or perhaps an empowerment opportunity – the end result is that these opportunities bring about drastic improvement.]

So from the outset, I would like to make it known that the 2022/23 Human Settlements Budget of R2 414 805 000 is a budget with an opportunity for you. This means that just as in the past and more so moving forward, this budget's primary purpose is to ensure that the lives of our people are improved.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as a Department that is mandated with the delivery of human settlements, and this being integrated human settlements, I am pleased to inform this House that during the 2022/23 financial year, 11 210 housing opportunities will be delivered. This will consist of 2 747 sites and 8 463 top structures. †Dit beteken dat meer as 11 000 kwalifiserende begunstigdes die geleentheid gebied gaan word om in verbeterde en veiliger omstandighede, wat waardigheid teweegbring, te leef.

Die individue wie vir hierdie geleenthede geteiken word is bejaardes, en dis nou persone wat 60 jaar en ouer is; individue met 'n gesertifiseerde mediese ongeskiktheid; persone wat 15 jaar en langer op die behuisingswaglys is; agterplaas bewoners, wat uniek prioriteit is vir ons Wes-Kaap; huise waar kinders die hoof is, en ek moet benadruk hier wag ons vir die duidelikheid van ons die Nasionale Regering, wat 'n huishouding is wat deur 'n kind bestuur word, natuurlik militêre veterane.

Dis uiters belangrik om ook hier te noem dat ons slegs die agent is wat die militêre veterane se huise bou. Alle prosesse word deur die Nasionale Departement van Militêre Veterane afgehandel.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[It means that more than 11 000 qualifying beneficiaries will be offered the opportunity to live in improved and safer circumstances that bring about dignity.]

The individuals who are targeted for these opportunities are the aged, and that is now persons who are 60 years and older; individuals with certified medical disability; persons who for 15 years and longer have been on the housing waiting list; backyard dwellers, which is a unique priority for our Western Cape; houses where children are the head, and I must emphasise that here we are waiting for clarity from our National Government, which is a household managed by a child, and of course military veterans.

It is extremely important to also mention here that we are only the agent which builds the military veterans' houses. All processes are completed by the National Department of Military Veterans.]

It is vital to point out that as much as this is our criteria, it all starts with you being registered on the Housing Demand Database.

Over the last few days, the National Minister of Human Settlements, Minister Kubayi, announced various revised subsidy quantum as it pertains to both the Human Settlements Development Grant and the Informal Settlements Upgrade Partnership Grant. These will take effect on 1 April, and given the increases in these quantum, it will have an impact on our targets which will have to be adjusted downwards.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is important to point out that the majority of our projects are continued from previous years and the bulk capacity would have been taken into account when they were approved. Bulk infrastructure is one of the biggest challenges we face as it is an inhibiting factor when it comes to new projects.

Now as a forward-thinking and solution orientated Government, we view every challenge as an opportunity. It is for this reason that I am pleased to inform this House that the numbers will be increased in the wake of our advanced planning to unlock opportunity, as I will indicate here today.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the reality in the Western Cape is that there are currently approximately 568 000 residents on the Western Cape Housing Demand Database, who have expressed a need to be assisted by the State for a housing opportunity. I need to emphasise, for those that are logged in, a housing opportunity, not a house.

Given that the Western Cape has the highest employment rate of just under 70%, many of these residents would not qualify for a fully State-subsidised housing opportunity, as their household income would likely exceed the R3 500 threshold.

State assistance, however, is still required as many of these residents have a household income that ranges from R3 501 to R22 000. †Dit is waar bekostigbare behuising 'n kritieke rol speel, want die Wes-Kaap het 'n unieke uitdaging om op te los. [That is where affordable housing plays a critical role, because the Western Cape has a unique challenge to solve.] To address this unique challenge, we focus on two programmes, namely FLISP and Social Housing.

In terms of FLISP, hon Deputy Speaker, there has been a huge demand for FLISP in the Western Cape. In fact, 3 695 applications have been approved by my Department since April 2020 to date. This was against a target of 1 800 between the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years.

At this point, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr and Mrs John and Tamaryn Nortjé, a lovely couple who accessed the FLISP subsidy, received an amount of R49 000 and have been living in Forest Village since November 2021, and I would love to quote Mrs Nortjé in this. She said:

“We are really happy with our home. The subsidy has helped to significantly reduce our bond repayment. There is nothing better than not having to live in someone else’s backyard. If more people are able to access FLISP, we will have fewer backyard dwellers.”

†En baie dankie vir u *quote*.

[And thank you very much for your quote.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, for the 2022/23 financial year we aim to assist 1 478 people. It is for this reason that we welcome the policy amendments to the Financed Linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP), that has now been delinked. This means that it is no longer just a mortgage only option, but other sources of finance may be utilised to acquire a property and applicants with a household income of between R3 501 to R22 000 can access FLISP, or as it will now be called, “Help me buy a Home”.

Part of these options that can now be accessed via possible qualifying beneficiaries are:

- Firstly, housing loans that are granted or guaranteed via pension and provident fund.
- An unsecured housing loan from any registered lender.
- Housing loans granted or guaranteed by a cooperative or community-based savings scheme, or as we commonly like to call it “stokvels”.
- And lastly housing loans supported by employer-based schemes.

This is a significant shift and a game-changer for the affordable housing market. We regard this overhaul as a true victory for all citizens, but more so for residents of this province, as we have been advocating for these amendments for a very long time, and finally it is now a reality.

We have already experienced an influx of queries and applications, and for this reason we have streamlined our processes to ensure that no delays are experienced when we commence on 1 April.

†Oor die volgende paar dae sal daar verder uitgebrei word oor hoe FLISP in die Wes-Kaap toegepas gaan word, sodat daar duidelikheid is om al die onsekerheid wat dalk tans bestaan uit die weg te ruim. [Over the next few days we will expand further on how FLISP is going to be applied in the Western Cape, so that there is clarity to eliminate all the uncertainty that may currently exist.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am also pleased to announce to this House that civil engineering services on our Deferred Ownership Pilot Project in the non-Metro Cape Agulhas Municipal Area have been completed, and that construction is due to commence imminently.

Now for those hon members that might not be familiar with this project, this innovative initiative seeks to provide not only FLISP units to qualifying beneficiaries, but also to provide an opportunity for those beneficiaries who have fallen short of end user finance approval.

These beneficiaries will be provided an opportunity to take out an option for purchasing a house. Furthermore, the initiative will assist them to improve and rehabilitate their credit score and affordability rating, and this acquired proven property track record will enable them to obtain end user finance to purchase the property which they have been renting.

This is also the ideal moment to mention that we do not work in isolation, but believe in partnerships as the Department, as the development of beneficial partnerships remains a critical element for the acceleration of affordable housing. Partnerships with all major banks are in place and are in the process of being improved or revised. A number of other exciting partnerships are being pursued by the Department, all of which will assist the Department in the delivery of its goals and objectives going forward.

Now we move to social housing. †Agb Adjunkspeaker, in die Kaapse Metro het ons verskeie voorbeelde van suksesvolle sosiale behuisingsprojekte. Hierdie sluit onder meer in Anchorage in Glenhaven, Bellville; Regent Villas in Mitchells Plain; Bothasig, en die Maitland Mews waar konstruksie onlangs afgeskop het. Duisende inwoners het reeds of sal eersdaags toegang hê tot bekostigbare behuising.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, in the Cape Metro we have various examples of successful social housing projects. These include amongst others Anchorage in Glenhaven, Bellville; Regent Villas in Mitchells Plain; Bothasig, and the Maitland Mews where construction started recently. Thousands of residents already have or will soon have access to affordable housing.]

One such social housing beneficiary, who is with us today in the gallery today, is Mrs Badroeniesah Joubert who is visually impaired and was afforded [Applause.] – thank you – and was afforded an opportunity through the Anchorage Social Housing Project in Glenhaven in Bellville. I visited Ms Joubert at her home shortly after they moved in, and her words to me were, and once again, with her permission, I quote her:

“Minister, I am happy here. I chose Anchorage to assist me in becoming self-sustainable. The dream is owning my own home one day. This place is really comfortable and suited to my needs. We are ecstatic to live here in the Anchorage community.”

Over the next five years we will also see a number of further social housing opportunities in areas such as Woodstock, Salt River, Goodwood, Heideveld, Elsiesrivier, Mitchells Plain and potentially Oranjezicht. It is important to note that these opportunities are at various stages along the development pipeline.

I am happy to add that the first non-Metro Social Housing project, called "Mountain Ridge" in Dal Josafat, Paarl, has been approved by the Social Housing Regulatory Authority and will provide 362 new social housing units. Construction is planned to commence early in the 2022/2023 financial year.

Furthermore, there are a significant number of new projects in the pipeline in other non-Metro leader towns, such as Stellenbosch, George and Mossel Bay.

We also welcome the National Minister's announcement that the qualification criteria for household income have been amended, and the new bracket is now R1 850 to R22 000 gross monthly income. This will, amongst others, enable particularly young graduates and young couples, who could not previously access housing opportunities due to earning higher than the previously prescribed household income band, to access these opportunities.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, hierdie wysigings stel ons beslis in staat om baie meer persone, net soos mev Joubert wat vandag hier met ons is, ook by te staan. Gegewe dat bekostigbare behuisingsgeleentheid ons prioriteit is, sien ons daarna uit om die nuwe wysigings te implementeer.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, these amendments definitely enable us to also assist many more persons, just as with Mrs Joubert who is here with us today. Given that affordable housing opportunities are our priority, we are looking forward to implementing the new amendments.]

It has been quite unfortunate to note in the media though, that there are those who are criticising the various amendments to the policy and suggesting, believe it or not, that we are only assisting middle-income earners. It is prudent that we do not seek relevance by playing with people's lives and spewing misinformation. I would advise the critics to conduct some research and please let this be a substantive research sample before engaging in a debate where you are devoid of the facts.

Hon Deputy Speaker, informality is also a reality. The upgrading of our informal settlements continues to be a priority for us. In fact, we have identified 50 informal settlements for a variety of upgrade interventions through our ISUPG business plan. This is anchored in a transversal and provincial-wide informal settlement upgrading strategy to enhance, simplify and accelerate informal settlement upgrading interventions through an innovative, people-centred and partnership-based approach.

A critical point to make today, is that since 2016, Western Cape households have enjoyed the highest rate of access to services compared to the national average.

Our province currently has 958 informal settlements, with 527 of those falling within the City of Cape Town region. All of the remaining 431 settlements across the province have been assessed, categorised, ranked and prioritised per municipality via the Department's Informal Settlements Database.

We are particularly focused on incremental housing, and more so for residents in our informal settlements. This places us in a strategic position to eliminate the growing backlog for houses and for basic municipal services. Initially, hon Deputy Speaker, we conceptualised two options, and this has now increased to 4, which are being considered. One particular option that we are leaning towards, is the provision of a site that has a starter house with a 40 square metre frame structure for future extension. Not discounting any of the others three options, but at this stage we are of the view that this option will make a significant impact in the improvement of the living conditions of those who are residing in informal settlements.

But how does this starter house look, that we are conceptualising?

- A total area of 20 square metres will be under roof and enclosure.
- It will have a bathroom, which is enclosed, with toilet and provision on the concrete floorspace will be made for a shower.
- There will be a wash trough for multi-purpose use, obviously part of the concrete floor; and
- Hard standing floor finishes on the balance of the 40 square metres, and there is a ready-board also.

So just as with any of our other programmes, this new initiative will also have a set criteria.

Hon Deputy Speaker, today I am also pleased to have 62-year-old Ms Mirtle Verrooi with us. Hon Deputy Speaker, Ms Verrooi is visually impaired and wheelchair bound. Now in 2019, I do not know if the hon members can recall, she lived in horrendous conditions in an informal settlement in the Blue Downs area. It was broadly covered by various media houses, all for the wrong reasons obviously, and when I was informed of her need, I ensured that immediate action could be taken.

†Ja, daar was 'n paar uitdagings aangaande ID dokumente en 'n paar ander kwessies, maar ek wil vandag aan alle beamptes van my Departement wat verseker het dat mev Verrooi bygestaan kon word, baie, baie dankie sê. Mev Verrooi, baie dankie dat u ook vandag met ons kan wees.

Toe ons onlangs met die Nasionale en Adjunk-Nasionale Minister u woning besoek het, het u vir my vertel hoe lekker u voel en bly u is dat u uiteindelik veilig voel en dat u lewe sonder vrees.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Yes, there were some challenges regarding ID documents and a few other issues, but today I want to thank all officials of my Department who ensured that Mrs Verrooi could be assisted. Mrs Verrooi, thank you for being here with us today.

When we recently visited your house along with the National and Deputy National Minister, you told me how well you feel and pleased you are that you are eventually feeling safe and are living without fear.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, but also allow me to announce today that our Individual Subsidy applications will be opening on 1 April. Some of you might have noticed the communication that was issued yesterday, and I hope you do share it as far and wide as possible, hon members.

This subsidy is aimed at residents with a household income of between R0 and R3 500 and allows one to:

- Buy an existing house;
- Buy a house on a plot-and-plan basis, or
- To finish an incomplete house.

The subsidy amount is just over R200 000 and is paid not to the beneficiary, but to a seller, a conveyancer, a financier or contractor, depending on the case that you state on your application.

As there is a limited budget, assistance with this budget is only provided once a year and is allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis, and we are envisioning to assist 1,600 possible beneficiaries. Priority will be given to applicants who are elderly or have special needs, particularly people living with a medically certified disability. I would therefore like to encourage those who would like to apply, to urgently do so when we start on 1 April.

How this is also not assisting the poorest of the poor, only the uninformed so-called community activists and organisations that claim to represent communities would know. †Dit gaan 'n mens se verstand te bowe, agb Adjunkspeaker. [It boggles the mind, hon Deputy Speaker.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is a budget with an opportunity for you, but “for you” means ownership, which is a key driver of this Provincial Government, because we believe that ownership is true empowerment, and if there is one opportunity I refuse to miss, then it is the opportunity to assist our residents in becoming fully-fledged and legal home-owners of their properties. Sadly, this is a privilege that many of our people have never had in their lives.

†Agb Adjunkspeaker, dit is een van die redes waarom ek vandag vir mnr en mev Kooste van Louwville, Vredenburg, genooi het om deel te wees van hierdie verrigtinge. Toe ek verneem het dat hulle as 'n paartjie op Vredenburg alreeds meer as 50 jaar gewag op hul titelakte, het ek gesê daar moet so spoedig as moontlik 'n plan vir hierdie paartjie gemaak kan word, en op 15 April verlede jaar kon ons uiteindelik die oorhandiging doen, en ek sal nooit mev Kooste se woorde aan my vergeet nie, en ek moet sê, gegewe haar ouderdom, was sy ook baie hups op die dag toe sy hierdie woorde geuiter het, en ek haal haar aan:

“Vandag is ons ontsettend bly en dankbaar teenoor die Here dat Hy ons gespaar het om hierdie dag te sien en te ervaar.

Ons het nooit gedink dat die dag sal kom waar ons titelakte in ons hande sou hê nie, want die gewag het lank geduur. Vandag is ons trots en baie bly dat dit wel hier is. Hierdie beteken baie vir ons. Dis nou ons huis, ons grond en niemand kan dit van ons wegneem nie.”

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, it is one of the reasons why I today invited Mr and Mrs Kooste van Louwville, Vredenburg, to be part of these proceedings. When I heard that they as a couple in Vredenburg have already waited for more than 50 years for their title deed, I said we have to make a plan as soon as possible for this couple, and on 15 April last year we could finally do the handover, and I will never forget Mrs Kooste’s word to me, and I must say, given her age, she was also very sprightly on the day when she said these words, and I quote her:

“Today we are extremely pleased and grateful to the Lord that He spared us to still see and experience this day. We never thought that the day would come where we would have our title deed in our hands, because the waiting was long. Today we are proud and very pleased that it is indeed here. This means a lot to us. It is now our home, our land and no-one can take it away from us.”]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the difference we are making in people’s lives is tangible and lifelong. This is our continued commitment, as a Department, to the qualifying residents of the Western Cape.

For the 2022/23 financial year, our aim is to empower even more residents through the handing over of a title deed. Despite the National Government stopping the Title Deed Restoration Grant, we will continue to hand over title deeds. In fact, we will place this powerful document in the hands of no less than 10 150 qualifying beneficiaries during the new financial year, so that more residents can be empowered like the Koostes. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is part of the reason why this is a budget with an opportunity for you.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in taking it a step further and as part of being innovative, our officials are currently investigating which systems can be adopted and/or created to ensure that when beneficiaries receive their fully State-subsidised homes, they receive title deeds at the same time, and can I say there is one or two sites where this is already busy happening, proudly.

†Ons hou ons mense ten volle bemagtig en werk strategies daaraan om hierdie titelakte-plan ‘n werklikheid te maak. [We keep our people fully empowered and are working strategically to make this title deed plan a reality.]

Unlike the ANC and the EFF we are not in the business of seeking to disempower our people by taking their land away. We are empowering our people by giving them ownership. As challenged before, the members of these parties should voluntarily actually give up all of their property to the State, so that we can see what exemplary leadership looks like.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is common knowledge, particularly since I have mentioned it in this House before, that were it not for the Western Cape, where we have an expanded unemployment rate of 30,4%, our country's unemployment rate would today in all likelihood be out of control. The next best performing province is the ANC-led Free State where their expanded unemployment rate sits at 44,2%.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this year we are once again supporting the efforts of this Western Cape Government to get our people working. Through this budget, we will ensure that 1,000 jobs are facilitated within the build environment.

It does not stop there because we will make sure that a combined minimum of 50% of the infrastructure grants – in our case it is the HSDG and the new ISUPG grants – will be paid to HDI contractors. Their empowerment and support are of utmost importance, as it is a known fact that these entities help to ensure that our people are employed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this leads now to innovation, and in this province, when we identify opportunities that will assist in contributing to the overall well-being of our people, we seize it and immediately start initiating a process that ultimately leads to implementation. One of these initiatives is our Western Cape Asset Finance Reserve for Human Settlements. The Western Cape is the only province in the entire country to have such a fund. This is a fund that is not pocketed by friends, cronies and associates. No, the funds are reinvested so that residents of this province can benefit.

This reserve is self-funded from, amongst others, the selling of FLISP units or sites, and the selling of business or Government sites in our IRDP projects. All revenue collected in excess of the Department's revenue target is transferred to this fund to ensure that revenue derived from the investment of the HSDG grant, will be available for future capital investment in human settlement projects.

This Western Cape reserve has several applications:

- The money is used to improve the insufficient Municipal Infrastructure Grant allocations for municipalities.
- The money is used to assist municipalities to unlock the value of strategic assets, including land and buildings.
- The money is used for job creation initiatives, including developing business or industrial hubs and many other initiatives.
- And the money is used to provide co-funding to municipalities to access the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant funding where the condition is that the municipalities must co-fund from their own resources an amount equal to the grant and must only be utilised to unlock affordable housing opportunities, including building FLISP units to sell, and funding deferred ownership units where the sale will only take effect after a minimum of 2 years.

†Hierdie Wes-Kaapse Reserwefonds versterk munisipaliteite sodat hulle hul infrastruktuur kan ontwikkel en op 'n vlak kan kry waar meer inwoners veral toegang kan kry tot bekostigbare behuisingsgeleenthede.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[This Western Cape Reserve Fund strengthens the municipalities so that they can develop their infrastructure and get it on a level where more residents will get access to especially affordable housing opportunities.]

Last Friday the National Minister of Human Settlements addressed the media about some of the policy changes mentioned earlier. One of the items she mentioned were, and I quote her:

“Digitisation of the beneficiary list to make it more reliable, transparent, easily accessible and avoid fraud and corruption.”

This is commendable and a step towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, but once again, hon Deputy Speaker, it is a leaf taken out of the book of the Western Cape, as we have launched our WCG App in March 2020 already. This App ensures that our citizens can easily access information on Government housing assistance, and register for the first time, or update their details on the Housing Demand Database.

With our continued commitment to incorporate technology, we are in the process of developing a mobile reporting App to enhance the reporting process that enables officials to report in real-time from the field; to digitise contract management documents on the MyContent system; to allow for easy retrieval of documents such as agreements; and to improve the Western Cape Housing Demand Database to enable municipalities to effectively manage the registration of housing demand by citizens, and to enhance the executive dashboard that reports on projects currently.

In the 2022/23 financial year, the focus will be on enhancing the interaction with citizens, through digitising our Subsidy Application process with the focus on FLISP subsidies and the transfer of title deeds, as well as developing a Citizen Complaints System.

†Die begroting bied ons die geleentheid om baie meer effektief te wees en dit alles tot die voordeel van ons inwoners in die Wes-Kaap. [The Budget provides us the opportunity to be much more effective and all of that to the advantage of our residents in the Western Cape.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, as part of my conclusion, I would like to inform this House that after today I will be embarking on a roadshow to various districts and municipalities to present this budget, their allocations, as well as engaging them on some of the quantum amendments as announced by the National Minister.

The Western Cape Human Settlements and Infrastructure Team forms a transparent and engaging Department. We believe that we are stronger and better when we work together, particularly when we work with a critical partner such as a Local Government.

At this stage I would like to thank my acting HOD, Ms Phila Mayisela; my CFO, and the rest of the senior management team for their unwavering support and commitment to changing the lives of our people, but to also thank all staff in the Department for all the hard work and contributions that they are making to ensure that we are working effectively and efficiently.

I would also like to thank my Head of Ministry and my Ministry staff for the work which they also do to ensure that we stay on course to our road that we have envisioned when I became Minister in 2019.

And finally, and let me be clear, hon Deputy Speaker, with this budget we remain committed to accelerating human settlements delivery, while promoting social inclusion through the development of integrated, resilient, safe and sustainable human settlements in an open opportunity society, as we build the Western Cape of the future together for you. I thank you. [Applause.]

Mr A LILLI: Hon Deputy Speaker, at the height of the hard lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19, thousands of poor residents, including young people who were displaced from the apartments they rented, moved to establish new informal settlements in unoccupied land across many municipalities in the province.

This was in response to many job losses, which rendered many unable to keep up with the rising rental fees. Our people live in inhumane conditions due to poverty and high inequality. Those who were fortunate moved to the backyards in their family's homes. This is the state of human settlements in the Western Cape. These are the real lived experiences of the people. The dissidents or victims of forced removals of apartheid remain entrapped in the townships on the outskirts of the cities, as far away as possible from the places of opportunities.

The Department in its Annual Performance Plan has stated that the housing backlog is now more than 500 000. It has acknowledged it is a challenge to assist these people with housing opportunities. However, the Department has stated that due to the diminishing budget envelope, they have been forced to reprioritise the beneficiary selection criteria and reserve the subsidised houses only for the most vulnerable in society.

The focus will now be placed on:

- The elderly, 60 and above.
- People living with medical certified disabilities.
- Those 15 years and longer on the waiting list.
- Backyard dwellers, only for new Greenfield Projects; and
- Approved military veterans.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what about children-headed households? Why are they not prioritised? Another worrying factor is the project for backyard dwellers being only in Greenfield Projects. What about the backyard dwellers in Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Delft and Mitchells Plain? I am concerned with the statement the Department has made where it said, and I quote:

“The Western Cape is unique as approximately 70% of its citizens are employed. It is against this backdrop that we will be making a concerted effort in the 2022/23 financial year to focus our energies on the affordable housing market. The affordable housing market comprises of those individuals who earn too much to qualify for a fully subsidised house but earn too little to access a home loan or mortgage”.

This is a wrong diagnosis and exposes the direction the DA is taking with regards to human settlement provision. This same diagnosis has influenced the City of Cape Town’s draft Integrated Human Settlements Sector Plan. The DA and its municipalities are moving away from the non-financed linked subsidies. Housing delivery for the poor is no longer a priority for the DA.

As the ANC we demand the continued the focus of housing delivery for the poor in the Western Cape. This Department acknowledges that access to housing opportunities promotes safety, well-being and dignity for our residents. This is an important principle of human settlements as the opportunities we deliver have a great future impact on the communities we serve.

These communities should include the poor, especially those in informal settlements. In this respect, the ANC welcomes the nearly half a billion rand allocated by the National Government in the Informal Settlement Upgrade Partnership Grant for provinces. The Department and the MEC must tell us what the plans are to develop houses for the poor who are trapped in the temporary location areas, which have since become permanent settlements in the province. Despite the housing needs the budget for the administration programme has been decreased.

The budget for housing needs, research and planning has been decreased. The budget for Human Asset Management has been decreased. The ANC will not support these budget cuts. We welcome the budget increase for housing development, but it must go towards addressing the challenges identified above. The ANC is concerned that there is not a single mention of low-cost housing in the budget speech. The focus is now on social housing, and this shows that the DA does not care about the poor because it is the poor that need low-cost housing and not just housing sites. While there have been cuts to equitable share, other grants have ensured that there is actually an increase in the Human Settlements Budget.

So the DA must stop complaining about cuts from the National Government and start delivering integrated human settlements to our people. The budget worry for the ANC is that this budget does not mention a single word about the new Department for Infrastructure as announced by the Premier at his SOPA. Is the Department budgeting and planning going on as usual as in the previous year, or is it that the MEC and the Department called the Premier’s announcement a bluff?

The ANC does not support this budget. The ANC wants housing delivered in the inner city and near places of opportunities. The budget does not take this need seriously. The Conradie Better Living Model is not enough.

The ANC is shocked that the Provincial Government repeats the same mistake it did in Forest Village where it built new settlements with no provision for a public ordinary school. This is wrong and will not be supported by the ANC.

Human Settlements has a vital role in fighting gangsterism and violent crimes in communities. In the past financial year, the MEC bragged about building houses with stoeps to fight crime. This remains laughable. Our demand is for the Department to make investments towards improving accessible informal settlements and this Department invests towards improving lighting in the crime hotspot areas. The ANC rejects this budget. I thank you hon Deputy Speaker.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. It is quite interesting for the Minister to come here and mislead the House, making false claims that the DA Government is providing communities with title deeds. Who are these beneficiaries and when our people continue to be landless in this province?

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government's efforts to provide housing remain a disaster, with a housing backlog exceeding half a million, and not counting people staying in informal settlements who are yet to register for housing. The Department of Human Settlements in the province is failing and the Minister does not want to acknowledge that fact.

Every time when people occupy an open space for purposes of providing shelter for themselves, this Government wants to claim that they were going to build houses in that particular land, and now their plans have been stalled.

Each and every year this Department fails to utilise its budget fully and often ends up returning it to the Provincial Revenue Fund, or have it allocated to other departments.

Hon Deputy Speaker, since 2019 people outside Arcadia Place in Observatory have been residing outside on the pavement. These people have now established an informal settlement closer to the Main Road, which continues to grow. The Department should have acted on our call back in 2019 to find that community alternative accommodation after they were evicted from what was previously an old age home building.

People staying in Arcadia Place are formally backyard dwellers from townships such as Nyanga, Philippi and Khayelitsha, who could no longer afford rent due to unemployment and lack of opportunities to sustain their livelihoods.

The numbers, hon Deputy Speaker, have since increased as a result of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the area is now a fully-fledged informal settlement.

People of Dunoon, hon Deputy Speaker, and Kosovo have been promised to be relocated to less congested parcels of land since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We were told that they would be reallocated before the end of 2020. It is now 2022 and the Department is still scraping the surface and not sure about its next step.

If the provision of housing in the province continues to move at a snail's pace, people will continue to lose hope in the DA-led Government and continue to occupy open lands. The reason for the increase in informal settlements in this province, hon Deputy Speaker, is owed to the incapability of the Provincial Housing Department. The Department must speed up its processes of building houses for people.

The reason why others do not even apply is because they do not have hope that they will end up being provided a decent house under this Government and in this lifetime. So the solution is just to take the next unoccupied and available land. Due to these failures of the Department, hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF will not be in support of this Vote. Thank you.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Deputy Speaker, South Africa has a housing crisis. This is a fact. The Western Cape has a housing crisis and Cape Town has a *status quo* crisis. This Government has done everything in its power to ensure that the city remains inaccessible to citizens that would greatly benefit from low-cost inner-city housing.

In 2021, there was a housing backlog of 369 000 applications in the Metro and 225 000 applications outside the Metro. Hon Deputy Speaker, many opportunities were given to the Provincial Government to show the people of this province that they care about spatial integration, that they oppose apartheid spatial planning, and that they are working hard for the almost 600 000 people in the Western Cape to have a home.

As a reminder to this House, it is under this very DA Government that Cape Town has been named the most unequal city in the world, and it is this very Government who decides to further gentrify the city centre by pushing poor people of colour to the furthest ends of Cape Town. This Government decided to underspend R46 million of its 2019/20 Human Settlements Budget, and it is this Government who wilfully decides to maintain the order that Cape Town should remain uninhabitable to labourers, factory workers, artisans and craftsmen employed in the city.

The Premier stated in his 2021 SOPA that 1 000 low-cost units will be built across the province, and the current MEC for Housing confirmed that they are at various stages of development. Considering this, currently in George an entire development of State-built housing is standing vacant and the province has a worrisome backlog of title deeds.

The snail's pace that Human Settlements is taking in developing housing units is telling of its true intention to correct the housing ordeal of the past. I am asking this Government to prioritise the rollout of low-cost housing units on well-located land parcels in the city centre and expedite the building of affordable homes in the rest of the province.

We hope that the newly formed Infrastructure Department will see that 2022 ...[Interjection.] ushers in a change to priority when it comes to giving ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr S N AUGUST: ... people in the Western Cape a dignified home. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Time expired.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

The poor oversight by the Western Cape Government contributed to escalating the costs of a unit in District Six, worth R400 000 to R4 million. The Province's poor oversight allowed the construction of 107 units to be built on clay without proper foundations. It was based on this reason why the Kalam Construction, who built the first phase, refused to be considered to build the phases 2 and 3. There is no proper foundation, which means the structure may collapse in time to come.

The Department also failed to properly engage with claimants on phase 3, especially the elderly and those with special needs. These claimants must now use two staircases to the units. The victims of the Group Areas Act have waited for 20 years to return to District Six. This is worse than the demolition of homes and the forced removals. District Six was a hub of resistance, and the memorisation thereof is nowhere to be seen, which is also being hidden by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Al Jama-ah calls for the 40 hectares of land stolen to be confiscated without compensation, so the 60,000 residents forcibly removed from District Six can benefit from intergenerational wealth. Further developments in District Six should exclude white developers as they were in cahoots with the apartheid Government to declare District Six a white area.

We further note with concern that this budget does not address the urgent need for low-cost housing for the poor. This despite National Government's increase in grants for Human Settlements. We are, however, concerned about the Province's cut to the budget in municipalities ...[Interjection.] for housing projects. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Time expired.]

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, Cabinet Ministers, Leader of the Opposition, and hon members, and also, I would love to welcome the Department's guests to this budget debate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Minister Simmers presented to us a budget that gives hope to our communities, a budget that cares for our communities, a budget that gives safety, a budget for education, and a budget for dignity.

After he gave us a budget that represents all that, hon member Lili came in to debate. Hon member Lili, for us to really champion inequality there is no way that we can remove it from the corruption. The more we fight corruption, and if you can help us to fight corruption from National, then they can deal with inequality.

I know you love your oversight; you will definitely attend to that from your national colleagues, to make sure they really stop looting, so that we can attend to our oversight to fight inequality.

Now the housing backlog, hon member Lily Lili, again, we need finance that is in the pockets of your colleagues from National. Attend to that one again also.

The child-headed households, hon member Lili, you know it is one of our priorities in the Department of Human Settlements, and I am getting a little bit worried that as we talk to the Department, as we engage with them, it seems like you do not listen to the Department, as we again and again mention the priority list for the Department of Human Settlements, those who have to be prioritised for housing.

The backyard dwellers: Minister Simmers, when he took over from Minister Madikizela, the first change or addition to the priority list was the backyard dwellers. I am just surprised that hon member Lili now does not know that the backyard dwellers are one of the priorities for human settlements, but again it is free information that I will give to you, what the priorities are.

The informal settlements, I will attend to when I respond to hon member Makamba-Boya ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, just take your seat for a second. I see there is a hand up, please. Hon member Nkondlo, do you have a point of order? My apologies, I did not see that.

†UNksz N D NKONDLO: Sekela Somlomo, ndingathanda ukucela intoba umamelisise, uzame ukucela umama osesihlalweni othethayo ngoku, angathethi nqo kutata okanye ilungu lalendlu ilungu utata uAndile Lili, athethe naye edlula kuwe njengoSekela Somlomo, enkosi.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]

[Deputy Speaker, I would like you to listen very carefully and try to ask the member, not to speak directly to the Hon member Andile Lili, but to speak through you. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Secretary, I have no idea what the point of order was. It was too late for me to convert. So is it, just can I have a second please? Unfortunately, hon member, I did not have time to translate that as quickly as I did not have my translation on. Can I just clarify what that point of order was, and whether it was a point of order as a ruling? Hon member Maseko, can you assist me, please?

Ms L M MASEKO: Hon Deputy Speaker, she was raising a point of order that I must speak through you, of which she is right, I was ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, noted, thank you.

Ms L M MASEKO: I acknowledge that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon – no, please do not shout at me over the microphone. Hon member Nkondlo, I have received the translation that you have asked to speak into the microphone. I will ask hon member Maseko to do that. Thank you very much. You caught me off-guard there for a second. You may proceed, hon member.

The L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, through you. Hon Member Makamba-Botya mentioned the issue of the title deeds. The National Government stopped the grant for title deeds, and it is this Government that is going beyond that to make sure that there is an allocation for title deeds, because we do care about our communities in the Western Cape, and title deeds give dignity to our communities.

So we will continue, irrespective of the National Government that has cut that grant, although again they say they champion the needs of the poorest of the poor, as they mention it.

The issue of the land invasion campaign, through you, hon member Makamba-Botya, is an EFF ripple effect that is causing the backlog of about 600 000. The more the campaign of land invasion happens, the more we are going to have a backlog. So the hon member, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, cannot come here and say that we are not, as the Department of Human Settlements in Western Cape, fighting the backlog.

The more we do deliver, the more they create that demand and still we are performing more than any other province in this country. If what I am saying, hon Deputy Speaker, is not the truth, they need to mention which province is championing human settlements more than this province.

Now, hon member August, through you, hon Deputy Speaker. In 2019, during the elections, there were land invasions in Theewaterskloof. The Good Party went there to have meetings and there is a land invasion there where they now need services. That demand was created by the Good Party for votes.

Now again, that political weapon that is being used, that this Department or this Government does not give services when the demand is being created using housing. It has to stop if they want to see this Department eradicating the backlog of the housing.

Now they cannot come and grandstand here and say the backlog has not been reduced while they create that demand. Again, they create the demand, and you have the ANC that is looting the country and said this Department has to make sure that we eradicate the demand that they create. That is not going to be possible unless they take responsibility.

Now hon member Brinkhuis, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, District Six, is the mandate of the Department of Agricultural Land Reform and Restitution. It is not the mandate of the Department of Human Settlements. In fact, as the Standing Committee, we are giving a hand because they failed to build about 100 and something houses for more than 10 years. They are saying “we champion housing”.

Allocate a certain amount from the restitution grant so that those claimants can have the houses and give dignity to that community. Those houses that are being built on the clay are not from this Department. This Department does not do that. This is Western Cape. We champion what we say we are doing.

So you can, colleague, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, ask the question, maybe we will get the answer. Why did they build on top of clay, and if there is clay, we do oversight in this Parliament. We would have seen that there is clay, because where they build the houses, we go and visit.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, just take your seat. Hon member Makamba-Botya, what is your point of order?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Deputy Speaker, my point of order is I just want to find out if the hon member can give us information on the said agenda about what the DA has done, instead of responding to our statements. Now she is taking the role of [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Makamba-Botya, that is not a point of order. If you are asking whether the member will take a question, the member may answer that, but the member may not engage – over to you, hon member. Are you going to take a question from hon member Makamba-Botya?

Ms L M MASEKO: No, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No?

Ms L M MASEKO: We will attend the Standing Committee, we can engage there.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, but please take your seat. I see hon member August. What is your point of order?

Mr S N AUGUST: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Chairperson is misleading the House to say that Good has created this backlog by saying ...[Interjection.] that there were political meetings at this specific ...[Interjection.] place. I have no knowledge of it and she is misleading the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not the point of order. The hon member may continue. Thank you very much.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Let me say what this Department did and what is it that it is going to do. I rise confidently in support of the Human Settlements Budget Allocation of 2022/2023 of over R2,4 billion. The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements Budget Vote 8, represents a developmental process that is presented by two wide-ranging categories, namely the Human Settlement Programme Cycle, and Human Settlement Project Cycle. That is the programme and the project cycle.

This budget provides a synopsis of the challenges, intricacies and dilemmas identified in the human settlement ecosystem, and proceeds to present innovative recommendations on solutions for each of these.

It also contains the phases, steps and anticipated outcomes for the Strategic Plan and Human Settlements Annual Performance Plan, and lists the solutions related to each programme, which include improved efficiencies; liveable neighbourhoods; access to adequate housing, and empowerment opportunities for citizens in the Western Cape, and security of channels through home ownership.

Housing in South Africa continues to be a mammoth task and a great challenge. The last financial year saw the Provincial Department being challenged by two pandemics; that of COVID-19 and the ever-present corruption inherent in the ANC-run National Government. Hon Deputy Speaker, history directed that when we evaluate the human settlements demand on our beneficiary database, you will see it is mostly based on income statistics only, and the assumption from our municipalities that all qualifying households on the database within the qualifying income brackets are in need of housing.

The hope from municipalities is that the allocation for housing to their respective municipalities will increase, but the reality is that this is not possible. State-capture and the looting have caused this country over R250 billion, and with less than half of this money, we would have been able to eradicate the housing and title deeds backlogs in this province, but despite this, hon Deputy Speaker, the Department of Human Settlements has not only stood behind its goal of delivering on its mandate to the citizens of the Western Cape, but has also promoted jobs, safety and well-being for all.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when we build, the Department has empowered the building contractors. The Department has empowered historically disadvantaged individuals, women, youth contractors, as well as small, medium and micro enterprises through its projects. This highlights how the Department has ensured that every cent it spends goes towards the creation not only of housing, but of jobs as well.

The Department has also partnered with private and public sector partners to train young and unemployed people in skills relevant to the built environment. Hon Deputy Speaker, the vast majority of the Department's budget this year, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Lili, more than R2,2 billion will go towards the Housing Development Grant, but for the reasons I have outlined, this money will create jobs, also an education beyond its mandate.

When we build in the Western Cape, we do more than just build houses. We build communities. The Department of Transport and Public Works in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements, has developed the Better Living Model. The Model envisions entire new communities being built into the existing urban landscape, maximizing the use of land as they do so. These integrated mixed-use developments will not only include low-cost social housing, but also provide retail spaces, schools, hospitals and public parks, to name a few.

As a result of the model, the Western Cape Government will create not just housing, but entire communities built around shared economic and social spaces. We have not just imagined this, hon Deputy Speaker, we built it.

The Conradie Park Development, which in recent months has seen its first residents take ownership of their properties, currently contains 170 units of social housing; 570 more of these units will be completed this year, but the Conradie Park Development will be so much more than just a place for people to live in. Once it is completed, the development will contain affordable schools with space for more than 1,600 learners; a hospital, retail environments and community spaces to promote the local economy.

With projects such as this one, hon Deputy Speaker, we are building more than houses for those who need them. We are building homes that our citizens can own, cherish and take pride in.

The increases in funding in this budget will ensure that developments such as Conradie Park can be replicated on other sites across the province. These sites will lay the groundwork for new hubs of economic activity, transforming places such as Melkbosstrand, Stellenbosch and Worcester into centres of affordable housing, which promotes social cohesion as well as economic growth.

The new business districts which these areas create will lessen the influx of commuters in the Cape Town Metropolitan area, thus reducing travel costs for many citizens. With this budget, hon Deputy Speaker, we move one step closer to attaining these goals.

Over the coming year, the Department will also continue to make great strides to improve the delivery of housing to those who most need it. We know that solving the backlog of housing would cost over R100 billion; more money than the entirety of the Western Cape's equitable share, but by increasing the efficiency of our tools, the Department will be able to stretch its budget as far as possible and help the highest number of people.

Last year, the Department developed a mobile app to streamline its services to allow end users to easily access the Department's services. I look forward to seeing the ways in which this Department will continue to innovate and harness technology to improve its services.

This budget also allows the Department to continue to bridge the gap in home ownership for those citizens that earn too much to qualify for the Breaking New Ground Programme, but too little to buy a home outright. The FLISP programme subsidises the cost of housing for first-time owners and lowers the barrier for entry into the housing market.

The Provincial Department has been instrumental in pushing for the FLISP programme to broaden its criteria for beneficiaries so that more citizens can afford to become homeowners. I can now proudly say that we can now call this programme the Help Me Buy a House programme.

Therefore, unlocking affordable housing opportunities through the FLISP programme is incredibly important if we are to give beneficiaries any chance of owning their own home. FLISP gives first-time homeowners who earn between R3 501 and R22 000, and who have never received Government housing support, the capital injection that they need to make owning their own home a reality.

Of course, hon Deputy Speaker, there is always more to be done. We look forward to seeing the Department rise to the challenges of the coming financial year. We look forward to the upscaling of municipal councillors in the use of the Department's tools so that social housing can be allocated to groups that need it the most. We look forward to the clearing of the title deeds backlogs in municipalities across the Western Cape, and of course we look forward to the completion of developments such as Conradie Park, which will improve the well-being of so many of our communities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is vital that we in the Provincial Parliament always push for innovative ways to react to the needs of housing in our communities, and to devise sustainable solutions to service delivery challenges. It is vital that we do this because we know that the pathetic ANC-led National Government cannot or will not help. This DA-led Provincial Government has to be innovative enough to give hope to all South Africans.

I applaud the Western Cape Government for this Budget Vote and Minister Simmers, as well as this Department, for their creativity as trendsetters in overcoming the incompetence of National Government for the betterment of the Western Cape and its communities.

In November, the Standing Committee on Human Settlements heard directly from the District Six claimants who had already spent so much of their lives dispossessed of their land, and now found themselves waiting longer still for housing as a result of the incompetency of the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.

Just imagine, hon Deputy Speaker, what could be done if the National Government was as passionate about solving the housing problem in this country as this Provincial Department is? Yes, we need to acknowledge the challenges: the challenges of land invasion, queue jumping and shack farming. We need to acknowledge the challenges of intimidation to the extent of shooting at some of the project sites; the community dynamics – just to name a few of the challenges that are going to need a whole of society approach to eradicate the criminal element in all this, but the DA-led Western Cape Government has planned for the future.

With this budget and together, hon Deputy Speaker, we will push forward to build innovative ways to improve services to our citizens. We will build communities that are free from the legacy of apartheid spatial planning. We will build affordable, sustainable housing, and with that housing we will build resilient, resident-led and engaged communities that will persist for years to come.

We will build a province that delivers quality housing to all. We will build this because our citizens have already waited too long. We will build because the National Government will not.

An HON MEMBER: Sjö!

Ms L M MASEKO: We also need to look beyond just Government. This is why the Western Cape is partnering with the private sector and creating policy solutions that will see affordable housing opportunities in and near economic hubs.

The Provincial Inclusionary Housing Policy Framework, the first of its kind for any province, is currently being finalised by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning and will ensure that mixed housing developments become part of the fabric of the Western Cape spatial planning, but Deputy Speaker, things are continuing to fall apart at a National Government level.

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, our national landlord, has admitted that at least 1 300 of its own properties have been invaded and only by January would they have finalised a contract for the issuing of evictions. This means that after the contract has been awarded, only then that eviction notices can be processed. Did that happen? Your guess is as good as mine.

With this budget, hon Deputy Speaker, 11 210 housing opportunities will be delivered. 50% of the Human Settlements Development Grant will be awarded to contractors in targeted groups. 1 000 jobs will be facilitated. 50 informal settlements will be provided with interim engineering services, and some will be upgraded to phase 3. 700 houses will be built using sustainable building technologies, and 10 150 title deeds that will give dignity to our deserving beneficiaries, will be handed over.

In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, we recognise that there are no simple answers to complex questions, and there are no quick fixes to long-term systematic problems. Housing in South Africa will continue to be a mammoth task and a great challenge, which is why I say again every department and every sphere of Government must play its role, protect this land and support the dignity of our people while looking beyond our walls to the rest of the society to find innovative ways to give residents every opportunity possible.

I want to thank Minister Simmers, the acting HOD, Mayisela, and the Department of Human Settlements, for always being available as we engage with them in the Committee when we ask those difficult questions on behalf of our constituencies. This financial year will not be different, and the engagements will continue. My appreciation to acting HOD, Phila Mayisela; CFO, Francois de Wet; the senior management, and the Department at large.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA supports Vote 8, I thank you. [Applause.]

†Die MINISTER VAN MENSLIKE NEDERSETTINGS: Agb Adjunkspeaker, eerstens moet ek vir u sê toe ek nou die lede se insette geluister het, en dis bitterlik baie weinig dat ek die Bybel aanhaal in hierdie Huis, dat ek vir u benadruk vandag, het ek gedink aan Hosea 4 vers 6 wat sê, en ek gaan dit vir u lees, die Afrikaanse vertaling, 1953:

“My volk gaan ten gronde weens ’n gebrek aan kennis omdat hulle die kennis verwerp het.”

En u gaan nou verstaan hoekom ek hierdie Bybel teksvers gekies het.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, firstly I have to say to you when I now listened to the members' input, and it is very seldom that I quote the Bible in this House, that I emphasise to you today, I thought of the Book of Hosea 4, verse 6 which says, and I am going to read it to you, the Afrikaans translation:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as my Priests.”

And you are now going to understand why I chose this Bible text verse.]

Listening to the members' inputs and statements as part of their speech, I was actually wondering: we provide so much information through the Standing Committee, obviously for those that attend the Standing Committee, but it seems that all this knowledge is lost once we start engaging each other in this House.

So, I would like to thank hon member Maseko firstly as the Chairperson for seeking to put the spotlight on certain issues that were raised, but also responding to it effectively and efficiently, and really I want to thank hon member Maseko for indicating that as part of the undertone of a budget for you, it speaks to hope, it speaks to care, safety and dignity. So, I really want to thank hon member Maseko, which is something clearly that the Opposition parties in this Legislature are totally missing, †want my volk gaan ten gronde weens 'n gebrek aan kennis wat hulle verwerp het, agb Adjunkspeaker [my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge that they have rejected, hon Deputy Speaker.]

So now let me focus on some of the key aspects touched on by members. To hon member Lili, I really wonder if, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, if he has actually read our mid-term delivery report that was issued last year. I really, really wonder. [Interjections.] †Maar dis nie vir my om te beantwoord nie, dis nie my party nie. [But it is not for me to answer, it is not my party.]

The hon member correctly states the impact of COVID-19 and the fact that people who could not afford to pay rent, that were living in backyards in areas like Khayelitsha, ultimately were pushed out and they had to seek another way to ensure that they had a roof over their heads, but there is something the hon member actually fails to touch on, when he actually does attend Standing Committee, hon Deputy Speaker.

When COVID-19 started under lockdown alert level 5 – we have the Rental Housing Tribunal and we issued not one, not two, but three statements, stating that no individual must be or can be evicted in the formal sector and the informal sector, but I think just like we saw today earlier on, perhaps, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, †die selfoon opvangs was baie swak daai dag. Die agb lid is nie bewus daarvan nie; kom ons vergewe hom daarvoor [the cell phone reception was very poor that day. The hon member is not aware of that; let us forgive him for that.]

But secondly, and this links into yesterday's debate, when the hon member of the EFF, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, said, and I believe he must still refer to Hansard, that:

“It is not only the EFF, but also the ANC that encouraged people to invade land.”

So how can the hon member today in this budget bemoan the status of human settlements, bemoan the fact of new informal settlements, but his party, and him indirectly, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, are the drivers of these new informal settlements?

†Dit is darem nou wragtag darem waar. Jy kyk nie elke oggend in die spieël nie. [That is now really true. You do not look in the mirror every morning.]

Then the member goes further. I am going to expand on this. Yes, when we talk about backyarders, we are aware of these informal areas, but through you, hon Deputy Speaker, and to our public that are listening, not every person in the backyard will ever qualify for a full state-subsidised house because, my question is, how many of them are actually on the Housing Demand Database? How many of them do not earn more than R3 500? That is something the hon member Lili seems to miss when he seeks to bring his point across. [Interjections.]

Furthermore, hon member Lili, through you, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you can just take your seat. Hon member Lili, what is your point of order?

Mr A LILI: Hon Deputy Speaker, no, all I wanted to ask, hon Deputy Speaker, is whether the MEC would take questions?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Lili, is it a point of order or not? [Interjections.] Then I cannot actually take your comments [Inaudible.]

Mr A LILI: No, it is a clarity on whether he willing to answer a question after his speech?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You asked the Minister a question, hon member Lili. If you can just repeat the question – oh, no, let me first find out if the Minister is going to answer your question. Minister, are you willing to take a question?

†Die MINISTER VAN MENSLIKE NEDERSETTINGS: Agb Adjunkspeaker, die agb lid moet die Staande Komitee bywoon.

[The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member should attend the Standing Committee.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, no, technically the answer is no. So unfortunately – the Minister can continue now and thank you.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Ek gaan weer herhaal, want dis een van daai verskietende ster oomblikke van die agb lid waarna [Onduidelik.] ek in [Onhoorbaar] verwys het.

“My volk gaan ten gronde weens ’n gebrek aan kennis, want hulle verwerp dit.”

Nou hierdie is nou weereens ’n voorbeeld van waar jy kennis verwerp, dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[I am going to repeat, because it is one of those shooting star moments of the hon member to which I referred to in [Inaudible].]

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you as my Priests.”

Now this again is an example of where you reject knowledge, hon Deputy Speaker.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, furthermore, the hon member, like so many other of the Opposition members, questions what our plan is. If they actually listen to the speech, we unpack the monetary value, what we will be seeking to accomplish, and within the Standing Committee, when we unpack the entire budget – where the hon member Lili arrived 45 minutes late, hon Deputy Speaker, so once again poor reception – we unpack each and every line item; how we are going to spend this budget.

Perhaps the member needs to sensitise himself, hon Deputy Speaker, with his party member that was actually present, to what was discussed at that Budget Vote. [Interjection.] Hon Deputy Speaker, then I move now to the EFF ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Take your seat. Hon member Sayed, what is your point of order? Hon members, order please!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Chair, on a point of order. Can the interim Provincial Leader of the DA in the Western Cape stick to the topic? I do not think hon member Lili’s attendance is relevant, hon Deputy Speaker. Stick to the topic, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think in terms of Rule 40, relevancy is there on 99,9% of the Minister's response. That 0,01%, Minister, but ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... thank you very much, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: ... tongue in cheek, I hope the ANC's ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

The HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: ... three valid branches just saw their future provincially speaking, so they can vote for him.

An HON MEMBER: Minister of Title Deeds! Minister of Title Deeds!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Okay, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Now I move to the EFF. Yes, the member touches on certain points, but, hon Deputy Speaker, how can you for three years get the same information wrong?

†Ek sidder om te dink, ek kan myself nie beantwoord hier nie. [I shudder to think that I cannot answer myself here.]

Every time I have to stand up and explain. For the last five years and more this Provincial Department has, it has not spent a hundred percent, it even exceeded its budget, but the hon member keeps on persisting, hon Deputy Speaker, that we give money back. †Dalk is hy op die verkeerde WhatsApp groep, ek weet nie. [Perhaps he is on the wrong WhatsApp, I do not know.] Because I think the hon member is confusing the HSDG Grant and the USDG Grant, which I have been explaining for the last three years. [Interjections.]

But, hon Deputy Speaker, through you, once again let us encourage the member to actually attend a Human Settlements Standing Committee to understand what we deal with.

The hon member also makes, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, mention of certain individuals that have been evicted and once again last year, I am going to give the same response as I did last year. The first port of call is to get to the local government to deal with the matter. I am not the Super Minister, I am not Superman, I cannot fly in the blue cape in this case and rescue the people. I respect the rule of law, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.] and I respect the Rules of this House.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Deputy Speaker?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon member Makamba-Botya, what is your point of order?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Deputy Speaker, can the Minister be constructive in his responses to our statements and stop being personal? This is not a personal attack; this is a matter of urgency because we are talking about the lives of people who are landless here.

He must stop talking about being a Superman. He is not a Superman. We are not talking to him directly; we are talking about the services that he must render in the Western Cape Province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, thank you very much. I doubt that that is a point of order, but I will watch if the Minister is breaching on one of the Rules around being personal, or a personal attack. I will listen carefully, but I do see that there is a hand up from hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Deputy Speaker, can you maybe ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot hear?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... urge the DA leadership and the EFF to engage outside. As they engaged in Knysna, to come together there, they can speak offline ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... so they do not, ja, so they do not delay us.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC] ... because we want to start at 1:30 with the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I would really like the Minister to be able to conclude his debate. I know there are a lot of guests in the House that have been sitting patiently as he continues to talk. Minister, over to you.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: No, indeed, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I note the hon GOOD member, through you, hon member August, referring to spatial integration and so forth, but the last time I checked the hon member of Good was a City of Cape Town councillor. He was the Chief Whip of Council at some stage.

So let us talk about spatial integration when you had the time, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to do it when you were a Local Government member. I really hope that you will now talk to members who are currently there in that Council, to assist you in that regard because I cannot.

Furthermore, and this is linked to what hon member Maseko also touched on, is the issue of invasion, and a specific area of Knoflokskraal which is a burning point for TWK, I must say, hon Deputy Speaker. But there are news articles, video clips, Facebook postings, of the hon member's National Leader, with the member's National Secretary General, engaging the people of Knoflokskraal, and to put the cherry on top, one of the key drivers of those invasions, hon Deputy Speaker, is today a council member of Theewaterskloof Municipality.

I am not saying it, go to the newspapers, go to Facebook, see the clips. If the hon member disputes that, then we can gladly provide him with information, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, but these are the facts which hon member Maseko was touching on.

But in conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, a lot of what my Department does, 60% is dependent on our partners at Local Government. If Local Government does not function well, if councils are not stable, key decisions cannot be made, and certain projects cannot be implemented, and councillors cannot exercise their oversight role.

You would have noticed, hon Deputy Speaker and members of the House, that I started aggressively focusing on the illegal sales of BNG units. As ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you will have to take your seat for a second. Hon member August, what is your point of order?

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Deputy Speaker, a point of clarity actually. Will the Minister take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there cannot be a point of clarity. So I cannot have you discuss the Minister's closing remarks, hon member August. Thank you. You can engage with the Minister afterwards; I am sure that he will engage with you. Thank you very much. Over to you, Minister.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Like I said, with aggressive focus on illegal sales of BNG units. Yes, my Department and I have a role to play, but the National Housing Act also prescribes the role of Local Government, and when a council is unstable and councillors fail to execute their oversight role, we are seeing a rapid increase of the illegal sale of BNG units, and I need to emphasize and I call on this House, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to support me, to encourage people not to sell their BNG units.

Once you have a title deed, there is a pre-emptive clause, that even prohibits you then to sell a house, but when you are selling a house without having a title deed, you are actually committing a crime. It is a civil crime, and it is a commercial crime.

At the moment, hon Deputy Speaker, I am awaiting a legal opinion hopefully by tomorrow from the State Attorney, because I now will seek to take back what belongs to the State, to teach those beneficiaries a lesson if they are even considering selling these houses.

What you are getting many people died for. Many people are not able to get that housing opportunity because you were afforded the opportunity. How dare you sell that house? How dare you? Today I invited a lot of our beneficiaries whose lives this Government has changed. How dare you prevent somebody else from taking an opportunity?

So, hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion. I would love to leave you with a quote from Theodore Roosevelt, Teddy Roosevelt, because this actually amplifies the message I want to leave here to our hon members, and it is the “Man in the Arena”:

“It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how strong men stumble, or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs, who comes short again and again, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

So let us stop pointing out what we are doing wrong, assist us and improve what we are doing right. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

[Debate concluded.]

[Business of the House suspended at 13:00 and resumed at 13:30.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 5 – Education)

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. Premier, in absentia, members of the Provincial Cabinet, members, and guests. For the last number of years, I have been in the unfortunate position of having to begin my Budget speech by outlining the harsh reality that the WCED faces, in terms of delivering quality education to an ever-increasing number of learners, with a decreasing amount of money in real terms. This House is well aware of the many challenges we face, and some have become rather disenchanted with my constant refrain about lack of money. So for them this year, they can relax, because I am very happy to be able to report that this year, we have been allocated additional funding that is significant enough to make a real difference, to help us come up for a bit of air, whilst we deal with the extreme pressures our Department faces, and that enables us to cautiously breathe a very but probably a temporary sigh of relief.

Our total budget for the 2022/23 financial year is R28,03 billion, a pleasing R2,2 billion more than that we received last year. Considering the backlogs we face and the increasing demands, it is clear why it is needed and whilst we are very pleased with it, we must not expect that this will solve all our problems that we face. A system with 1,1 million learners, nearly 42 000 staff members and a lot of infrastructure needs a lot of money to keep things running and we have been cutting into the bone for some time now. The bone needs to recover before it can grow again.

Our finance team has been working closely with the Provincial Treasury over the last few months, and I would like to thank both teams for the work that they have done, to get us to the point where an additional R7,91 billion has been allocated to our Department over the MTEF, with R2,65 billion of this funding added in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Budget tabled here today allocates R2,55 billion to infrastructure in the 2022/23 financial year, which is a significant increase on the previous R1,72 billion target spend for 2021/22. Over the MTEF, spending on this priority will amount to R7,04 billion. This will allow us to put projects that had to be suspended by budget cuts back on the table, like the establishment of a high school in Darling.

It is going to take some doing to spend R2,55 billion, but as Mr Salie Abrahams, nodding happily in the box over there, our DDG Education Planning says: "It is a nice problem to have!" Planning has already started to ensure that we maximise this opportunity, but crucial to our ability to do this will be the scrapping of PTI 16b, which compels us to use DTPW as our sole implementing agent. We must have more control over smaller infrastructure works for schools, to avoid scenarios where we have a 46-week lead time for a mobile classroom that is urgently needed, for example. Minister Maynier mentioned this in his budget speech, and I would urge that this happen now with some speed, or there is very likely to be underspending at the end of this financial year, no matter how many reports are sent to the Standing Committee.

Minister Mitchell mentioned yesterday the issues that he has highlighted as risks of this move. I thank him for that, and we look forward to taking up the challenge. We are not saying that we can or want to take over all infrastructure, Public Works will remain an important partner, but more flexibility is essential and long overdue.

Crucial to our operations are people. Whilst much is said about reducing the cost of CoE in Government, with which we agree in principle, this Department is not one which can, or should, contribute to that reduction. Without people – and no, computers cannot replace teachers – we cannot deliver education. So I am very pleased that some of our additional funding will enable us, firstly, to add an extra 329 public service posts, to reduce the administrative burdens that our schools face.

We are all very aware of the overcrowding we are facing in many of our schools as well. The additional budget will also allow us to make some progress in reducing the teacher–learner ratio, by the appointment of additional teachers. Whilst the actual number is subject to the consultation process with the unions later this year, we are very hopeful that we will be able to add over 1 000 extra posts to the basket. [Applause.]

Yes, thank you. We will also focus on the phasing in, of the appointment of fully qualified Grade R teachers, with increasing pressure on schools to provide for this grade. Full universalisation should have been achieved by 2019, and we expect the eventual inclusion of this grade in compulsory schooling after the passing of the BELA Bill.

Additional support for our schools will be the implementation of the third phase of the Basic Education Employment Initiative (BEEI), which will be implemented from 1 April to 30 September this year. R533,91 million will be spent in the 2022/23 financial year to fund the employment of assistants in our schools, in support of our school staff, to deliver quality education. These assistants have been well-received in our schools, so the stop-start nature of the project as the result of delays in confirmation of National Treasury funding is frustrating, to say the least.

Speaker, the current state of the economy has hit our schools hard, including our fee-charging schools where parents have lost jobs and income, and are struggling to pay fees.

As announced during the mid-term budget debate last year, we made allocations to assist our schools with expenses such as COVID-19 prevention materials, municipal bills, and ICT infrastructure. But there is an underlying concern that we have consistently been highlighting since I was appointed in 2014, the Quintile System, which influences the funding of schools based on an outdated policy that is supposed to reflect the poverty of the learners but bears no resemblance to the reality on the ground.

Speaker, I am pleased that the members of this House, especially my Opposition colleagues, are in agreement that we need to relook at this system, because it is prejudicing our poor schools. I am therefore pleased to announce that because of our additional allocation, we shall be offering to 160 fee-paying schools catering for learners from disadvantaged communities, the opportunity to become no-fee schools from 1 January 2023, in recognition of their true socio-economic status. This shows the commitment of the Western Cape Government and the WCED to our poorer communities.

Speaker, as I have recently publicised, we were all disappointed, but not surprised, to discover the full extent of the learning losses that the children of our province have experienced owing to the pandemic. The 2021 systemic tests revealed a substantial reversal of the gains we have made over many years. These losses were most evident in the Foundation Phase, where daily attendance is critical to ensure that concepts learned are reinforced over time. Redressing the learning losses is a crucial part of the Western Cape Recovery Plan, and it is vitally important that we ensure that the losses in these crucial years are addressed as urgently as possible.

We will thus be allocating an additional R68,72 million to this priority in the 2022/23 financial year, out of an additional R131,94 million over the MTEF. We will be able to track the impact of this investment through our ongoing annual systemic tests in the coming years and remain the only province to measure our progress in an independent and internationally benchmarked manner.

Another factor that we sincerely believe will assist in the longer-term improvement of the Foundation Phase outcomes is one that is happening this Friday, namely the transfer of the responsibility for Early Childhood Development (ECD) from the Provincial Department of Social Development to the WCED.

As I outlined at the very successful ECD Summit we had last year in October, we are all aware of the positive effects of children attending quality ECDCs, in terms of intellectual development, nutrition, safety, social development, and general wellbeing of young children. It is for this reason that our Government has worked so hard to support ECD provision to date, and the rationale for the shift is to drive further improvement and better alignment with education.

Further developing the sector will, however, take time and, of course, additional funding, which we trust will be forthcoming from National Treasury in honour of their stated commitment to improving this critical sector. For the first two years, the operational aspects and service delivery model for ECD will not change. The WCED will be taking responsibility for registration, funding and programme implementation, and we will be working with NGOs, ECD fora and other entities to reach all registered and unregistered ECD sites, and to better understand the sector.

The DSD staff identified for the function shift will be transferring to the WCED with the same functions and portfolios they currently hold, and will fall under the same directorate as Grade R. The National Curriculum Framework: birth to four years will remain the National Curriculum supported by the DBE and curriculum officials in the WCED.

Equitable Share funding of R289,9 million and ECD Conditional Grant funding of R95,87 million, has been added to the WCED's baseline in support of this function for the 2022/23 financial year.

A lot of work has gone into the process of transferring this function, and I would like to thank Minister Fernandez, HOD Macdonald and the Social Development team, as well as the team from the WCED, especially Karen Dudley and Ruth Leukes, for all their efforts in ensuring what I believe will be a smooth transition. Kudos also to DSD for developing the current model of funding, which is now being adopted nationally.

Chairperson, the primary role of education is to teach people the skills they will need when they leave school, in order to live a dignified life and contribute to our economy. Aside from the vital Foundation Phase skills of reading, writing and calculating, we also need to ensure that, as our learners progress through school, they learn the 21st century skills and practical skills that are so desperately needed.

Our commitment to this goal preceded the pandemic, with an expanded focus on STEAMAC. It focuses on the specific skills our provincial and national economy needs now and will need in the future and we are committed to expanding learning opportunities in these fields. It is crucial for young people to participate meaningfully in the economy as young adults by getting and creating jobs. This is another important part of the Western Cape Recovery Plan: without this investment in skills development, we cannot expect our economy to grow.

We have, unfortunately, been limited in achieving this vision due to the immediate pressures of placement. Notwithstanding this, I want to commend my Department on the progress that has been made, and their genuine commitment to providing quality education for every child in every classroom in every school in the province.

As regards the “T” in STEAMAC, namely Technology, while the pandemic has had a negative impact on our system, it has also highlighted opportunities that we must make use of to increase our ability to respond to these kinds of shocks. One area in which this is most evident is digital learning, which many relied on during school closures and disruptions. We will be making an additional investment in the blended-learning priority of R170 million in the coming financial year.

In addition, 1 290 of our schools are now connected to Broadband and 249 schools have subsidy alternatives to Broadband. 752 schools have Local Area Networks (LAN) installed, with a further 553 schools with partial access installed. It is really important, as, if the enabling environment is there, multiple appropriate resources can be used to improve teaching and learning.

Part of our focus on this priority is the recognition of the various online schooling options that are becoming available to learners at a rapid rate. At present, there is no legislation that deals with the creation of online schools or their registration. Complicating factors are how to deal with things like norms and standards, for infrastructure not applying to these schools, and schools being registered in the Western Cape while enrolling learners living from other provinces and maybe even other countries. In the absence of national legislation, the WCED has begun development of a Draft Blended Learning and Online Schooling Policy, so we can have a clear position on roles and responsibilities in this innovative field.

In addition, we are about to publish regulations for comment that will allow independent virtual schools to register with the Department.

I look forward to inputs from interested parties so that we can move this forward and create extra opportunities for our learners.

The “C” in STEAMAC is Coding and Computational Skills and our Coding and Robotics Pilot Project is proceeding well, with 32 schools participating in the Foundation Phase, with 96 teachers currently in training. The first leg of training delivered by Unisa took place at the end of 2021, and the second leg is currently underway. Teachers will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the course. Initially, the focus will be the integration of coding and robotics into existing subjects, building up to implementing a standalone subject.

The WCED is collaborating with various partners to run competitions, clubs, and other initiatives. For example, the Robotics e-Education and Coding Hubs or REACH project, in collaboration with the Cape Town Science Centre, will see at least 24 robotics clubs established in 2022.

Chairperson, one of the “A’s” in STEAMAC is, of course, Agriculture, and we are also making pleasing progress in expanding our offering in this field. Excuse the pun. We know that Agriculture is a critical sector in our province. The number of schools offering agricultural subjects has expanded significantly from just three in 2015 to 30 in 2022.

We have also added infrastructure to support this priority, with workshops having been completed at Charlie Hofmeyr Secondary, Groendal Secondary, and Skurweberg Secondary. The construction of further workshops is underway at Hexvallei High and Kraaifontein High. In addition, we have completed RFID and aquaponics facilities at Boland Landbouskool, greenhouses at Kylemore Secondary, Roodezandt Secondary, Skurweberg Secondary, Overberg High, and Pelican Park High, and horticultural tunnels and shaded netting at Augsburg Landbou Gimnasium. Providing these facilities to schools allows them to expand their skills-offering to learners, and represents a direct investment in our future provincial economy.

At the same time, the Department is partnering with various entities and organisations to offer learners' specialised courses and certificates in this field, such as sheep shearing with the National Woolgrowers Association, irrigation with the South African Irrigation Institute, labour relations with the South African Labour Relations Council, and drone flying with the Department of Agriculture, Elsenburg, amongst many others. These are practical skills that learners can readily apply.

In support of the Three Streams Model we also have eight technical schools in our province, with planning underway in the MTEF for another five, in Hermanus, Nomzamo, Silversands, Saldanha, and Mfuleni.

In addition to STEAMAC, we must expand opportunities for those learners who are not suited to the traditional academic subjects. Schools of Skills are an excellent mechanism to allow these learners to also participate in the economy ensuring they, too, can live a life of dignity. We currently have 22 such schools in our province, and the construction of a School of Skills in Manenberg is currently in the planning phase.

While we work to increase the number of Schools of Skills, we are also piloting the introduction of skills subjects in public ordinary schools. A pilot project offering Grade 8 and 9 skills subjects in 23 selected high schools was started in 2021.

We also recognise the value of collaboration schools in delivering skills education to our learners. Our miracle school – as I call it – Jakes Gerwel Technical School, is a prime example of a community that saw a need for skills education in the area. Other communities have seen this success and wish to see the same offering available to their local children.

One such area is Struisbaai, where the need for skills education has led to a partnership with the Struisbaai Funding Trust to create a School of Skills. The school will be constructed on the grounds of Struisbaai Primary School, and include classrooms, workshops, training kitchens, a civil maintenance area, a hall, and administrative areas. The total cost of the project is R32,7 million, of which the WCED is funding 40%. It is using technology that is very different and can be built off-site. This will allow us to create a technical occupational curriculum extension for Grades 8 and 9, so that learners who might have dropped out at the end of primary school can instead achieve a General Education Certificate (GEC), giving them access to further education and training phase options.

The school is currently scheduled to open for the second term, and will initially cater for 30 learners, eventually increasing to 120 learners in total.

We can only undertake these innovative projects because the Western Cape Education Department recognised the potential for public–private partnerships to expand the available quality learning opportunities for the children of this province, and because we passed the relevant legislation required to make these partnerships a reality. Of course, it is being challenged in Court, but this will not deter us.

Speaker, it is a travesty that Special Needs Schools are not included in the calculation of the Provincial Equitable Share, which only takes into account public ordinary schools. It goes without saying that special needs learners need more funding than those in public ordinary schools, as they need more attention and more equipment. In answer to a recent question in the National Assembly, Minister Motshekga confirmed this, the reason being “budget constraints”.

This is quite simply unacceptable – National Government can fund a bloated Cabinet, give multiple bailouts to failing SOEs, watch as billions have been lost to corruption, but not allocate funding for our special needs learners, some of the most vulnerable in society. This just shows where the ANC Government’s priorities lie.

We have 53 Special Needs Schools in this province – I have not been able to calculate how much funding we have lost out on as a result of the above travesty, but it makes the excellent work we have done in this field even more impressive, and I must pay tribute to our team.

We are also providing support for learners with low to moderate special needs in ordinary schools and have a new full-service school in Sunningdale in planning at present. All teachers are to be trained in Teaching for All, starting this year, with one school in every circuit which has been designated as a full-service or inclusive school. Teachers at these schools will be trained to increase their capacity to deal with learners with such support needs. An outreach team from a Special Schools Resource Centre will provide additional support.

There are also learning support teachers who provide support to learners with learning difficulties in ordinary primary schools. The number of learning support teachers has been increased this year to 624. Any parent of a learner with learning difficulties who has concerns should approach their school principal to request a meeting with the school-based support team or learning support teacher.

The last thing I want to mention regarding skills is Entrepreneurship. We are working very closely with the DBE to implement the E–Cubed programme this year, which refers to Employability and Entrepreneurship Education. This programme uses project-based learning to develop the kind of thinking and skills that our learners will need to succeed in the economy. We are starting with 12 schools in the first cohort this year, which will expand to approximately 300 schools by the third cohort in 2024.

This is very exciting, and I want to thank Mr Haroon Mahomed and his team for all the work they are putting into this.

It is clear that we are using every cent we receive to empower our young people and create the best possible opportunities for them. I regret not having more time to expound on the wonderful work that is happening every day in my Department and want to commend HOD Brent Walters and Exco for their leadership, commitment and sheer hard work in their quest to achieve this. I also want to thank every member of my Department for what they do, including, of course, our teachers and principals, who have to deal with challenging circumstances almost every day.

Thanks to CFO, Mr Leon Ely, and Chief Director: Finance, Erna Veldman, for all your efforts in regard to this budget process, engagements with PT and managing a budget the size of this one.

In closing, I would like to recognise the constructive engagements we have had with the Standing Committee for Education during this budget process. I welcome the new Chairperson of the Committee, honourable Deidre Baartman, to this role and thank her for guiding the Committee during her first budget process in the education sphere.

I also recognise the contribution of the former Chairperson, honourable Lorraine Botha, for her leadership of the Committee throughout the previous year, and her support for the education system in this province. We wish her well in her new portfolio.

I am also encouraged by what appears to be an increasing realisation by members of the Opposition that when we highlight funding challenges, we are not looking for excuses. We are simply stating the stark facts. I see a bit of a snigger from the Opposition.

Their recognition of the problems with the National Government's funding model, and their readiness to join our call for a relook at the quintile system, is refreshing and appreciated.

I also wish to thank my office, ably led by Lorika Elliott, who work so hard behind the scenes to deal with myriad issues that come across our desks every day and I would like to thank the Premier for his leadership and support, as well as my Cabinet colleagues. I accordingly take pleasure in tabling this Budget and ask for the support of this House. Thank you, Chairperson.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, Chairperson, and my greetings to the MEC and to the officials. I want to also extend a warm welcome to our special guests in the gallery. We include education activists, former educators, and student leaders. We are grateful to members of the public for their activism, towards realising a just education system in our province and country. I am thankful to them for actually driving our oversight as well. These are patriots, many of whom are not even members of the political party I represent, but with whom the ANC fights side by side to address many challenges at our schools, particularly in poor and working-class communities.

The annual crisis of unplaced learners and overcrowded classrooms is but one of these issues.

The ANC is a people-centred movement. All service delivery interventions that we make as an Opposition are informed by constant engagement with our people on the ground. We made our opposition to this particular Budget Vote clear in the Committee deliberations. It is anti-poor and fails to address the systemic education inequalities in our province, notwithstanding some of the positive aspects in the budget.

In light of the recently released World Bank Report, which found that South Africa is the most unequal society in the world, and that education inequalities contribute immensely to this, we cannot support a budget that actually widens this particular gap. We have constantly suggested the increase of class sizes in former Model C schools as a viable mechanism to address the overcrowding of classes in poor schools, and the crisis of unplaced learners. The hon MEC continues to be a stumbling block, as she believes that learners from the Eastern Cape are the problem in this province. This attitude explains why, every year, learners from poor backgrounds missed out on the entire first step of schooling in the province. Hundreds of black learners – when I say black, I include African, Indian and Coloured, remain unplaced. When we raised this in the Committee, the MEC with her nonchalant attitude said, and I quote:

“There are some schools which everyone wants to attend, and they cannot get in.”

Her response clearly shows no urgency to address the persistent issue of insufficient placement spaces for disadvantaged mainly black learners because this seldom affects white learners in the main. We maintain that the challenge is not necessarily a lack of resources. Poor planning and lack of political will, tied to the DA's inherent racism, especially the constant targeting of learners from the Eastern Cape, are the problems. The DA's fixation on the West's so called Liberal World Order, as MEC Maynier and the Premier speaks of, which in actual fact is an illiberal right-wing project grounded in their National Party and Progressive Federal Party traditions, as opposed to a Liberal Party tradition, which only some of them in the DA still adhere to, is one – and one which I also do not necessarily agree with – is one which informs the DA's political posture towards education in this province. The same posture informs the hypocritical stance to actually not support and oppose our Government's approach to a peaceful resolution of the Russia / Ukraine conflict, while refusing to condemn the continued Israeli apartheid aggression against the Palestinian people and actually stunting a debate on that matter in this House.

The DA's right-wing approach to education is thus not surprising. The WCED continues to blame its challenges on in-migration and so-called influx of learners from other provinces. The Western Cape is not a colonial outpost; it is part of South Africa, and learners are allowed to come here.

It is not surprising that the DA is a safe space for racists. We are not saying all members are racist, but it is a safe space for racists.

A senior DA councillor recently in the City of Cape Town actually told a fellow DA councillor and former MP to go fetch her lunch from the Eastern Cape to the dominant right-wingers in the DA, Africans do not belong in this province... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, hon member...

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): They are a nuisance and must go eat in the Eastern Cape... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed, hon member Sayed, may you please take your seat? Can I see who is raising a hand? I see the hand.

Mr G BOSMAN: It is me, hon Speaker.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I hope my time is not being eaten into by member Bosman's frivolous point of order.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Is it a point of order, hon member?

Mr G BOSMAN: Yes, hon Speaker. I would like to know if the member is prepared to take a question.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, I am not prepared to take a question. You are always asking, and I always answer that.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: No, hon member, member Sayed is not going to take a question. You may continue, member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chairperson, schools like the Grootkraal UCC Primary, just outside Oudtshoorn, which is providing education to poor children on farms, are targeted and vilified by officials in this Department. The school continues to face attempts to force its closure, ever since it has won a court case against the WCED to keep the school open. The WCED, without consultation, changed the learner transport service (LTS) provider to someone based in Mossel Bay. Now this is not about the family members of the principal and they redirected the route so as to frustrate the principal and the parents. After two years of COVID-19 disruptions, our schools have returned to full capacity, albeit with challenges and yes, we have welcomed and supported the decision for that to take place, but the return to full capacity has also placed the spotlight again on overcrowded schools.

Our National Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana, announced that R24,6 billion was added to the Provincial Education Departments like the Western Cape to address the shortfalls in the compensation of teachers and I will not go into the figures, the MEC has stated the figures. The ANC welcomes the budget increase from National and wants this budget to address our structural inequalities.

Sadly, judging by the MEC's tirade in the House last week for the Second Reading Debate, there is little hope that this budget will bring any changes unless we exert maximum pressure. Her obsession with the usual blame and complain continues. Even when there is an over R2 billion additional budget for the province, she continues to attack National Government, because with the R2 billion increase there is no more room to hide behind insufficient budget, and we are not saying National Government is free from blame. Chair, poor management has gone a long way in deepening the school infrastructure crisis.

The rebuilding of Sunray Primary School in Delft, for example, has been cancelled after the contractor was liquidated in February last year, over R71 million was spent on the project, of which over R57 million was paid to the contractor. We want the MEC to tell us, when will this project complete? Also, what engagements did she have with our friend, the hon Mitchell, on this matter?

At Easter Peak Primary in Manenberg, a no-fee school serving a gang-infested area, no repairs have been made to the three burnt classrooms, nor have asbestos roofs been replaced, despite promises from the Department and departmental approval for the work to go ahead years ago. When I followed up in the Committee with the MEC and her officials and in a question, the MEC confirmed that no planned preventative maintenance project has taken place at the school. We need to ensure that intervention is made immediately.

At Panorama Primary and Riversdale there are ailing asbestos structures. The Department has delayed since 2015 to build the replacement school with numerous excuses annually, despite funds being budgeted, and the DA Mayor of Hessequa has even been complaining about this matter.

Vanguard Primary – another example where shoddy workmanship took place, the service provider sent by the Department even knocks into the gates of the school, having an unlicensed driver, and the school has not even yet been compensated for that. The 48,12% increase for infrastructure must prioritise these projects. We are concerned by the high number of asbestos schools in the Western Cape. There are no immediate plans to build replacement schools, thereby exposing our learners and educators to health hazards.

Premier Winde committed this Department of Education in his SOPA to build security fences at 30 schools each year during the Sixth Administration. The ANC, together with education activists, some of whom are in the gallery, fought vociferously for this, after noting that weak security fences have exposed schools, especially in gang-infested areas.

The MEC, however, does not seem to be happy with her Premier's decision and undertaking because every chance she gets, she does not forget to tell us that her Government "will not replace fences that communities keep on breaking for no reason", quote, unquote. On the contrary, I have personally visited a number of these schools with weak and broken fences that have not been fixed for many decades, not because they have been broken by the community. In fact, many fences in the province do not even adhere to the 1,80-metre requirement as stated in the norms and standards. The broken and weak fence at Welcome Estate near Athlone has not been replaced in 70 years.

A similar situation persists at Rylands Primary School in Athlone. We will fight to ensure that the MEC does not undermine the Western Cape Premier's undertaking on school fences. In fact, we call on the Premier to consider increasing the number of school fences to be delivered per year from 30 to 60.

The Department's slow pace in investigating and dealing with alleged corruption and malfeasance at schools, has had devastating outcomes. Some principals and teachers have sadly even lost their lives. Scottsdene Secondary School in Kraaifontein is a ticking time bomb as well. Activists are continuing in a two-year fight against a senior official at the school who allegedly got his position through corrupt means. When activists question why the matter is dragging on and why there is a cover-up, they are then intimidated and threatened. We need to protect our whistleblowers at our schools.

We are concerned also with the slow implementation of the SIU recommendations following the finding against the WCED for irregular contracts awarded to Masiqhame Trading for PPEs. We demand that the Education Department, that the Education Committee be furnished with the final report that came from the Premier's office, and that the officials temporarily step aside, those officials that are implicated, while the Department is applying their mind as to how to implement that report.

Chair, the Department has identified the need for additional psychosocial support in schools, a matter that the ANC in this House has raised on numerous occasions, and we welcome this change of position, but this budget does not say how much has been allocated for it and will certainly not come close to the demand for the psychologists in every circuit and a social worker at least in every vulnerable school. We therefore reiterate our call for the WCED to engage with the Department of Social Development in the province to have a partnership to place unemployed Social Work graduates in schools, and this budget must make allocation for that.

Hon Chairperson, the MEC and my colleagues in the Education Committee and those who served before with us know that I have been highly critical of the MEC and the Department over the years on a variety of issues, with regards to a failure to deal adequately with inequality in our education system. This is done in the spirit of robust oversight, nothing personal. It is there to drive improvement.

I am confident that this space for robust engagement, I echo the words of the MEC, which was provided by our Chairperson, the hon Botha and we wish her well in her new assignment, will continue to be provided by our new Chairperson, the hon Baartman. However, on the issue of Quintiles I cannot stand here and be critical of the MEC and her Department. Our critique has always been placed from the very onset at the doorstep of the National Department of Basic Education.

This is why, and I have raised this even in the fora of my own political party. This is why the ANC here in this House drove the resolution taken by the Education Committee two weeks ago to have serious engagements with the National Department of Basic Education to urge them to change the current outdated criteria for determining the Quintile levels of schools, especially in our province.

Currently, the Quintile level of a school is determined, as the MEC indicated, by the relative economic status of the area, as opposed to the economic backgrounds of the learners. The Quintile level in turn determines the financial assistance that certain schools get. This is seriously disadvantaging schools, which serve mainly poor and working-class learners in the Western Cape, and it is blatantly unfair.

In line with President Ramaphosa's call to us in his State of the Nation Address for a new consensus, a new consensus that is people-centred, we undertake to work as a focused collective and I think we should do that across party lines in this province with the Department on this particular matter to resolve this issue. I thank you, Chair.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Western Cape Department of Education must drastically increase the number of no-fee schools, especially in townships and rural areas. Early this year learners and parents of Usasazo High School in Khayelitsha were up in arms when the principal asked them to each pay R400 before they can be issued with their matric statements.

Madam Chair, they are predominantly learners from disadvantaged backgrounds whose parents are unemployed. There is too much pressure on these learners and their families as they also face financial challenges of having to pay University application fees in their matric year. Oftentimes a learner will apply to more than one university as they do not know which university will accept them and now each application comes with its own application fee and on top of that, these learners and their parents are also expected to pay the fees at the end of the year, which is too much.

Moreover, Madam Chair, in the year 2022, the Western Cape Online School Application System remains a disaster. Some learners spent three months or more at home without being placed in a school following the formal opening of schools as a result of the poor placement system in the province. This also places unnecessary pressure and stress on these learners as they join the school system late and now they have to play catch-up, whereas some learners have started with preschool three months before. When schools close for the first time these learners cannot even enjoy their holidays as they will have to catch up at home.

Madam Chair, the safety of schools in the Western Cape remains a huge concern as both learners and teachers operate in fear in unsafe environments. The corruption that continues to thrive in the Department of Education is despicable. This leads to a killing of innocent teachers at the school premises, who are whistle-blowers, so the Department needs to do something on this. Most of these schools do not even have any form of security. Another danger with the Department of Education comes from learners who are used by outside gang members to attack other learners or teachers. The Department must tackle such issues, Madam Chair, without fear and make sure that these spaces of learning remain safe. Madam Chair, the Department must be serious about tackling issues of racism in Western Cape schools.

Schools need to develop and foster codes of that [Inaudible – poor connectivity.] which do not promote or condone racism. Just last year, two black learners were racially abused by a white learner in Camps Bay High School. After the school found the learner guilty, they had then taken the punishment a secret and used the POPI Act as an excuse. This thing of protecting perpetrators of racism must come to end in this province.

On that note, Madam Chair, the EFF does not support this Vote. I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member, and you just finished on time. I now recognise hon member August.

Mr S N AUGUST: Madam Chairperson, Tata Madiba famously said:

“Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world.”

These words are a call to action for all South African citizens and the world to take up education to tap into their unexplored potential, but Chair, the Western Cape – often claimed to be the best-run province in the country – has a current education challenge, and in December 2021 more than 29 500 children have not been placed for the 2022 academic year.

In Mitchells Plain again there are 47 primary schools and 18 high schools – not nearly enough for the growing population of the area. Schools remain a vital part of the lifeline of communities, and it is important to ensure that young people are set up for their future and have the required skills set which the 21st century job opportunity demands.

Given the challenges that the Western Cape is experiencing, many children are losing out on education and already have a setback in life. We hope that the Western Cape Education Department would for the 2022 year prioritise the need for schools to ensure that we do not recreate the same problems of not placing children who in turn are missing out on life-changing education and ultimately pushing these kids into a space of further being disenfranchised and challenged.

Chair, we have heard a lot of the reasoning that budget cuts are forcing departments into decreasing spending and impacting how these departments are operating. The problems we are experiencing are not new, so essentially this Government is asking us to allow them to correct their own mistakes of the past. The children cannot afford the repeat of the same mistakes without those in charge learning from their miscalculation. We demand that this Department does better. Thank you, Chairperson.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Chairperson. Thank you. Chairperson, the ACDP welcomes the increase of the teaching posts that will be increased according to the Minister, approximately a thousand of them. We always said that our classes are too full, and we need to reduce the teacher–learner ratio. So if the Minister can tell us how that will reduce the ratio, it will help a lot.

We also welcome the ECDCs, the ECDCs that will now resort under the Education Department. The question is, will the ECDCs now become compulsory, because it is unacceptable for our learners that go to Grade 3 and 4 that cannot read, so we hope as the ACDP that the ECDCs now resorting under Education will prepare our learners more when they enter Grade 1.

I also want to agree with one of the previous speakers, we spoke about it, the Quintile system is outdated, and action must be taken because it is the communities that suffer because we visited some schools and some schools do not receive any school fees because the parents do not have money to pay any school fees, and it means that our learners cannot receive a good and quality education, because they are penalised because they are on the wrong quintile. I also want to agree with the Minister when it is said special needs schools needs more funding from National, because those communities play an integral part in our society and I want our ANC members to ask, to influence the National Government that we get more money for our special-needs schools. I thank you, Chairperson.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

The Al Jama-ah party commends the Western Cape Government for taking steps to make space for learners who could not be placed at schools. We further encourage the Department to place the remaining learners not yet placed at former Model C schools, where there will be enough space to accommodate them.

Al Jama-ah also welcomes the additional allocation from National Government to the Department. We now hope this will bring an end to the blaming game on National Government and the Province will put the full budget wisely to use, specifically in areas faced with challenges in their daily educational functions.

The challenges in education in the Western Cape are huge, and there is no need to hold back on spending. We want quality education for all learners. We want education to take place in a safe environment. We call on the Department to redeploy the Walking Bus members, who provided a sense of safety to learners and educators. Al Jama-ah calls on the Department to appoint adequate psychologists to schools and a social worker at every school.

Now that the ECD programme has been transferred to the Department, we hope to see no delays with the commencement of the 2022 ECD Levels 1 to 4, at the FET Colleges. Thank you very much, Speaker.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Presiding Officer. You know, Presiding Officer, when I did my maiden speech in 2019, I did not realise I am going to have to do another maiden speech in another portfolio. †Maar hier is ons! [But here we are!]

Presiding Officer, in the Western Cape, we share the vision of the Western Cape Education Department that quality education should be available to every child, in every classroom, in every school in our province.

The vision is brought to light even within the constrained fiscal environment and this Department and the thousands of teachers, principals, administrators make it possible in our country, for every child to have quality learning opportunities in a functional and enabling environment to assist them in acquiring knowledge, competencies and skills to succeed, and this happens using value based education to succeed in a changing world.

Presiding Officer, †as 'n juffrou se dogter, [as a teacher's daughter,] I grew up watching the hard work, dedication that goes into preparing for classes for teachers and then you come home still having to deal with marking and burning the midnight oil so I want to start this Budget Vote debate with saying thank you to all of the teachers who put in the hard work to make sure that quality education is made available to every learner in our province. We thank you.

Presiding Officer, the Equitable Share will increase from R23,2 billion in 2021/2022 to R24,8 billion in 2022/2023, and is expected to continue to increase over the 2022 MTEF to R25 billion in 2024/2025, but we know in an environment where learner numbers spike, there will never be enough money to ensure that we strengthen and expand learning opportunities for enhanced performance. In fact, this increase is due to the update in the Provincial Equitable Share Formula nationally, in the numbers of learners in the formula and not in a change of the formula. The additional conditional grants that enable this Department to function increased by just over 2% but unfortunately, it is still under inflation.

Some of the immediate areas focused on by this Department are blended learning, wellbeing and psychosocial support, and foundational-phased learning, which have a particular focus on language and mathematics.

Presiding Officer, I just want to remind this House that yes, the Department regulates education, but it does not include tertiary education so I just want to make sure that the member from the EFF is listening because tertiary education is a national mandate and as long as they are not burning any buildings down, we are happy to join them in lobbying Government for issues and concerns for our students regarding national tertiary education. I myself in my previous constituency in Laingsburg had lots of problems with admissions to the North Link College and applications in that regard. So if she is willing to assist me with fighting the good fight, I am here. [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, you may sit down. Your point of order, hon member?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, on a point of order, Chair, I think we welcome the input of working together but the implication that the EFF have burnt down buildings, I think if the hon, if she can just give some detail on that. I do not think that is correct.

An HON MEMBER: That is not a point of order. That is a frivolous point of order, Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, is there another hand? No, there is no hand. Hon member, just continue with your debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Presiding Officer. Member, I never said anyone was burning down buildings. I said as long as anyone is not burning down buildings, we will join them in lobbying for some of these issues.

Presiding Officer, I think it would be a good opportunity to also remind people of the Western Cape and members of this House of the scale of the operation, which is education in the Western Cape. As of the 2020/2021 financial year there were 1 514 public schools. Of this, 1 080 651 learners were enrolled in Grade 1 to Grade 12 within the public ordinary school component, and 65 598 Grade R learners were registered, and 19 745 learners in the public special schools component.

Presiding Officer, this is a R28 billion budget, the second biggest budget in the Provincial Government. The first is Health. In fact, it does give me great joy that the female Cabinet Ministers are in control of the bulk of the Western Cape Provincial Budget at 78%, unlike the National Government.

In the Western Cape, we put our money where our mouths are. The Department within this budget will be receiving an additional allocation also for extra education and school auxiliary posts, and concomitant additional infrastructure. This is because the sector is growing at an average of 18 000 learners per annum. Presiding Officer, a lot of allegations have been made of thousands of unplaced learners, but I also know members of this House get compensated for the data they use on WCPP laptops, so I am not sure if they saw this morning's email of the updated unplaced learners, which were 169 at 9 o'clock this morning, out of 70,000 late applications received.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, you may sit down. Hon member?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order, the member is not allowed to mislead the House, like what happened during the SOPA debate. Nobody spoke about a thousand unplaced learners. Nobody spoke about a thousand.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, I think the hon member is talking to her debate and will continue with her debate.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Presiding Officer. Presiding Officer, as at 9 March out of the 70 000 late applications the unplaced learner number was 344. That was 9 March at 9 o'clock. Today at 30 March it is 169. Further, Presiding Officer... [Interjection.] Can I be protected?

Presiding Officer, we welcome the transfer of the ECD Centres from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Education, which will be in effect from 1 April 2020, this coming Friday, and R1,2 billion has been shifted in order to ensure the ECD Programme success.

The Department's aims to infuse educational content and methodologies over the next two years into the sector are going to be crucial, despite the decrease in the allocation of the ECD grant as received from the National Government and the extra money that we received, in terms of the overall budget.

The Department aims to do everything in its power to ensure a smooth transition of the programme. The grant will be split into two programmes, both towards the ECD function dealing with subsidies and maintenance, respectively. Further if Grade R is going to become compulsory and it likely will, it is also important for us to plan for it and in this regard, the Department has implemented additional allocations to ensure the progressive realisation of Grade R. We further welcome the announcement of the Department of the extra 216 fee-paying schools now becoming no-fee schools. I know in the Budget Vote it mentioned a hundred and it brings me much delight to hear that that number itself has also increased.

In this regard also, Presiding Officer, despite the increase of 216 schools now becoming no-fee schools, during the midterm report, our no-fee school status in the Western Cape was already at 61% so this is above and beyond that percentage.

Speaker, in this regard in my previous constituency, I asked the members of the community actually: "What are the top two things you want us to focus on at a provincial level?" They told me the two things. They said: "Please can Laingsburg High School become a no-fee school and please can we scrape the Moordenaars-Karoo Road", and there I am looking as if Minister Mitchell is online with us here. I then set up a meeting with Minister Schäfer to inquire regarding the criteria of the school and what would need to be complied with as the application was taking quite long, and it seemed that actually what was causing the delay was compliance and all the rules and legislation that apply to education and to schools in general. But after raising these concerns, the Minister acted swiftly, and even during COVID, Laingsburg High School became a no-fee school, and we thank you, Minister Schäfer, and this is, because Presiding Officer, in the Western Cape we listen. The school is now an official no-fee and quite honestly [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, please sit down. Hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order. This is not an interruption, the Rules need to be followed. Can the hon Deputy Chief Whip speak through you, Chairperson, and not directly to the MEC.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yoh! Presiding Officer, I think maybe the young lions are out here to maul a person because... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Complaining... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...because I keep saying the words “Presiding Officer” at every paragraph that I read, so I am not sure where I did that, but I apologise if I did. Okay, and Presiding Officer, now Laingsburg High School is a no-fee school and I am happy to say that now the Moordenaars-Karoo Road is also being scraped, so thank you, Minister Mitchell for that as well.

†Hier in die Wes-Kaap, ons luister. Ons is nie hardhorend nie. [Here in the Western Cape, we listen. We are not deaf.]

And given the constraint of learners moving to the Western Cape Province, in addition to the 129 mobile classrooms delivered in the current financial year, 173 more are in the process of being delivered. A total of 28 replacement school projects had been listed over the next three years, another 97 vacant classrooms had been identified for repairs which will continue to accommodate more than 4600 learners and a further 11 learner transport routes serving more than 6000 learners were approved for January 2022.

Presiding Officer, I think many people know that I am a big proponent of the digital economy, and I am excited about the Department's approach towards expanded e-learning over the next three years with an emphasis on senior and further education and training phases. The e-learning rollout will include the provision for the local area network curriculum delivery of Computer Applications Technology, Information Technology, Engineering and Graphic Design Refresh and Classroom Technology.

Further in the current financial year, the Department will ensure that the ICT equipment at schools is up to standard providing WCED with data for the central Education Management Information System, People Management Practice System as well as the Microsoft Schools agreement and we hope with the new information as well as the Census this year, that hopefully we will get some more money in the Provincial Equitable Share formula.

I welcome the announcement by the Minister regarding the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths, Agriculture and Coding and Cloud Computing (STEAMAC) focus regarding the registration of online schools and the drafting of the Provincial Government Regulations for comments for gazette soon. It seems that where National Government is sleeping here in the Western Cape we are wide awake to the legislative issues that plague our industry.

Presiding Officer, as Chair of Budget I am always excited to read and to talk about procurement and in this Department's Vote it is indicated that this year's Procurement Plan will focus on the hiring of printing machines for Reprographic Services, Non-section 21 Schools stationery and cleaning; Non-section 21 School LTS and top-ups, CAPS Textbook Refresh, Foundation Phase graded readers and for the Learner Transport Schemes and National School Nutrition Programme. Presiding Officer, procurement in South Africa makes up 22% of our GDP, 22%. It is almost half of our national economy.

Given that the State is funded by the taxpayers through various taxes, be it income tax, VAT or fuel levy, it is important for the State to procure according to the values of the Constitution.

It must take into consideration that the beneficiaries of a procurement are the people of South Africa and part of procurement thus sets out the rules by which the State is allowed to use the people's money to buy goods, works and services in line with Section 217 (1) of the Constitution. I am thus proud of these focus areas identified by the Department as part of its Procurement Plan.

In terms of infrastructure, Presiding Officer, a once-off Education Infrastructure Grant Incentive allocation of R105 million was received for the 2022/2023 financial year. Infrastructure development allocations to public ordinary schools and special-needs schools have increased by 50,67% and 73,1% respectively.

Since 2016/2017 financial year this Department has built 72 new, replacement and mobile schools. 41 of these were replacement schools so as to address the backlog in the replacement of old structures built in the apartheid era. 10 schools were completed in 2021 and the Department is currently anticipating new schools for the completion this year in Bothasig, Fisantekraal, Nomzamo, Klapmuts and Silversands.

The reality is that between 18 000 and 20 000 extra learners join the Western Cape schools every year and have done so every year for the past five years. If the Department only had to rely on new schools, then the Province would have to build, furnish and staff 18 to 20 new schools every single year and that is before we even start to deal with the backlog from persistent under-funding as well as the National Norms and Standards for Infrastructure Regulations, which compel us to build in a certain way and certain facilities.

The budget the Province gets, of which the full budget is more than 90% funded by National Government, because we do not get some of the national powers and it cannot accommodate the building at this rate. In fact, I hear that now after National Treasury already changed the Provincial Equitable Share formula criteria for Health in the risk component, which will mean that in the future Health will give you getting less money, the National Treasury is also now thinking of revising the criteria formula for Education starting this year; starting this year for revising and for future implementation. Further, the current formula makes no provision for special-needs students.

To put it into context, there are 20 325 learners in the Western Cape, special-needs students last year. The cost on schools to make provision for these learners is naturally higher than ordinary public schools but the Province is left on its own to absorb the funding in this regard and in some of the conditional grants it even speaks to the learners with profound intellectual disabilities, but we have to ask ourselves, what about the students that are so smart they need to go to next grades, where is also the revision for these learners?

The Western Cape is the only province to achieve more than 600 points for both reading and mathematics according to the wide-ranging SACMEQ IV report. At the mid-term mark the Western Cape achieved 72,7% in advanced reading compared to the average of 36,1% nationally. This is well ahead of the second ranked province, which was Gauteng, at 54%. So far, I have already mentioned that the Western Cape schools had 61% of no-fee schools and we thus welcome the other 216 coming.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: 116.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): 116, sorry, apologies for that. The Western Cape budgets the most for any province for fee exemption for learners from disadvantaged communities to attend fee paying schools and this is in the country. We were also the only province to feed our learners at schools during lockdown. The people of South Africa had to go to Court, Presiding Officer, to force ANC provinces to ensure that meals are provided.

Do you know, Presiding Officer, that not only do we have the highest mathematics and physical science pass rates in South Africa, in the trends in International Mathematics and Science Study in 2019 the Western Cape achieved between six and eight places higher on the international ranking than South Africa as a whole in mathematics and science.

Presiding Officer, I think I need to actually repeat that. As a country, where the Western Cape internationally was doing better than the country as a whole in mathematics and physical science, and since we are talking now about learners and where we come from, I am from the Eastern Cape and I was [Inaudible.] before I was from Gqeberha, and I came to study my tertiary education here, so I am not sure whether the members from the Opposition are essentially saying that me, Deidre Baartman, must go back to the Eastern Cape, so I am not sure, so I think what we need to clarify... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Who is saying that? [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): No, it is fine. †Ons het *membership* boeke in ons [onduidelik, praat gelyktydig.] [We have membership books in our [Inaudible, speaking simultaneously.]]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): So it is fine, ons gaan. It is fine. †Die *young lions* kom, en ek hoor daar is 'n *election*, en hulle het net drie *branches* van waar hulle kan *elect*, maar in elk geval... [Tussenwerpsels.] [the young lions are coming, and I hear there is an election, and they have only three branches to elect from, but in any case... [Interjections.]]

Presiding Officer, no-one is saying people must not come to the Western Cape. No-one is saying: "learners, do not come to the Western Cape." In fact, Presiding Officer, the fact that people come to the Western Cape is testimony to the good governance happening in the Western Cape.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Hear-hear!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): The only thing we are asking for...

An HON MEMBER: For the rich, for the rich and not the poor.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...the Equitable Share formula, is, can the money please follow the learners. †Ons vra vir die geld. Kom, ons het *good governance* hierso, maar ons vra vir die geld ook, asseblief.

[We are asking for the money. Come, we have good governance here, but we are asking for the money as well, please.]

Presiding Officer, in terms of the Quintile System, I am very excited at member Khalid Sayed's input to indicate that even in their own structures they are lobbying for the change in this regard. So, I look forward to the feedback from the member in terms of what you will receive from the National Minister of Education, but I am not sure if he is being blue ticked, because I am not sure how many votes he has gotten yet so far for the upcoming Conference. In terms of infrastructure, Presiding Officer... [Interjection.]

†Nee, dis *fine*, dis *fine*. Ons gaan sien of jy daai drie *branches* se *votes* gaan kry. [No, it's fine, it's fine. We will see if you are going to get those three branches' votes.]

Presiding Officer, this Department has prioritised infrastructure funding. It has reallocated R500 million from Preventative Maintenance to Capital Projects for new schools and repurposing facilities over two years, allocated R150 million this financial year to small *ad-hoc* projects to accelerate school repair work, and to make more classrooms and specialist learning facilities available; allocated R100 million to Corrective Maintenance Projects that help schools deal with vandalism, climate change, and some of the challenges and defer R290 million of their Preventative Maintenance for the next financial year as they re-plan their Maintenance Budget to ensure more contractor predictability and incentivise contractors not to renege on their commitments, and since we are now here on infrastructure, I know the member loves fences. Presiding Officer, the MEC – I was there. I was there. The MEC did not say that she will not fix fences, just as a blanket statement. She said that where people are breaking them down, we must now look at, "okay, but what about another school that is respecting their property and looking after the property and the teachers and the learners and the community members that are looking after the property, what about them? Do we give them less money because some people are breaking down fences and now we must keep on replacing them?" So it was not a blanket statement, there were conditions attached.

In terms of the Tafelsig Primary School, I am not sure if the members from the ANC and I are reading the same reports, but the report I read indicated for the Tafelsig School specifically that it recommended some corrective actions and found no breach in terms of policy and law and I also read the report regarding the Walmer investigation which also found no substance to the allegation, but I am not too sure. Maybe the MEC must assist us with this particular information. Maybe we are reading different reports, Presiding Officer... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Baartman, can you take your seat?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Presiding Officer, I do not – I have looked at my speech again, I did not speak about Tafelsig. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member. That is not a point of order. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, Speaker.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, Sayed, you had your chance and I think all hon members were listening. Let us listen to the debate of hon member Baartman. [Interjection.] Hon member Baartman.

An HON MEMBER: Chairperson, Chairperson... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Member, maybe you did not speak about Tafelsig, maybe it was another member who spoke about it, but I remember just while the people were speaking, just writing down those concerns. [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, I tend to believe you were in the Standing Committee. It will be great if we can engage in the Standing Committee, not in the House. Thank you very much, hon members. Hon member, you may continue.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon member, despite things that I disagree with the member on, if I could vote I probably would have given him my vote out of the three branches. [Laughter.]

Presiding Officer, in terms of corruption a few members – let me now not call them by their names because just in case I get it wrong. In terms of corruption that was mentioned, I just want to say, please report it. If you know about corruption, because you are in a particular position in society, there are actual laws in our country that say if you are aware of corruption, you must report it. You have an actual obligation and duty to then report it, so if people know about corruption, please report it, so it can be dealt with. [Interjection.]

Presiding Officer, can I be protected here. †Asseblief? [Please?]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes, you are protected, hon member.

An HON MEMBER: But also can you focus on your speech, man. *Jirre!*

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Presiding Officer. Presiding Officer, we encourage parents and caregivers to apply for placement for prospective Grade 1 and Grade R learners in a timeous fashion, and they have up until 15 April this year for the 2023 School Admissions Process and which will be open.

The Department opens these applications quite in advance, in an effort to prevent unplaced learners. This is critical in order for learner placements to be confirmed before the start of the new academic year. However, every year we do see the continual problem of late applications and we have already mentioned that in this school year alone, the WCED received more than 70 000 late applications, and quite frankly, Presiding Officer, if you are a constituency head and you have the ability to use your laptop, use your data and help people to apply for these respective applications.

We appeal to the parents and guardians to register their children via the website, but also, you are able to go to the district office and every district office also has its own place where they are able to assist the respective parents and learners. We realise that this is a daunting process for many, and there will also be further pop-up sites at the Parow Centre and N1 City Mall on 2 and 3 April. The online process is quick and should not take longer than 15 minutes to apply, but again, if you do not wish to apply online, they are district offices available to assist.

The website is zero-rated for those who are a bit worried about data, and thus it is free to use for everyone. Let us all work together in ensuring that every child is placed and receives quality education, which the Western Cape has to offer. Presiding Officer, the Democratic Alliance supports this Vote. I thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Chair, and thank you to all the participants in the debate. I am going to start my responses back to front.

Firstly, well done, hon Baartman, on your first budget speech, I think you acquitted yourself excellently, given that you have only literally just been thrust into it. I would echo your thanks to all our teachers. I did that in my speech too, but I support that completely. Thank you for your comments on Laingsburg. If you are hoping that we are going to get more budget from the Census, I do not hold out too much hope, because my experience of the Census has not been particularly good. In fact, they did not even follow up with me when I tried to register my own family, so I have serious concerns about the accuracy of the data in the Census, which is another issue, but I do hope we get more money anyway.

As far as the PES Formula is concerned, I am very happy if National Treasury's is reconsidering it, it needs to be reconsidered and it has been for some time. So I just hope it is reconsidered in the right way. That is the real issue.

Yes, thank you for acknowledging SACMEQ. It is a hugely excellent performance. I mean, it really is. It is an independent assessment and it is international and I really congratulate all our teachers for having enabled us to achieve those excellent results, and yes, thank you too for reminding us that we were the only province to feed learners during lockdown. I actually was criminally charged for that, for doing that.

An HON MEMBER: Wow!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Ja, and also was quite – I do not even know, I think the performance of SASSA in this whole process was actually shocking. I do not often get shocked these days in politics, but I was actually shocked at how they literally just closed their doors and left people sitting on the streets with nothing and because of that we had to step in as a Government so it shows who really cares about the poor and who really does not, while Minister Lindiwe Sisulu was running around shopping with her handbag, or lamenting the fact that she could not shop. So thank you for that.

I think it was it was the right thing to do. It was difficult, and our people also were scared, and again I want to commend every one of those people in their communities and our teachers who went the extra mile and put things in place to make sure that our children did not go hungry. Yes, thank you.

Late applications, I mean, I am not going to pretend that it is only late applications that do not get placed. There are sometimes people who do apply in time and do not get placed. We have had problems. I have been raising it for many years and that is why I am so happy we are now starting to address the issue of funding because that is the issue, and I will get to back to that just now.

Conditional grants, yes, the Learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability (LSPID) is only very specific for learners with very severe intellectual disabilities and that is a problem and that is exactly why I am so shocked as well that we have not been getting funding for the normal, special schools.

Al Jama-ah, let me see. You hoped that we will stop the blame game. Well, it is not a game, actually. Sometimes blame needs to be put where it actually resides and you cannot just keep on saying stop playing the blame game when actually that is the reason why we are in the situation we are in. So sometimes it is necessary to blame because that is actually the reality and I sincerely hope we also will not have to blame anybody, because we will actually get the required funding that we deserve and should have had long time ago. I agree with safety, but it is not for the WCED, we never had the Walking Bus in the WCED. It is for people outside the Education Department and there is no point in us getting another R2,2 billion to try and do what our mandate is, when we go and take on a whole lot of extra stuff, and then it is going to just dilute what we are trying to achieve, but I do agree that it was a good project.

Psychologists and social workers were raised by two members, and we have one psychologist and one therapist per circuit at the moment, I would be delighted to have more, absolutely delighted, but the reality we face do not seem to have sunk into members of the Opposition. They just do not seem to realise what a dire situation our country is in financially and we cannot just appoint people when there is no money to pay them. So if we could get more, I would be very happy to do so. We do engage with Social Development, but if you heard the Social Development Budget this morning, it was far worse than ours, so ja. We do the very best we can and we are fully aware of the need, but we can only do so much.

ACDP, thank you hon Christians for your welcoming comments on ECDCs and teaching posts; how it will reduce the teacher–learner ratio if there are more learners in the basket of posts, obviously we can split them across the number of learners. We do have a pro-poor ratio of allocating those teachers so it will go towards – more skewed towards poorer schools and help to reduce those class sizes.

Then we had the EFF – no, GOOD. GOOD, through you Chairperson, it will be useful if members came to prepare their speeches without finding a quick Google article in the morning of the debate because the 29 500 was a very, very long time ago, and if people kept up to speed with the Committee reports and the Committee briefings, they would know that it is now, as hon Baartman said, 160, and those were predominantly very late applications.

So it is important to tell the truth to this House. I agree, and I think that we all need to just bear that in mind.

EFF, all schools in Khayelitsha are, in fact, no fee, and I am not sure where the member was when I was doing my Budget speech, because I did make the announcement that we are going to be making funding available for another 160 schools to become no-fee schools, so it really would help if members actually listen to our statement rather than come with pre-prepared speeches.

As far as pro-poor, we also have the following other initiatives: 60% of schools, as member Baartman has mentioned, are no-fee schools already. We have top-up funding for low-fee schools. We have compensation for fee exemptions for schools. We have the National School Nutrition Programme for no-fee schools, learner transport, and we also assist with municipal support, municipal account support, which is putting a lot of extra stress on us. We know that people are suffering but Government is also suffering and we cannot just absorb more and more and more and more, but we really are doing a lot already as it is, and happily so, because we do know people are suffering.

The School Admissions System remains a disaster. That is what member hon Makamba-Botya said. I would respectfully disagree with that. It is not a disaster at all. There were certainly problems with the system in the beginning when we started with it not being able to cope with the admissions. It was unfortunately, as I mentioned in last week's debate, largely as a result of the State Information Technology Agency or SITA not being able to cope and not being able to provide the services that we desperately need in Education and that is yet another National Government entity that is failing us so that we cannot provide the services that we want to provide.

Gauteng also has a school admissions online system. No one seems to complain about that and it certainly is not a disaster. Previously parents would have to go literally personally to every single school they wanted to apply to. This system allows them to apply to up to 10 schools across the province. Well, preferably closer to where they stay, but anywhere they actually want to they can apply so they do not have to physically go and stand in queues at every single school and hand in documentation, so yes, there have been issues but we have fortunately managed to find solutions to some of the service failures we were having to deal with from SITA and the site is running much more smoothly now.

We have already got 90 000 learners who have applied for next year on the online system and, as member Baartman also mentioned, there are a lot of places where people can go to, to make these applications. If they do not have data, it is zero-rated, there are many internet sites, there are hotspots all over communities and we also have the pop-up stores and selected schools and other venues where parents can come and apply. So I would urge members of the Opposition also to help in their constituencies, to let people help them to register.

Then the state of the schools, the safety of schools always remains a concern. As we all know school safety is affected by surrounding communities and there are a lot of safety issues that do concern me, including fences, which I will also get to later, but what really concerns me too, is that we have two people shot in the last two years and not one single person has been brought to book, not one single person has been convicted. One has been arrested, but they have not even started the trial yet two years later, and that is certainly not the fault of the Education Department. As far as schools not promoting racism, I completely agree with you. No school, in fact, no one should promote racism, I completely agree, but neither should people allege racism at the first opportunity without finding out facts like we have seen in the Brackenfell matter, where I was very happy that the Human Rights Commission vindicated the Western Education Department's investigation and found that in that case, no racist practices had taken place.

Now let me get to hon Sayed. All I can say is, "Yoh! Eish", I am not sure whether hon Sayed listens to what I say.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Madam Chair, I have had my hand up.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Sorry.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Makamba-Botya?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: I had my hand up, Chair, I am not sure if you are able to note all hands because I have had my hand up for like five minutes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: I want to make a point of order to the Minister that she must not have an appetite of watering down our statements when we are speaking the truth on the issues that are happening in the Western Cape Department of Education. [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: So this thing of Ministers telling us that we are grandstanding on statements when we are speaking the truth of what is happening and a true reflection of what is happening, it is not acceptable.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member! You are aware that is not a point of order and that is a frivolous point of order just to... Really, we need to continue. It has been a long day. We still have to finish with the other Votes that are coming, so hon member, we are going to allow the Minister to continue.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Chairperson. I have a suspicion that member Sayed has a standard speech that he just brings every time because it is the same issues that come up, it is like a stuck record, the same points. He does not seem to listen to the responses.

Maybe if people are insisting on other people complying with the Rules, Chairperson, it would be good if they did the same, but really, I know there is a Congress coming up but to keep on repeating the same, same, same things as if we have not responded, as if we are not responsive, I just do not accept.

I do also welcome the special guests, and thank you for joining us, and thank you also for raising issues of concern. We do know there is a crisis of unplaced learners, we have addressed that as well and fortunately we are going to be able to do something about it now that we are getting more money, but the ongoing narrative of “we must put people in Model C schools” has quite a number of issues, first of all. First of all, I find it really patronising that the ANC seems to think that they know or should decide where parents should put their learners, but they are also a bit late to the party, because we have been engaging with Former Model C Schools, by the way for years with respect to admitting additional learners, and many of them have actually expanded their schools in order to do exactly that, but the assumption that people want to go only to these schools is also not correct.

We have schools in areas that are Cape Flats or township areas where there are overwhelming numbers of applications for people who also cannot get in so it is not correct to say that the problem is going to be solved by putting more people in former Model C schools. They might not want to go to those schools. We have had Mondale, 3024 applications for 273 spaces; Spine Road 3 182 applications for 253 spaces. We have got to Luhlaza in Khayelitsha, 1906 applications for 261 places; Manyana 1901 for 281; Manzomthombo 1 570 for 362; Zwelethemba 1506 for 172; Chris Hani Secondary in Khayelitsha, 1503 for 210 places.

So that is exactly why we put more effort into trying to build schools in poorer communities closer to where they live, and where they do not have to pay huge amounts of money to transport their children so let us just get real on these issues. Then poor planning and lack of political will targeting of Eastern Cape learners, I cannot really figure out where on earth that came from. I will strongly defend my Department on the issue of poor planning. They have not done poor planning. They have done everything possible to try and manage the situation that we find ourselves in with ever decreasing budget in real terms.

If you have 100,000 learners over five years, it is going to impact the system, no matter how much you have done. If you are told, one year, suddenly we have a drought; you must spend R300 million on giving JoJo tanks to schools, fixing boreholes that have not been properly maintained so that we can try and limit a Day Zero situation at schools, then where does the money come from? Certainly not National Government because they have stolen all of it, there is nothing left. There is nothing in a reserve fund that should be available for emergency, the same with COVID, R450 million, in fact, more, R465 million. We had to divert from infrastructure, because there is no money at National to bail us out in the event of a National State of Disaster for 600-and-something days long.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister, may you take your seat please. Hon member Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order, Chair. The MEC is misleading the House. We did not make a call. We actually made the call for increased class capacity for Model C Schools... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...and the HOD agreed with us, so she must not mislead the House.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Sayed, hon member, sit down! Hon member, you know, you can do a substantive motion. You do not have to really respond to the Minister now. There are avenues where you can do that so we are not going to go that route, hon member. Hon Chief Whip, I recognise you?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, House Chairperson. You have already made a ruling several times on this very same supposed point of order that the hon Sayed has raised. It is just being used as a tactic to interrupt the Minister now and we would actually like to hear her response. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Before you can stand up, I see there is a hand of hon Bosman. Hon member Bosman, I recognise you.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, Presiding Officer. I am covered by the Chief Whip and I think the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition should be called for disrupting. He is acting in a dishonourable way and he is contravening Rule 4 in terms of abusing points of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Read the Rule out please.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I did not recognise you, hon member Sayed, and you did not raise your hand. I recognise you now.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, can the hon Bosman read out the specific Rule please? We all have a right to raise our points of order. [Interjection.] [speaking simultaneously]

Mr G BOSMAN: Chair, unfortunately I cannot. He must read the Rules, Chairperson, he must read the Rules!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members! Hon members!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Chair, Chair... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, you are going to be recognised – one, before you talk; two, we are going to keep the decorum. I think since we started with the Budget Votes we have been doing well in debating and making sure that we talk to the budgets before us. We are not going to change that today.

We need to make sure that we listen to each other as we debate this budget as we move forward so I am going to make sure that I plead with you. Keep the decorum of the House. You have been doing well. I see the hand of hon member Windvogel and also hon member Nkondlo.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Chairperson, my point was you made a ruling that you allowed the Chief Whip and member Bosman after your ruling to give an input, so that is not on... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, there must be something wrong with your mic because I have not done a ruling at all. I just said the point of order that member Sayed was saying, it is a substantive motion. He knows what it is that he can do to make sure that we continue with the point of order that he was raising. Hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Chair. Can I also move on the same Rule of member Bosman, that he does not want to read in the House, that the point of orders must not be abused to usurp the person who is chairing because there is a person who is chairing this session, as in yourself, so we do not want people who want to chair from their benches, so that we can proceed with the proceedings. Thanks.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, House Chairperson, Rule 66(3)(d) states that:

“Points of order may not be considered if the Presiding Officer has already ruled on the matter in the same sitting...”

And that is in that spirit that I raise the Rule that the hon member on the opposite side of the benches keeps raising, the same point of order, which you have already ruled upon, and so therefore we ask if he would please refrain so that we can in fact hear the Minister's response.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Chief Whip. I think, hon members, we really have to continue so that we can conclude with the Third Order of the Day, otherwise we are going to continue with raising the point of order that is just frivolous and they are going to lead us to continue with the Business of the Day, so keep the decorum and be as honourable as you are, hon members, and let us continue. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Chairperson. Yes, I am certainly not going to finish until I have answered all the issues so if members want to stay here all day, then so be it. The truth does seem to hurt sometimes.

As far as poor planning is concerned, as I was saying, my Department planned extremely well. We have figures, we have hotspot areas, we know what needs to be done, but we cannot employ people if we have not got money. We cannot build schools if we have not got money.

We plan for 10 years and then have to have R300 million taken away in one year. Where does it come from? Infrastructure, because the only choices are, do not pay teachers, do not transport learners, do not feed learners or do not pay schools norms and standards. Those are the main issues in areas in our budget so those are the choices.

So it comes from infrastructure and obviously then, if it happens one year and the following year, a R465 million addition for COVID measures, COVID-relief measures, where does that come from? Our infrastructure budget, because that is the only possible place it can come from, because others are too ghastly to contemplate. But this is also of extreme concern, which is why we are so glad to have an additional amount of this nature for infrastructure. So planning is not an issue. Our Department is excellent in planning. They have worked day-in-and-day-out, trying to ensure that we give the best possible opportunities to our learners, often at great cost to their own personal health and I really want to thank all my Exco, who has done excellently and I will not accept this constant refrain of poor planning, lack of political will. It is not that. It is lack of adequate funding, so now we suddenly have to go into the Ukraine crisis, but let us go there, if you want to go there.

I saw a lovely little video of member Sayed and his current Provincial Leader who he seems to be wanting to replace, making these wonderful little DVDs at a Russian cocktail party on the very night I think the Ukraine was being bombarded, one of the maternity hospitals were being bombed, and being very proudly associated with Russia so I hear yesterday, hon Dugmore trying to say that there are neutral. Well, if that is neutral, then I am I do not know what, but this is not neutral. So if you want to go and mediate in something where you have clearly taken sides, when you want to bring it to the House and make an issue of it here? I do not think so. I think quite frankly, Russia is disgusting and what they have done, they are targeting innocent civilians. [Interjection.] They are doing – they are doing...

Sorry, Chairperson, could you perhaps educate the members in the gallery?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: As a member or as a guest on the podium, you are not allowed to do that. [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: And yes, so to bomb schools where people are hiding and sheltering, to bomb maternity hospitals is beyond anything I can comprehend and certainly not to be proud of. As far as the Eastern Cape targeting issue is concerned... [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: You are quiet when Israel bombed Palestinian children. You are quiet! [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Can I continue? [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Nkondlo!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: May I continue?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, you may sit down. Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, House Chair, I rise on Rule 40, the member may not interrupt another member who is speaking, except to call to a point of order which the hon member Nkondlo did not do, if you would kindly call her to order.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Chief Whip.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Chair. The targeting of Eastern Cape learners – that sounds really dramatic. We love Eastern Cape learners. They are really intelligent, and they want a really good education, and quite frankly I want to commend them for noticing the fact that they cannot get that in the Eastern Cape. They see for themselves at a young age that it is better to come to the Western Cape, because that is where they have a real chance of getting a good education, and exactly the point member Baartman made.

We are sitting with 2 000 schools in the Eastern Cape that have been earmarked for closure for years that has not happened, 2000. Where is that money going? That should be coming here. That is the point we are making and that is what we will always continue to make and where I did see they were going to close 1 000 schools recently, where is the public outcry about that? If I close one school, I get taken to Court. Where is the outcry? I do not want there to be an outcry. I agree it should be closed, but there are another 305,000 schools in the Eastern Cape that are non-viable. They have been classified by their own Department as a non-viable school, but they stay open, they continue getting funding, and they are wasting money that should be used to provide a better education in the Western Cape.

As far as protocol is concerned, well, it does not surprise me that the ANC supports protocol. It is quite clear to me that this whole matter has been political right from the start, including the application to stop the closure, because the principal and his family are running a little fiefdom at that school with learner transport, and they are now or have been now investigated for financial irregularities. His wife is now the Acting Principal at the school and there are more financial irregularities that have been uncovered at the school and disciplinary action is going to be taken. Instead of using the learner transport that we provided, he has persuaded them to use another company owned by his son, but the ANC supports this. Why?

As far as the specific schools that were mentioned, I am not giving that now. I think they might be subject to parliamentary questions, and if not, we can give details to the member. Another thing I need to just address is this ongoing refrain about asbestos schools. Asbestos schools, *per se*, are not dangerous to people in them. They are dangerous when they are damaged. That is all, and notwithstanding that we are still busy with replacing them, but we cannot do it all at once.

Security fences, that was a really strange comment that I heard about me opposing, undermining the Premier's announcement. We completely support the Premier's announcement.

We have been working with him on it. In fact, we have actually done more than 30 schools. We have actually added. I think this year we have done 60 schools, which I have mentioned before so where that comes from, I do not know. Perhaps there is another Congress that is coming for you to score some points, but we are completely and utterly on board with it and supports it fully.

The slow pace of dealing with complaints in schools and corruption, I completely agree that it is not acceptable. We do take too long. It is not always our fault. There are just too many cases and the number of cases of schools do concern me of mismanagement and financial mismanagement. Often we have to send it to the Provincial Forensic Services, which also takes a huge amount of time because they have so many matters to deal with as well, and it is a source of concern. What is also a source of concern is that we do take action against people, and we dismiss them and they go to the LRC or the Labour Court, and they get reinstated, and then we have to deal with that. It makes life rather difficult.

The SIU report is the last one that I am going to deal with. There has been no slow implementation whatsoever of the SIU report. We got the SIU report, and we sent it, as you have been informed previously, to the Department of the Premier for advice on what to do because our people in our people management were conflicted so it was completely the right thing.

He has received the recommendations and acted on the recommendations and there is absolutely nothing else to be done and I think he has acted completely and utterly above board, and I commend him for it. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

[Debate concluded.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 11 – Agriculture)

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon House Chair, hon Speaker, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, hon members of the Cabinet, hon Leader of the Official Opposition, members of different political parties, hon members of the Legislature, special guests, the media and members of the public and those who are joining us online and those who are in the gallery.

Hon House Chair, earlier this morning I was at Elsenburg, where a drone delivered the final draft of my Budget Address to me. This afternoon I arrived at the Western Cape Legislature, with the Budget Address, driving a tractor. The drone and the tractor represent how agriculture has been revolutionised. However, farmers have had to adapt and display the resilience that sustains our sector to survive.

Hon House Speaker, Western Cape Premier Alan Winde argued in his State of the Province Address on 15 February 2022 in Velddrif that the Western Cape would not be returning to the way things were done before the pandemic.

Instead, “we must push back against going back to normal and push forward to do even better. To do so, we must rethink, focus, and innovate”.

Hon House Chair, today I rise to table a budget of R969,218 million and to confirm that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture will indeed be pushing forward. The Budget of R969,218 million for the 2022/2023 financial year includes earmarked allocations for the Ecological Infrastructure of R37 million; River Protection Works, particularly in Keurboom, Jan du Toit River, Upper Hex River of R18,5 million; and Provincial Disaster Relief Grant, provision and distribution of livestock feed, R48,1 million.

Hon Chair, South Africa's seasonally adjusted GDP grew by 4,9% in 2021. Agriculture, which expanded by 8,3%, was the second-fastest-growing sector behind mining at 11,8%.

Chair, as highlighted by the Bureau for Agricultural Policy generally known as BFAP, this growth in Agriculture is more impressive because it follows a 13,4% growth expansion in 2020, making Agriculture the most robust performing sector in South Africa since COVID-19. Agriculture is pushing forward.

†Agbare Voorsitter, een van die grootste onsekerhede wat die landbou-uitvoeremark in die gesig staar, is die uitgebreide konflik tussen Rusland en die Oekraïne. Albei lande is beduidende uitvoerders van koring, mielies en sonneblomprodukte. Rusland is 'n groot verskaffer, wat meer as 15% bydra tot wêreldwye koringuitvoere. Hy is die belangrikste verskaffer van chemiese kunsmisstowwe in die wêreld, en is 'n groot uitvoerder van petroleumprodukte. Gevolglik kan deurlopende sanksies die beskikbaarheid van koring, mielies, sonneblomolie en noodsaaklike landbou-insette soos kunsmis beperk. Vanuit 'n verbruikersperspektief impliseer die globale marksituasie, gekombineer met hoë energie- en vervaardigingskoste, dat voedsel-inflasie ongelukkig sal aanhou styg. Ten spyte van bogenoemde sal die landbousektor vorentoe beur.

Die Wes-Kaapse landbousektor is uitvoergerig en dra meer as 53% by tot Suid-Afrika se landbou-uitvoere. In 2020, Voorsitter, het die Wes-Kaap Provinsie R78,68 miljard se gekombineerde landbou- en agri-verwerkingsprodukte uitgevoer. Agbare Voorsitter, agt van die tien grootste uitvoerprodukte in die Wes-Kaap het ook 'n landbougrondslag. Landbou beur vorentoe.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Chairman, one of the biggest uncertainties the agriculture export market is facing, is the extended conflict between Russia and the Ukraine. Both countries are significant exporters of wheat, maize and sunflower products. Russia is a big supplier, that contributes more than 15% to worldwide wheat exports. It is the most important exporter of chemical fertilisers in the world, and is a big exporter of petroleum products. Consequently continued sanctions can limit the availability of wheat, maize, sunflower oil and necessary agricultural input like fertiliser. From a consumer perspective, the global market situation, combined with high energy and production costs, imply that food inflation unfortunately will continue increasing. In spite of the above, the agricultural sector will go forward.

The Western Cape agriculture sector is export orientated and contributes more than 53% to South Africa's agricultural exports. In 2020, Chairman, the Western Cape exported R78,68 billion combined agricultural and agri-processed products. Hon Chariman, eight of the ten largest export products in the Western Cape also have an agricultural basis. Agriculture is going forward.】

Hon Speaker, when I took office as the Minister of Agriculture in the Western Cape, I immediately set out five Ministerial Priorities for my term of office.

Priority 1 is Structured Education, Training and Research. It is geared towards providing the requisite skills, knowledge and experience to secure the future of agriculture. My goal is to increase training opportunities for the youth, women and disabled to secure the agricultural sector's sustainability.

Hon Speaker, agricultural subjects have been introduced at 18 schools in the Western Cape over the last three years. Thank you to the Western Cape Department of Education as well as the Minister of Education. One such school is Pelican Park High School, which I visited recently. The school is located close to the Philippi Horticultural Area, often described as the "breadbasket" of the Cape Metropolitan area. By expanding the curriculum at schools such as Pelican Park, we have created more training opportunities in the agricultural sector and made the sector more accessible to the youth. I am very encouraged by the principal, Mr Carder Tregonning's leadership and the enthusiasm with which the educators and learners have embarked on their agricultural education journey.

The Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute offers Bachelor degrees of Agriculture (B Agric), a three-year Diploma in Agriculture and Learnership and short course skills.

Hon Speaker, on Saturday, 26 February this year, I joined my officials and colleagues, academics, parents and guardians; together we witnessed the graduation of the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute's class of 2021. Students graduated on the day with qualifications ranging from the National and Higher Certificate and a Diploma in Agriculture and the Degree Baccalaureus in Agriculture. 197 students became members of that illustrious group of students who will now call themselves graduates of the oldest agricultural training institute on the African continent, and so, hon Chair, I am proud of the products of Elsenburg Agricultural College.

197 students who graduated that day are really making a big investment in the future of agriculture in this province but also in the rest of South Africa: Lara Barnard, Richard da Costa, Salomon de Jager, Karli du Toit, Barend Engelbrecht and Sara Lee all graduated this year *cum laude* at Elsenburg. The Dux Awards went to Engela Uithaler, Britteney Havenga and Karli du Toit. Nominqwene Nonjola received the best student award in viticulture NQF level 4, while Cameron Moodie was awarded the National Wool Growers Association Award in Wool Production.

Our own Director-General, Dr Harry Malila, said to students during his address:

"I would like to place my admiration for the graduation class on record. You have responded positively to setbacks. You have demonstrated exceptional resilience in overcoming many obstacles to reach this proud day. Resilience is a character trait that will stand you in good stead in the world of employment and the university of life. Resilience can be cultivated and can grow. Therefore, do not give up on anything you care about."

Hon Speaker, as part of the Department of Agriculture's Internship Programme, commercial farmers are increasingly partnering with the Department to host interns, serve as mentors, and to make their workplaces and farms available for interns. The Department's research and development effort will more than ever focus on the increase in agricultural production and novel technologies to contribute to food security, job creation and economic development in a sustainable way, and so, against the challenges of climate change, agriculture, hon Chair, is pushing forward.

Hon Chair, Priority 2 is Producer Support and Development, which aims to increase the number of well-trained and equipped commercial and smallholder farmers through strengthening partnerships with the private sector to unlock market access and to create value-adding opportunities. Therefore, Madam Chair, my goal is to increase farming businesses' efficiency through diversification, partnerships, and more effective production systems, ultimately leading to an increase in the standard of living for the people of the Western Cape.

Hon Madam Chair, in 2021/22, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture identified land reform projects worth an estimated R104 million. Implementation of these projects, Madam Chair, is currently underway with the support of our project managers, our partners, strengthened by our partnership with commodity organisations. To the commodity organisations and those who are signing online, I want to thank you for the work that you are doing, through your work and support with advice, mentorship, training, inputs, market access, and mutual in-kind cooperation and contribution. Over the past few years, the Department has developed sound partnerships with ten commodity organisations to support our new farmers. The Western Cape Department of Agriculture will renew these partnerships for another three years. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Madam Chair, the Western Cape is blessed with several successful black farmers who, with the support of the Department of Agriculture, are making their mark in the sector. One such farmer is Warren Bam, who is but one of only fully certified organic grape producers in South Africa. Bam is the son of the late Herman Bam, an agri-worker from Saron, who now successfully owns the over 100-hectare conventional table grape farm Wesland with third-generation farmer, Wessel van Niekerk, the son of his late father's employer. Bam's organic grapes are supplied to his long-standing customer in the United Kingdom, Ethical Fruit Company and directly to a range of Europe's leading high-end supermarkets.

Likewise, Madam Chair, Stellenbosch University Viticulture graduate, Beverley Joseph, South Africa's first black female hops farmer and owner of the 50.8-hectare farm, Zelpy, has developed into a successful commercial hops farmer. I had the privilege and an honour to meet her.

Klein Goederust Franschhoek Boutique Winery, owned by the child of an agri-worker, Paul Siguqa, serves as another example. I had the honour to meet this young man. Located in Franschhoek, Klein Goederust has been transformed from its dilapidated state into a promising boutique farm in Franschhoek. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Chair, there has been a drastic increase in the demand for food and nutrition security support over the last two years. Our One Home One Garden Programme continues to make the difference in communities towards achieving food and nutrition security at household level. For the financial year 2021/2022, we have so far established 2 396 household food gardens, 145 community gardens and 26 school food garden projects. Thank you, Doc, for your great team that is doing this great work. For the financial year we are particularly happy that the work of this unit will continue.

Hon Chair, I also had the privilege and honour to meet the Langebaan Urban Farmers at the Community Garden. It is an example of how projects of this nature can start as an introductory opportunity to meet daily food nutritional needs, to create entrepreneurial opportunities for local unemployed persons. An outcome of the Saldanha Municipality adopting an Urban Agricultural Policy, the Langebaan Urban Community Garden contributes to food security by improving the quality, affordability and accessibility of food intake of poor and middle-class households.

Participants do vegetable production under the shaded net. They produce good quality vegetables using minimum water. Remember South Africa is one of the 50th driest countries in the world, and so I salute the women and the men of the Langebaan Urban Agriculture. Produce is also sold to the local community and more importantly, Madam Chair, it is also sold to the local Spar owner and I have met him on site. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Speaker, my third priority is Rural Safety which aims to facilitate a safe, protected and secure agricultural environment for the farming community, urban community as well as for agri-workers. The high level of crime perpetrated against rural communities threatens farm growth and jobs for rural people and requires urgent attention from all Government sectors through the whole-of-society approach. Hon Chair, that is why I hosted a Rural Safety Summit on 25 November 2021. The event was attended by Agri Western Cape, AFASA, the Prestige Agri-Workers Forum, the South African Police Services (SAPS), representatives from the Farm and Neighbourhood Watches, District Municipalities, and senior officials of the Departments of Agriculture and Community Safety.

On that day, Madam Chair, I launched the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Rural Safety Desk, the Rural Safety Monitoring Digital Dashboard, the Rural Safety Brochure, the Rural Safety Pocket Guide during the summit.

In addition, I also released the Rural Safety Baseline Study as this Government is committed to evidence-based and data-led governance.

Hon Chair, participants agreed that addressing the multiple contributors to crime and violence will only be achieved if we embrace a collaboration strategy for crime and violence, because that is what we are doing together with our stakeholders. For this reason, we are pursuing a whole-of-society approach, marked by critical and strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including public, private, and civil society. I want to express my deep thanks to our DDG, Darryl Jacobs, for leading this campaign in driving the rural safety agenda together with our HOD in the Department of Community Safety. The Western Cape Rural Safety Monitoring Dashboard is the first in the South African agricultural sector and was recently shortlisted for the Public Service Innovation Awards. Madam Chair, agriculture is pushing forward.

†Agbare Voorsitter, Marktoegang is my vierde belangrike strategiese prioriteit van hierdie Wes-Kaapse Regering. Die onlangse bekendstelling van die Wes-Kaapse Departement van Landbou se innoverende mobiele Agri-Processing on Wheels Inisiatief by die Genesis Hub in Vredenburg het 'n eerste vir Suid-Afrika geword.

Hierdie innoverende mobiele landbouverwerkingsinisiatief brei die mandjie van landbouverwerkingsdienste uit om amptenare in staat te stel om die mandjie van landbouverwerkingsdienste verder uit te brei, die kapasiteit te verhoog hier in die Wes-Kaap, maar ook deur middel van werksinkels en belangstellende groepe regoor die Wes-Kaap. Die projek sal nou ook in ander distrikte regoor die Wes-Kaap herhaal word, aangesien ons die geleentheid van agri-verwerking nader aan ons mense wil bring. Landbou beur vorentoe.

Agbare Speaker, nog 'n vernuwing is die vennootskap met die Suid-Afrikaanse Wyn Transformasie Eenheid. In 2021 het ons 'n e-handelsplatform bekendgestel om Black-Owned-Brands besighede in staat te stel om hul eie produkte reg oor Suid-Afrika te kan bemark. Hierdie innovasie het ten doel om die verkope van deelnemende besighede 'n hupstoot te gee en die afhanklikheid van hierdie ondernemings op die uitvoermark te versag deur volhoubaarheid te verseker.

Ook opmerklik is ons vennootskap met die Suid-Afrikaanse Tafeldruifvereniging om die China-mark te ontwikkel. Weereens, Voorsitter, beur landbou vorentoe.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Chair, Market Access is my fourth important strategic priority of this Western Cape Government. The recent introduction of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's innovative mobile Agri-Processing on Wheels Initiative at the Genesis Hub in Vredenburg has become a first for South Africa.

This innovative mobile agricultural processing initiative expands the basket of agricultural processing services to enable officials to further expand the basket of agricultural processing services, increase the capacity here in the Western Cape, but also through workshops and interest groups right across the Western Cape.

The project will also now be repeated in other districts all over the Western Cape, as we want to bring the opportunity of agri-processing closer to the people. Agriculture is going forward.

Hon Speaker, another advancement is the partnership with the South African Wine Transformation Unit. In 2021 we introduced an e-trade platform to enable Black-Owned-Brands businesses to market their own products all over South Africa. This innovation aims at promoting the sales of participating businesses and mitigate the dependence of these enterprises on the export market by ensuring sustainability.

Also prominent is our partnership with the South African Table Grapes Association to develop the China market. Again, Chairman, agriculture is going forward.]

Hon Chair, market access must be supported by infrastructure. The new extension at the Hexkoel Storage Facility in the Hex River Valley, which I officially opened on 26 February 2022, is a R95 million addition to a critical facility in the Cape Winelands and I want to thank those farmers for their massive contribution in the Hex Valley, almost a R100 million infrastructure investment from farmers. This investment is critical for job creation but also for foreign exchange. Additional cold storage space will significantly benefit the table grape industry, considering the current global shipping logistical challenges and the various challenges facing the exporters of the Port of Cape Town and other South African ports.

Another critical road infrastructure is planned for 2022/2023 and I am happy to announce that Project C1216 is the rehabilitation, renovation and refurbishment of the R303 north of Ceres. I am grateful to my Cabinet colleagues, both the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport and Public Works, Minister Daylin Mitchell, for providing the necessary road infrastructure that will promote market access and grow the economy of the Western Cape. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Chair, efforts to digitise the Veterinary Exports Certification process are bearing fruit, as the Export Certification Office System's (EcoS) initial phases are now operational and live. Reports reflect that ECoS facilitated an increase in exports, generating about R1,2 billion per annum for the provincial economy. We export meat. To export meat, you need a certification process, but you need the digital platform. That platform now exists and is live and is making a great impact here in the Western Cape, and so, Madam Chair and hon member Marais, agriculture is pushing forward. No more hand submissions for applications to export meat. It is all digital and it is live. Innovation is happening in this Government.

Hon Chair, South Africa is one of the driest countries in the world. Climate change predictions indicate that the Western Cape will become drier with high rainfall variability and warmer with an increase in the mean annual surface temperature. It is predicted that there will be an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, e.g. droughts, floods, fires, and heat-waves.

It is for this reason that my fifth priority is Climate Change Response. Thank you, Dr Ilse for the great work you are doing in this respect.

Hon Chair, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture has established a new Climate Change Unit in the Department of Agriculture, and we have appointed a climate change scientist to manage it. The implementation of the SmartAgri plan, the outcomes of its evaluation and new research will drive the Unit's scope. The 10th International Symposium on Irrigation of Horticultural Crops will occur in 2023 in Stellenbosch next year.

In addition, two other significant climate change events are planned for 2022, including the Youth and Young Researchers Climate Change and Agriculture Convention and the Multiple Stakeholder Drought and Disaster Dialogue. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Chair, we are the leading province for Conservation Agriculture, with 51% of all crop-livestock farmers in the Western Cape fully adopting this farming method. Chair, the Department's head office at Elsenburg has been doing its bit. Our Resource Efficiency Project received a Gold Award in the Category Replication and Adaptation of Innovative Solutions at the 19th Public Sector Innovation Awards Ceremony, held in Johannesburg on 25 February 2022. The project entails installing a rooftop photovoltaic system, solar PV battery and inverter and implementing a new water management system that primarily uses groundwater for domestic use. As a result, it has reduced the Department's municipal water bill and significantly saved on the monthly electricity bill despite the steep Eskom tariff increases.

I also want to thank Minister Mitchell and the Department of Transport and Public Works for the support provided by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, because we have now, Madam Chair, solar panels on the building of the Headquarters at Elsenburg. We significantly are now less dependent on Eskom. Business will continue because agriculture is pushing forward. Significantly, as a result of the work of the colleagues here, they have significantly reduced the dependency of water from the Municipality of Stellenbosch, so agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Chair, I also visited George. During my visit to a packhouse belonging to the Van Greunen Boerdery in George I was impressed by how conservation agriculture has become a key feature of their operations. Their solar project consists of 333 panels and can generate up to 100 kilowatts. The system supplies an estimated 20% of their packhouse's energy needs. They believe that conserving nature is all about the efficient use of resources. So, they use Weed Mat to lower herbicide use and place their irrigation system underneath it. This helps to reduce evaporation and conserve water. Quite an innovation! It also ensures that the fertilisers they apply through the irrigation system do not volatilise and pollute the atmosphere. They store up to 700 000 litres of rainwater harvested from the roofs of their facilities. This almost makes them self-sufficient in terms of domestic and packhouse water uses. They also allow other plant species to grow in the inter-row spaces in their orchards. These plants help build organic matter, prevent erosion, and help to keep dust under control.

Van Greunen Boerdery in George has also found that some of these plants contribute to biodiversity in the orchards and attract insects so that they do not target the blueberries. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Speaker, in the current financial year, 22 219 hectares of agricultural land have been rehabilitated and improved due to working efficiently with farmers, Water User Associations and Irrigation Boards. At the same time, we created 850 jobs, and we are well on track because our target is 1000 jobs. Agriculture is pushing forward.

Hon Chair, in the 2021/22 financial year, the Department provided R11,7 million in fodder support to 1 115 farmers in prolonged drought-stricken areas of the Central Karoo and Matzikama. In addition, 29 farmers in areas where the drought conditions have improved have received seed vouchers totalling R133 thousand.

During the past year, I handed over three river protection works, Holsloot Weir near Rawsonville, Meerlustkloof near Genadendal and Meul Project near Genadendal, to the respective Water Use Associations. Built at the cost of R69 million, Holsloot Weir, for example, responded to the severe damage caused by the flooding a few years ago, alien vegetation plants, and the damaging of the ecological maintenance performed within the river.

In addition, Madam Chair, it links directly to the two priorities of the Western Cape Government's Smart Agriculture Implementation Plan. One is restoring the ecological infrastructure for increased productivity and socio-ecological resilience, and the other is collaborative, integrated catchment management to improve water security and job creation. The value-add is that these investments support the local economy during construction. Agriculture is moving forward.

Hon Chair, following my recent visit to the Brandvlei Dam in the Cape Winelands District Municipality, I now can confirm that construction has finally begun after two years of inaction by the National Government.

Raising the wall of the feeder canal into the Brandvlei Dam by 30 centimetres or 300 millimetres, will increase the water flow into the dam, contributing to an increase in irrigation water and ultimately developing additional agricultural land of more than 4 400 hectares under irrigation. The construction is set to be completed in June this year.

Another critical infrastructure project that upon completion will have a significant impact on agriculture, but also food security in the Western Cape, is the raising of the dam wall in Clanwilliam. The increased capacity of the raised Clanwilliam Dam will result in 6 000 hectares of additional land being developed for irrigation agriculture of high-value crops. Agriculture, Madam Chair, is pushing forward.

Hon Speaker, our decision to embrace the new technology to improve service delivery and lead farmers has resulted in the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, in adopting, promoting, and stimulating drone use.

31 students, locals and interns were trained for a Remote Pilot Licence (RPL) as part of our Drone Pilot Programme. Hon Chair, I am incredibly proud of these candidates who have completed their Remote Pilot Licence. The use of digital technologies such as drones provides a range of farming solutions. These include remote measurement of the soil conditions, better water management and livestock and crop monitoring on the farms. For example, our own Geographical Information Systems Technician – Liezl, can you please stand? Please stand, Liezl. She is one of those pilots that received a Drone Pilot Licence, and she can now use her skills to enhance her area of expertise and provide a better service to our producers. Again, she is sitting next to her colleague, Arrie, can you also please stand? He also received his Remote Drone Pilot Licence. Both of them are providing an outstanding service, not only to the Department of Agriculture, but to the sector agriculture as well and I want to thank both of them. [Applause.] The Remote Pilot Licence course for farmers, agri-workers and agri-businesses is currently now in its final practical flying part, and the successful candidates will receive their wings on 4 April 2022.

Hon Chair, the first comprehensive Flyover Project was conducted in 2013. Due to the ever-increasing dynamic nature of agriculture, the data needs to be updated every four to five years for reliability. Therefore, the Department aims to mobilise resources to conduct a third flyover to gather updated data sets for reliability and accuracy. This is where we fly over all the agricultural lands, take photos and see everything, but, Madam Chair, I know you love travelling, and so all across the Western Cape you have seen all the nets, so you cannot now fly over and see what is happening under the net, and so the challenge now is to go farm by farm and do data collection, but we are up to the challenge and we will do what is necessary to grow the economy in the Western Cape.

The Western Cape Department is the proud owner of the only Ostrich Research Facility globally, the Oudtshoorn Ostrich Research Farm. In 2021 a new novel innovative decision-making tool, the Ostrich Slaughter Planner, was developed.

This digital tool will assist ostrich producers with record-keeping and planning before receiving a permit to slaughter the ostriches before it goes to the abattoir. Therefore, an innovative farm-to-abattoir tool!

Hon Chair, I had my first visit to the Fellbridge Cannabis Farm outside Stellenbosch, and I know hon member Baartman is very pleased to hear that I did visit this research facility. She is online and I want to thank her for also speaking to us about these facilities and so, hon Marais, this facility is a world-class facility and has the potential in developing SMMEs attracting domestic and foreign investment and adding value to the processing and manufacturing of the various products for local and export markets. I am therefore glad, Madam Chair, that the Western Cape Department of Agriculture will now develop the Western Cape Cannabis Framework and Implementation Plan for 2022. This CanPlan, will:

- (a) position the Western Cape in terms of the regulatory framework;
- (b) identify focus areas where the Western Cape can develop an action framework similar to the focus areas of the SmartAgri;
- (c) and identify opportunities for producers and exporters.

As we speak, Madam Chair, this facility is already exporting for the market in Switzerland and in the Netherlands.

Hon Speaker, among such great innovators are Brian Johnson and Rein van der Horst of the Alien Fuel Group. They offer an innovative way to eliminate alien vegetation, save scarce surface water and create jobs. Based outside Worcester on the road to Ceres, Alien Fuel is a company that has designed and developed an innovative system that adapts industrial boilers and burners to no longer be fed by fossil fuel but by briquettes made from alien vegetation. Alien Fuel, the company, was recently awarded the EU's Climate 360 Competition in the Sustainable Energy Category. Soon the team at Alien Fuel will be leaving to present their value proposition to the International Energy Agencies in Brussels in Belgium and in Paris in France. We extend our congratulations and our good wishes as they engage decision-makers and learn more about climate change projects in Europe. Things are happening with innovation in the Western Cape. This is also an opportunity to learn, make new connections, showcase proudly Western Cape innovation. Madam Chair, agriculture is pushing forward.

Madam Chair, let me conclude. We are passionate about agriculture, for the love of agriculture, but ultimately for the love of the people. Agriculture is a wealth creator and holds the promise for the Western Cape economic recovery and jobs. We have seen what happened in 2020 where all the sectors of the economy had negative economic growth. The only sector that had positive economic growth was the agricultural sector, in the first quarter of 2020, 28%, in the second quarter, 13%, and so we are seeing massive agriculture, the anchor of the economic recovery.

Our strength lies in the strategic partnership with the industry, our commodity approach and many others in the research and training environment. Agriculture is ready to support the Western Cape's economy. Agriculture in the Western Cape is pushing forward.

Hon Speaker, my key announcements for 2022/2023 are: the Department is in the process of developing an African Agricultural Strategy. This strategy will guide the approach to the African Market anchored by the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement.

The Provincial Veterinary Laboratory is to be upgraded. Doing so will strengthen support for our clients and improve market access.

The Department will extend its MOU with commodity organisations. This will bolster the Department's Commodity Approach Strategy for farmer development in the Western Cape.

Madam Chair, the Western Cape Cannabis Plan (CanPlan), will be finalised in this new financial year and it will provide focused interventions and support to cannabis producers in the Western Cape.

Madam Chair, the third iteration of the Flyover Project to gather updated datasets for improved planning in the Western Cape will be undertaken this financial year.

Alien clearing, Madam Chair, 20 000 hectares will be cleared, leading to the creation of 800 green jobs.

The Department will host this year coming, the new financial year, the Youth and Young Research Climate Change and Agriculture Convention in June 2022, and a multi-stakeholder Drought and Disaster Dialogue in October this year.

We will continue to support our farmers in the province to contain the spread of locusts in the affected districts. Fodder support to the value of R48,1 million has already been approved.

Madam Chair, the Hybrid Teaching and Learning will continue at Elsenburg Training Institute as we internalise the lessons learnt during COVID-19. You are aware that we are using the SUA, Stellenbosch University Online Learning Platform as well as our own created Moodle Platform, an online learning platform, because our vision was when COVID is happening you shall continue to learn and we made the necessary e-platforms available to do so. Madam Chair, further rollout of Substance-abuse Awareness and Prevention Sessions focussing on the agri labour rights and rural youth.

Madam Chair, I now table the Budget of R969 218 million for the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. I thank you for the love of agriculture. [Applause.]

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, thank you. Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, driving a tractor without a licence should never be allowed in the agri-industry. It is dangerous and it is reckless, especially if you do not know how to put that vehicle in reverse when danger confronts from the front. It should never have been allowed. Many farmworkers have died at the hand of those who do not have a license or who do not know how to operate within the guidelines of a license so that should never be encouraged.

Speaker, I have not heard the hon MEC speak about the 50 small farmers who participated in the programme from small to commercial farmers, and how this Department will support them in this particular programme. I have not heard him speak about it. I have not heard him speak about farmworkers and the challenges that they are facing, especially when it comes to evictions and farm cuts, water cuts on farms. I have not heard him speak about that. I have not heard the MEC speak about Lewies September, a small livestock farmer from Swellendam who is facing eviction from a municipality. I have not heard the MEC speak about a farmer in Tulbagh who have lost R6,5 million at the hand of a previous Mayor in the Witzenberg Area.

Speaker, as I rise to participate in today's Budget Vote, I wish to remind the House of the words of the hon Leader of the Opposition during his participation of the Second Reading Debate on the Appropriation Bill for 2022/23. The hon Dugmore was clear – budgets are about choices; budgets are about political choices. The ANC believes that the officials of this Department are doing a sterling job, but budgets are about political choices and the ANC cannot support this budget.

As the MEC pointed out in the Standing Committee I want to assure him that the members of the ANC caucus of this House also bleed for our farmers. But, as the MEC said, it bleeds even more for the consumer like the poor granny in Ashton who is using her pension to feed her grandchildren.

The MEC in this Department must know that this ANC caucus stands squarely behind our farmers, amidst [Inaudible.] drought, in the face of COVID-19, with the onslaught of the locusts and with the conflict in Ukraine. Just because we fight for farmworkers and small emerging Black farmers does not mean that we do not feel for the farmers who provide the food that we need in this province and country. There should be little doubt that we appreciate the work of our officials in this Department.

The ANC acknowledges the work of all officials in this Provincial Government, and appreciate the efforts in service delivery, despite the budget cuts implemented by the politicians in the Provincial Government.

Acting Speaker, we are a bit concerned about some misunderstandings that occurred yesterday in the House. On two occasions with two different Budget Votes, MECs in their responses misconstrued the words of the ANC to think that we are attacking departmental officials and even accusing some of them of politics. Nothing could be further from the truth. The vast majority of our people of our public servants, especially in the Department of Agriculture, works diligently within the strenuous budget cuts. It is one of the reasons why the ANC is against budget cuts, because our public servants are expected to do more with much less.

Instead, what we see is when the officials speak frankly and they are heard by members of the Opposition and are not necessarily heard by the political principals, the ANC speaks up on their behalf. This is twisted by failing MECs and made out to be ANC attacking officials. It is far from it. But public servants should also know, as their political principals should know, when you are paid by taxpayers, when you use or misuse taxpayers' monies, you must be prepared to be held accountable. In the case of the Department of Agriculture, we cannot blame officials for the lack of budget and for the lack of priorities.

On the morning of 9 March 2022 Provincial Cabinet met, in flouting the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, they decided to adopt a position on the conflict in the Ukraine matter. Acting Speaker, we have not heard the Provincial Government speak out when it comes to the people of Palestine when they bombed hospitals killing innocent women and children. The DA was not neutral on that particular issue. They stand with Israel. While the international Swift situation may well have impacted on our provincial exports to Russia, the reality is that the DA-led Provincial Cabinet, forced by the National Leadership, insisted that they were to take a hostile stance towards Russia. Unlike our ANC-led National Government, the DA in this Provincial Cabinet took an ideological stance in the conflict, and this has direct consequences for agriculture and aquacultural sectors.

The MEC of Agriculture, who is also one of the DA's Deputy Federal Leaders, and the MEC was quoted as saying, and I quote:

“South Africa's agricultural exports to Ukraine in the Russian Federation were valued at R4,1 billion in 2020. Horticultural products, oranges, pears, apples, mandarins, lemons, fresh grapes, wines collectively contributed a share of R3,4 billion with around 88% of the value attributable to the Western Cape.”

Trade data tells a more telling tale. In 2020 the type of products described by the MEC accounted for R3,2 billion of South Africa's exports to Russia. Only R120 million worth of these products went to Ukraine. In other words, the Western Cape exports edible fruits to the Russian Federation are 28 times more the amount it exports to Ukraine. Only the Western Cape farmers will be the losers in the DA's arrogance towards Russia. In fact, in general, South Africa exported goods and services to the value of R5,6 billion in 2020 to Russia and only R270 million to Ukraine. The DA's support for the people of Ukraine is only ideological and racist. For some time, Wesgro has been working hard on accessing the Russian market for mussels. Finally, they got it right. Under the Provincial Government's announcement and irrational boycott of Russia, those markets will be gone soon. Only the exporters of mussels from the Western Cape will suffer. It is therefore hard to believe that the agricultural and aquacultural sectors of the Western Cape support this Provincial Government's insistence on taking sides in the Ukraine conflict, but it seems that the DA, who have no experience in foreign policy and diplomacy, does not even understand this.

In fact, as an ANC MPL, let me be bold to say that yes, the ANC takes its stand in the conflict of Ukraine not only because of the past, but because of the present as well. It does not make economic sense to cut off your Russian nose because you will only be spiting the Western Cape farmer's face. However, as a member of the Standing Committee, I am looking forward to the briefing by the Department specifically on the efforts of the conflict on our agricultural and aquacultural sectors. We are particularly pleased that food prices have not been affected by the conflict and that we must, as leaders across the political divide, call for calm and rational approaches. Of course, we must not omit the possibilities and opportunities that this conflict presents.

The ANC welcomes the sentiments of the hon Van der Westhuizen that we should be looking into expanding our REITS to include especially the African markets. We welcome the sentiments because it is long overdue that South Africa and our Province in particular concentrate on African markets rather than Western and Ethiopian markets.

†Acting Speaker, ons is verontwaardig dat die munisipaliteit in Swellendam besluit het om 'n opkomende boer met amper 40 beeste van meentgrond af te sit. Die boer, Lewies September, het die grond vir byna 10 jaar gehuur. In die tydperk het hy sy kudde opgebou sodat dit die grootste onder Swellendam se kleinboere is. Toe hy aansoek doen om die hernuwing van sy huurkontrak vir 'n verdere periode van 9 jaar 11 maande, is dit geweier. Met die toekenning van kontrakte het die Swellendam Munisipaliteit roekeloos geraak. 'n Ander persoon wat nie eers 'n kontrak gehad het nie, se beeste is intussen op mnr September se grond losgelaat. Sy slotte by die hek is stukkend geknip.

Die DA beweër hulle is besig om voedselsekureit te besorg, voedselsekureit, maar hier in Swellendam is hulle besig om voedselsekureit te vernietig. Mnr September se regte is heeltemal geskend. Is dit die landboubeleid van die DA om bruin kleinboere in die Wes-Kaap heeltemal uit te roei deur mnr September te dwing om sy kudde te verkoop, want wat maak 'n persoon met 40 beeste as hy nie grond het nie?

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Acting Speaker, we are upset that the municipality in Swellendam had decided to evict an emerging farmer with almost 40 head of cattle from the common. The farmer, Lewies September, has leased the land for almost 10 years. In this period he had built up his herd so that it is the largest amongst Swellendam's small farmers. When he applied for the renewal of his contract for a further period of 9 years 11 months, it was refused. With the allocation of contracts, the Swellendam Municipality became reckless. The cattle of another person who did not even have a contract, were released on Mr September's land. His locks at the gate were cut.

The DA alleges they are ensuring food security, food security, but here in Swellendam they are busy destroying food security. Mr September's rights have been totally violated. Is it the agricultural policy of the DA to totally destroy coloured small farmers in the Western Cape by forcing Mr September to sell his herd, because what does a person do with 40 head of cattle when he does not have land?]

And so, Speaker, the name of Lewies September is added to the name of Ivan Cloete. Some farmers are helped more than others. Through you, Speaker, the hon Marais must know that it is not emerging farmers who are a failure as much as it is these old farmers, farmers who have been farming for generations in this country, who strangle out these emerging farmers out of business. There is a competition even in agriculture, but there are also monopolies and conglomerates in agriculture.

Yes, whilst we praise and are proud of our farmers, we will also speak the truth. We are proud that the Department reports that some emerging farmers have indeed become very successful commercial farmers. We are pleased to hear that the Department is working with the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and the National Government in the fight against the swarms of locusts. The ANC takes courage from the MEC who recognises that now is not to blame game, but that indeed we need to work across Government spheres and provinces.

Acting Speaker, the 2021 PERO says the following, and I quote:

“In 2020 agriculture and agri-processing together contributed 8% to the total economic activity and provided 10,4% of all employment opportunities in the province, in 50% of national agricultural exports. The Western Cape contributes more than 90% of national exports of blueberries, bulk wine, pears, bottled wine and apples. Between 2016 and 2020 average annual export growth in the Western Cape was 1,2%. In 2020 the export growth in the Western Cape contracted by 3,5%. The agricultural sector made the largest positive contribution to the export growth due to a blistering 42% growth rate in the same year.”

Despite the drought and despite COVID-19, agriculture makes a huge contribution to our provincial economy, and even the agricultural economy of this country. Yet, this budget makes no provision and does not give recognition to this contribution. The ANC supports the work done by the Department, but budgets are about choices. You can make good choices, you can make bad choices and, Speaker, because of bad choices made by the political leadership, the ANC declines to support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Baie dankie, Speaker. Ek gaan vir 'n verandering Engels praat dat die DA kan verstaan. [Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, Speaker. For a change I'm going to speak English so that the DA can understand.]

Having personally witnessed the hon Minister Meyer this morning arriving on a tractor, and I awaited him there, and having personally been on an oversight visit to Genadendal and seeing what Mr Cloete, an emerging farmer has successfully achieved with the help of the Department of Agriculture, and having read the report compiled by the Agri Committee after recent visits to the West Coast, I support this Vote. [Applause.]

I have come to the conclusion that a great success story of emerging previously disadvantaged farmers awaits this province with the Minister leading the onslaught against poverty, which is much needed, but also food security. But I also wish to ask the Minister, please ensure that sufficient bursaries are made available for students wishing to study at Elsenburg and other colleges like [Inaudible.] marine. Market agriculture as the preferred study direction at technikons and colleges so that previously disadvantaged students can stop just studying for BAs and IT and start studying agriculture.

Give future aspiring farmers land where water resources are not a scarce commodity. Do not give the descendants of the Khoi and Griqua barren semi-desert areas if you expect them to farm successfully. All the water in the Western Cape belonged to the Khoi in the past. So, give them land with water, Minister, so that places like Amalienstein and Waaikraal are not failures because there is no water. Engage commercial white farmers so that they do not employ cheap labour from Zimbabwe and other areas. Employ our people. I want you to take these farmers... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, you will have to wrap up with the last sentence.

†Mnr P J MARAIS: Minister, ek wou jou nog gekomplimenteer het. [Mr P J MARAIS: Minister, I still wanted to compliment you.] I often hear that Zimbabweans are better qualified and hard working. This is quite possibly true, but it also reflects negatively on our own quality of education here and our work ethic of our labour force.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, that was your last sentence.

Mr P J MARAIS: Was that a good ending, Speaker?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: It was a good ending. Thank you very much, hon member.

Mr P J MARAIS: [Laughter.] I thank you, Chair. [Time expired.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I now recognise hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, Speaker. †Bismillah hieragman nir rajeem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.]

The Al Jama-ah party remains concerned that a mere 1% of agricultural land in the Western Cape belongs to black farmers and the entire farming sector belongs to white farmers. Small farmers in the Western Cape have growing ambitions but for many this can only be a pipe dream. As black farmers they battle with challenges of being excluded from the agri-business daily. Although 55% of South Africa's fresh produce exports are from the Western Cape, black farmers still do not see transformation in this sector. They are also ignored and denied access to financing in markets that the bigger farm producers have. The Province has failed the emerging black farmers. There is no oversight in the support that small farmers should be receiving from stakeholders in this sector.

The Province has shown hypocrisy in its decision to ban horticultural products like fruits to Russia because of its invasion of Ukraine. This even though the Western Cape attributes 88% of South Africa's exports to Russia, and the figure to Ukraine is much lower. This act of hypocrisy from the DA Provincial Government not only harms the Western Cape farmers, but the local economy too. In 2019 the research into the agricultural sector revealed a new wave of mass farm evictions in the province. Not all the evictions are labour-related matters, but a continuous drive by farmers to de-possess black people from owning land.

We call on the Government to take drastic action against farm owners who illegally evict farmworkers. In the Drakenstein Municipality an estimated 20,000 farmworkers face evictions. Al Jama-ah further calls for the various departments and stakeholders to conduct an oversight visit on the living and working conditions of farmworkers and farm dwellers. Great hardships, conflict and social instability are caused by illegal evictions. [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member...

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Municipalities also failed to provide adequate alternative shelters as prescribed by legislation to evict farmworkers. [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member...

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Women who work as individual farmworkers are exploited... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Brinkhuis!

Mr G BRINKHUIS: ...and vulnerable to labour-related eviction. Thank you, Speaker.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Brinkhuis!

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much. [Time expired.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: That was not really on and it was very much out of order, hon member. I am going to continue and recognise the DA. Hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr P MARRAN: Speaker, my hand is up.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Oh, hon member Marran, I recognise you. Sorry, hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr P MARRAN: Yes, Speaker. I am rising on a point of order, Speaker, because you said the “the last sentence” and a sentence might be a hundred words, so I am just saying... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Marran, I am hoping you are not doing the point of order against the Presiding Chair, are you? Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Van der Westhuizen, you may continue.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon House Chairperson, hon members, I rise to request your support for Vote 11 for the 2022/2023 financial year. I believe I can rely on the support of this House because of the excellent track record of this Department under Minister Meyer and its HOD Dr Mogale Sebopetsa. Elsenburg, as many fondly refer to this Department, is an entity that has been pushing agriculture forward. Agriculture is important because it produces food to feed the nation. It is also a major employer, particularly in the rural areas where unemployment is often rife.

Primary and secondary agriculture employs more than 330 000 people or more than 14% of employees in the Western Cape. In a country that has just seen the unemployment percentage exceed the feared 35% due to the range of job killing policies of the ANC, this is a significant figure that assists to push us forward.

Agriculture is also pushing us forward in applied science. The advances in agriculture mostly due to the clever application of knowledge and technology, are substantial.

It is needed in order for South African agri-producers to remain globally competitive. Unfortunately many, particularly in Government, wrongly believe that traditional farming methods can always compete with modern commercial farming practices. We have seen the South African Government taking a grim view of those outstanding and profitable commercial farmers that are able to push forward by buying additional land and service their debts from agricultural proceeds.

It may at first sight seem logical to limit the size of the land that an individual or entity can own and to spread land ownership amongst all South Africans, if possible. We should, however, keep two major realities in mind. Firstly, there is economics of scale, meaning in certain cases, bigger entities are more effective in pushing us forward. The second is that we should always try to produce quality food at the lowest possible price. We must never forget that there are millions of South Africans that benefit from the lowest prices possible for food.

The priority should be on who can produce the best quality food at the lowest possible costs to South Africans. This approach does not exclude new entrants to farming. It does, however, mean that emerging farmers need a lot of support beyond just being handed a piece of land. No wonder a former Minister of Agriculture declared that only 10% of land reform cases at national level were successful. Keep in mind that this figure would have been much lower had it not been for the Western Cape's much greater success rate of 72%. The selection process is to identify the right beneficiaries of land reform to push us forward, is a science in itself. A science that should take into account various factors, but which should not include the political affiliation or connections of beneficiaries that are unable to push us forward.

The Provincial Department of Agriculture's budget cannot ignore or deny the potential effects of the war between Russia and Ukraine on the Western Cape agricultural sector. In general, this will be driving all costs and prices upwards to the detriment of our consumers. It will also require us to source items such as fertiliser from new suppliers, and to find new markets for our fruit exports. It will furthermore result in losses for our agri producers and others involved in the export trade.

I therefore find the ANC Government's response to this war shocking to say the least. If the ANC is not touched by the 1000s of innocent lives lost in the Ukraine. If the Opposition is not worried about the bombing of hospitals, at least they should be worried about the negative effects of rising food prices on poor South Africans. It does not seem to be the case.

The Western Cape produces a variety of agricultural products. These range from various grains to livestock, citrus, deciduous fruit, nuts, leather and meat. The ostrich industry and particularly the export of ostrich meat have been under severe pressure due to what is generally known as the "bird flu." I therefore applaud the tangible support of Premier Winde and Minister Meyer to the ostrich industry.

I believe that the recent showcasing and introduction of ostrich projects at Leeuwenhof to the international diplomatic corps will push this sector forward and open up new export markets for ostrich meat. This again illustrated the wide range of agricultural fields, often highly specialised fields that the Department of Agriculture is required to support. Minister Mayer confirmed in a written reply to a parliamentary question that the continuous training of staff in order to stay abreast of the fast-developing technologies and knowledge of food production is a major priority for the Department. Early signs are that the drought in some regions of the Western Cape had abated somewhat.

I want to remind members that the expectation is that it would require some three consecutive normal rainfall seasons for the veld to recover. While being grateful for the rain in many areas, other regions are in the sixth year of drought.

Traditionally, drought relief was limited to fodder for livestock farmers. I was therefore delighted to recently learn that the Department through HortGro donated young fruit trees to farmers in the Klein-Karoo that lost whole orchards due to the drought. This is again an example of a department in touch with the needs of the industry and pushing agriculture forward. I wish I was able to convey to this House just how grateful those farmers were for the assistance. Let me now turn from commercial farming to the growing demand for support for urban farming. While this Department is highly involved with the establishment of community food gardens, the keeping of livestock within urbanised areas is often problematic. These animals are often allowed to roam freely, causing damage to gardens, causing vehicle accidents etc.

Where kept in enclosures, the facilities are more often than not, not meeting the requirements set in Municipal Ordinances. It will therefore not come as a surprise that some of their highly contagious diseases, such as African swine fever, have emanated from these urban farming areas.

Unfortunately, it seems as if only a limited number of our local governments still have pounds and the ability to safely move roaming animals to the pounds. While we are justifiably proud of how the Western Cape's agricultural sector is being pushed forward, we need to acknowledge that there are some risks such as climate change that are beyond our immediate control.

The citrus and deciduous fruit industries have been blessed with good weather conditions over the last few years. It allowed the farmers in the Western Cape to produce more than half the agricultural exports of the country. Some risks, however, are caused by poor governance and poor management at National level.

We have seen a collapse in our rail system. We have seen huge delays in our ports. Inappropriate COVID-19 Regulations lead to delays with repairs to essential equipment, problems with the availability of spares, etc. That our agricultural output was able to push forward despite this is a feather in the cap of the Department and those that it serves.

It was my privilege to recently attend the signing ceremony of a memorandum of understanding between the Agriculture Department of the Western Cape and the Department of Food and Agriculture of the State of California. What is of significance is what we have in common, such as our Mediterranean climates and the similarity in the agricultural products that we produce. We also share a dire need to manage droughts. California is also prone to wildfires and we both have a desire to share our knowledge gained also at tertiary level in terms of climate change and climate smart agricultural practices.

I trust that members of this House will be able to show our support and push forward this agreement in the not too distant future.

Eisenburg Agricultural Training Institute has been training and preparing students in a variety of fields linked to the needs of agriculture in the Western Cape. It is the oldest agricultural college in the country. The National Government has indicated that it wants to snatch this institution from the Western Cape. Unfortunately, the National Department of Higher Education and Training has a poor track record. The National Student Financial Aid Scheme has repeatedly been put under administration and NSFAS students are still waiting for this year's funding. The students owe the universities and colleges, they owe landlords. They are unable to buy textbooks or food. The late Minister Kader Asmal forced public TVET Colleges to merge in the year 2000.

The Department of Higher Education and Training is only now, 22 years later, implementing the staff establishment norms and standards required by this amalgamation. Who can trust a National Department with such a poor track record?

This Department has also accepted that it has a role to play in addressing the failures of the South African Police Services in terms of rural safety. What a shame that officials who should be concentrating on promoting and servicing agriculture must now be concerned about rural safety plans.

Turning to the upcoming financial year, the Agricultural Engineering Services Subprogramme is planning to complete 50 engineering support activities. The current construction work on the Brandvlei Feeder Canal is an example of the groundbreaking work that these staff members are doing. Another project is a preparatory study on the Buffeljags Dam near Swellendam. It has the potential to turn extensive farming into intensive farming, pushing forward thousands of additional jobs and unlocking the full potential of the farms below the dam. It is also the staff of this sub-programme that annually supports the work of the Lower Olifants River Water Users Association with the much-needed maintenance work on their very old canal system. This unit is also expected to study and comment on some 400 applications for the rezoning and subdivision of agricultural land. The Land Care Sub-Programme is expected to render 720 technical services in promoting the sustainable use of our agricultural resources.

Minister Meyer referred to the 20 000 hectares of agricultural land that will be rehabilitated. It is this sub-programme that also managed disaster relief schemes, conduct awareness campaigns to reduce the risks of disasters, etcetera. This sub-programme can expect to receive an additional R63 million for this important work.

Another sub-programme that is fortunate to see an increase in its budget is the Agricultural Producers Support and Development. This sub-programme is pushing forward land reform farmers. The Department is busy with the revitalisation of extension and advisory services with an emphasis to capacitate agricultural advisers, particularly in the field of climate smart agricultural practices. The budget for Agricultural Producer Support and Development for this year will amount to R296,7 million.

There is a concern over the hygiene control measures in a growing number of abattoirs. The Programme for Veterinary Services is pushing forward by ensuring the safety of meat produced in the province. The staff of this programme is also mandated by the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to regulate the Performing Animals Protection Act. It is expected that they would be visiting and inspecting some 260 animal facilities all over the province. The budget allocation for Veterinary Services is R97,3 million.

Another programme that sets the Western Cape apart from other provinces, is the Research and Technology Development Services. No other provincial department has shared its recent findings on climate change, climate smart agricultural practices as effectively as this programme has. This included scientific publications, walks and talks, and even public radio stations. This Department is, without doubt, the leading entity pushing forward the various benefits that the use of commercial drone technology, combined with various accessories including cameras or heat sensitive sensors, hold. The work done to find new creative applications for drone technology, but also satellite images with various overlays provide farmers with essential information. This includes pivotal information on water, soil analysis and plant analysis.

Also in this regard, the Western Cape is recognised for pushing forward, farmers are full of praise for the Cape Farm Mapper initiative of the Western Cape Department of Agriculture. This service, which is open to all members of the public *inter alia* gives information on average minimum and maximum temperatures throughout the year for various regions. This has allowed farmers to push forward and to make informed decisions regarding the establishment of orchards with new fruit varieties.

This Department will also be developing a provincial framework for the implementation of the National Cannabis Master Plan, as Minister Meyer has referred to. This is a highly controversial development with various lobby groups in support and opposing the cultivation of this product.

Fortunately, the quality of the research of this Department is recognised also by the private sector, which has been providing external funding for some of the research, and this programme has therefore been allocated R136,6 million for the upcoming year.

Casidra, the main implementing agent for various earmarked projects such as the management of the two provincially owned farms in the Klein-Karoo, can expect revenue amounting to R35 million in the upcoming year. The drought in the Klein-Karoo has illustrated just how challenging it can be to farm profitably in the face of adverse weather conditions. While the long-term prospect of transferring these farms to beneficiaries selected from the adjacent communities remains, we cannot expect the new owners to carry the kind of burden that the recent drought has caused. This Department, as other Provincial Agricultural Departments, is also the implementing agent for the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme generally known as CASP. 120 agricultural graduates were offered the opportunity to be part of a two-year internship as part of this funding.

It is a real pity that the transfers from the National Department are not keeping up with the increases in costs, or the increasing number of emerging farmers that are in need of support.

As Minister Didiza confirmed in her introductory statement in the Annual Performance Plan of the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights, which was issued last week, the failure of land reform can *inter alia* be ascribed to a lack of support of beneficiaries. Fortunately, in the Western Cape, the Department has been pushing land reform beneficiaries forward.

Hon Speaker, again I am grateful to report – sorry, hon House Chair, again I am grateful to report that the proposed Budget for Vote 11 has enjoyed overwhelming support in the Standing Committee. Again, the ANC, as indicated previously in this debate, did not support the budget without forwarding any motivation or putting any alternatives on the table at that that stage.

I regret this negative response by the official Opposition, and I therefore ask the House to also support the Budget Vote for Vote 11 Agriculture. I thank you.

[The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to members who took part in this debate.

†Agbare lede, vandag vind 'n baie belangrike debat plaas in die Nasionale Vergadering. Daar is 'n mosie van wantroue in die Kabinet van President Ramaphosa terwyl ons hier praat. Die meeste van die probleme wat ons in die Wes-Kaap ervaar is as gevolg van die onbekwaamheid, onbevoegdheid van ANC Nasionale Ministers. Suid-Afrika staan voor 'n kruispad. Suid-Afrika moet die ANC Nasionale Ministers afdank. Vandag is die kans om die Ministers van President Cyril Ramaphosa af te dank.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ons praat al hoe lank van die Nasionale Regering en hulle probleme met die hawe hier in Kaapstad. Vrugte en landbouprodukte vrot nou al by die hawe as gevolg van onbekwaamheid, onbevoegdheid van die ANC Nasionale Ministers. Tyd vir praat is nou verby, agb Speaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon members, today a very important debate is taking place in the National Assembly. There is a motion of no confidence in the Cabinet of President Ramaphosa while we are speaking here. Most of the problems we experience in the Western Cape is as a result of the incompetence, ineptness of the ANC National Ministers. South Africa is standing at a cross-roads. South Africa should fire the ANC National Ministers. Today is the chance to fire the Ministers of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have been speaking about the National Government and their problems with the Port here in Cape Town for how long.

Fruit and agricultural products are already rotting at the Port as a result of the incompetence, ineptness of the ANC National Ministers. The time for talk is now past, hon Speaker.]

Deputy Speaker, I am now officially on the record of this House, and I am now encouraging farmers all over South Africa, and producers, Mr Peter Marais, and I am now asking all exporters in South Africa to sue the National Government for loss of income due to the ANC's incompetence for managing the harbour. I do so, Madam Chair, out of a sheer desperation, as ANC Ministers simply failed our farmers, our producers, agri-workers and exporters. I am tired of talking. I am tired of visiting the harbour. I am tired of writing letters. I am now asking the farmers: sue the Government of South Africa, and I will support you.

But we can fix this problem today in South Africa, Madam Chair, we can vote them out in the National Assembly. There is currently a debate taking place in the National Assembly, a vote of no confidence in the Cabinet in terms of Section 102 of the Constitution. There is a motion of no confidence in the Cabinet, not in the President. We can fix the situation of agriculture by voting out the Government in the National Assembly... [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister...

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: That debate is taking place right now and I want to... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister...

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: And I want to thank the support of Al Jama-ah in this regard.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you can just take your seat. Hon Nkondlo? Hon members, one minute, I have a point of order. Hon Nkondlo, what is your point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO: My point of order, Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Just one minute.

Ms N D NKONDLO: My point of order, is it parliamentary for the Minister to really shout at us? We really have got sensitive eardrums. We can still hear him. He does not have to shout.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Nkondlo, that was not really shouting, honestly. That was not very loud. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, mine is not a point of order, it is vote of thanks. I want to thank the hon Meyer for expressing his confidence and support in the President of the ANC, President Cyril Ramaphosa. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, that is not a point of order. Hon members, can we give the space for the Minister to do his concluding remarks? You may proceed, Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: I will speak softer, but the message is the same. South Africa has a crisis, and that crisis for agriculture means, I am asking farmers to produce. Farmers are producing. They get technical advice from Dr Sebopetsa and his able team. We have outstanding commodity organisations. We have Agri Western Cape. We have Vinpro. We have Hortgro. We have great farmers. We have commercial farmers. They are doing an outstanding job and it is my job to support the industry, Grain South Africa, Agri Western Cape, AFASA, all these commodity organisations and stakeholders. But today must go down in the history of South Africa as the day where we can fix the problems of agriculture in South Africa.

Al Jama-Ahmed, 80% of the problems that land on my desk are Eskom, National Department of Water Affairs, National Department responsible for the harbour. All the problems that I have on my desk come from the National Ministers' total incompetence. It is a miracle that you can still get your salary. The incompetence of this Government is completely, completely unacceptable, but that problem, sir, you can help us to fix today by voting out the ANC Ministers, the motion of no confidence in the Cabinet. When you do that, my problems are solved.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Thank you, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on more than one occasion in one sentence, the hon MEC is referring directly to the hon Brinkhuis. He must speak through you. Maybe he will do that in the National Assembly if they win an election. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Minister, let me... [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: My parents taught me never to be shy to apologise; to the hon member, my humble apologies.

†Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek is uiters bekommerd soos u, as 'n vorige Minister van Landbou, oor die sprinkaanplaag in die Wes-Kaap, in die Oos-Kaap en in die Noord-Kaap. Die sprinkaanplaag is 'n ramp en ons boere het dringend hulp nodig. Die sprinkaanplaag is wyer as die Wes-Kaap. Daarom het my Departementshoof Dr Mogale Sebopetsa met sy twee eweknieë in die Oos-Kaap en in die Noord-Kaap vergader. Daarna het hy sy versoek gerig dat die nege Departementshoofde van Landbou met die Nasionale DG vergader ten einde die probleem oor die sprinkaanplaag te bespreek.

Na gesprek het ons onmiddellik R5 miljoen beskikbaar gestel vir die bestryding van die sprinkaanplaag in die Wes-Kaap saam met my kollega, die Minister van Plaaslike Regering, Minister Bredell, ons het vergader en ons het onmiddellik 'n noodsentrum geopen om daagliks die sprinkaanplaag te monitor.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, like yourself as a former Minister of Agriculture, I'm very concerned about the locust plague in the Western Cape, in the Eastern Cape and in the Northern Cape. The locust plague is a disaster and our farmers need help very urgently. The locust plague is wider than the Western Cape. Therefore my Head of Department, Dr Mogale Sebopetsa met his two counterparts in the Eastern Cape and in the Northern Cape. Afterwards he requested that the nine Heads of Department of Agriculture meet with the National DG in order to discuss the problem of the locust plague.

After discussion we immediately made R5 million available to fight the locust plague in the Western Cape with my colleague, the Minister of Local Government, Minister Bredell; we had a meeting and we immediately opened an emergency centre to monitor the locust plague daily.]

I want to thank Dr Sebopetsa for the leadership that he took because he came to my office, he unpacked the problem. He told me what the outcomes are, he presented the plan and the monitoring techniques, and I want to thank him for his leadership, but not for the Western Cape, for South Africa, because he saw the big picture is not only affecting the Western Cape.

†Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek is baie trots op die Agri-werker van die Jaar en sy is die geleentheid gebied om volgende week Duitsland en Nederland te besoek saam met ons landbouers. Sy is 'n Agri-werker wat haar geleentheid aangryp om 'n sukses te maak in die landbousektor. Baie geluk aan Audrey September daar van Piketberg in die Weskus.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek wil ook graag die Premier Alan Winde bedank wat in die vorige boekjaar landbouers, produsente en agri-werkers na sy ampswoning genooi het te Leeuwenhof om die Regering se dank en waardering te betoon en waardering uit te spreek oor hul bydrae tydens die pandemie.

Meer onlangs het die Regering die volstruisbedryf se produkte bemark onder buitelandse diplomate ook by Leeuwenhof. Dankie aan Dr Ilse Trautmann en haar span wat wonderlike werk gelewer het. Ek is ook dankbaar vir Dr Chris wat vandag ook hier in die Huis is. My oogmerk is om meer volstruisvleis en produkte vanuit die Wes-Kaap uit te voer. Ek wil meer werk skep vir ons burgers in die Wes-Kaap.

Agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek sien dat die Speaker het ook so pas hierdie Huis binnegekom. Hy is hier agter my.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Deputy Speaker, I'm very proud of the Agri-worker of the Year and she has been offered the opportunity to next year visit Germany and the Netherlands with our farmers. She is an Agri-worker who is seizing her opportunities to make a success in the agricultural sector. Congratulations to Audrey September there from Piketberg in the West Coast.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I also want to thank the Premier Alan Winde who in the previous financial year invited farmers, producers and agri-workers to his official residence at Leeuwenhof to show the Government's thanks and appreciation and express appreciation for their contribution during the pandemic.

More recently the Government marketed the ostrich industry's products amongst foreign diplomats also at Leeuwenhof. Thank you to Dr Ilse Trautmann and her team who did wonderful work. I'm also grateful to Dr Chris who is also here in the House today. My aim is to export more ostrich meat and products from the Western Cape. I want to create more work for our citizens in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I see the Speaker has also just entered this House. He is here behind me.]

I am making an appeal that the next time when we have some lunch or dinner, that he will serve us some ostrich meat because it is healthy, and we want to live a healthy and long life, and it is delicious. I hear there is no budget. The industry will supply, and it is halal.

†Laastens, Adjunkspeaker, die oorlog in Oekraïne het groot implikasies vir Suid-Afrika. Rusland en Oekraïne is beide sleutelmarkte vir die Wes-Kaap vir beide invoere asook die uitvoere. In 2020 het die Wes-Kaap R3.3 miljard se landbouprodukte uitgevoer na Rusland. In 2020 het die Wes-Kaap R111 miljoen se landbouprodukte na Oekraïne uitgevoer. Die Wes-Kaap het in 2020 R657 miljoen se landbouprodukte vanaf Rusland ingevoer. Die Wes-Kaap het in 2020 R39 miljoen se produkte, veral sonneblomsaad en sonneblomolie, vanaf Oekraïne ingevoer.

Agbare lede, die oorlog in Oekraïne kom teen 'n prys vir alle Suid-Afrikanners. Kospryse gaan toenaam, voedsel-inflasie gaan toeneem. Dit is reeds onder druk. Ek het die implikasies van die oorlog, agbare lede, die implikasies van die oorlog het ek onder die aandag gebring van die Nasionale Minister van Landbou. Haar antwoord was teleurstellend, want hulle begryp nie die ernstige implikasies vir dit nie, maar agbare Adjunkspeaker, ek het niks anders ver wag nie, want ek verstaan die geopolitieke landskap waarin die ANC tans verkeer.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Finally, Deputy Speaker, the war in Ukraine has big implications for South Africa. Russia and Ukraine are both key markets for the Western Cape for both imports as well as exports. In 2020 the Western Cape exported R3.3 billion worth of agricultural products to Russia. In 2020 the Western Cape exported R111 million worth of agricultural products to Ukraine. The Western Cape in 2020 imported R657 million worth of agricultural products from Russia. The Western Cape in 2020 imported R39 million worth of products, especially sunflower seeds and sunflower oil, from the Ukraine.

Hon members, the war in the Ukraine comes at a price for all South Africans. Food prices are going to increase, food inflation is going to increase. It is already under pressure.

I have brought the implications of the war, hon members, the implications of the war to the attention of the National Minister of Agriculture. Her reply was disappointing, because they don't grasp the serious implications of it, but hon Deputy Speaker, I did not expect anything else, because I understand the geopolitical landscape in which the ANC finds itself.]

South Africa is again on the wrong side of the geopolitical landscape. The National Government is silent on matters that matter. The late Archbishop Tutu said, and I quote:

“If you are silent on matters of morality, then you are on the side of the oppressor.”

Putin is the oppressor and the ANC is supporting the oppressor. Putin is a war criminal and the ANC is supporting a war criminal. Today he is in a bunker in Russia. Why is he in a bunker? He is in a bunker; he sent his children and his family already to another place to be in a bunker. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order please, members. That is a little bit too loud. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, war images of mothers, grandmothers, children fleeing their homes are a gross violation of International Law. We together as we sit here and those who are online, we must always be on the side of justice, on the side of peace and human rights. It is a shame that the South African Government is not on the side of justice, justice everywhere, peace everywhere, human rights everywhere and so this Government is silent and Archbishop Tutu said, “If you are silent on morality, you are on the side of the oppressor.” [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order!

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to conclude. The Ceres area is an important agricultural region, and I am pleased that the Government through the Department of Public Works has now prioritised the road between Ceres and Op-die-Berg to Citrusdal. This is a significant agricultural route to go through the N7 and so I am pleased that this Government has now prioritised the road between Ceres, Op-die-Berg to Citrusdal. Stage 1 initiation and pre-feasibility will start on 1 April 2023. The total cost of the project over a longer period will be R160 million. I thank the Minister of Finance. I thank the Minister of Transport because I made a passionate plea at the MTEF Budget Process, and so I am pleased that this work will now continue starting from next year.

Hon member Marais, in the current financial year, we are now spending R24 million rand on bursaries, internships, as you requested, but hon member Marais, I do not think this is enough and so somebody phoned me during December one evening, and she said they see the work that this Government is doing; they want to make bursaries available. They found me during December, after Christmas, and I said: “Listen here, you cannot just give bursaries to us. Come and see us.”

So I invited the lady to come to our graduation ceremony. I said, "First see the product, first see my staff. First see the capability, then you make money available", and she came and when they want to give their money, I said, "no, we do not work like this. I want to see your business operations", so a month ago I flew to Upington and I met the biggest farmer in the whole of Upington, commercial farmer, mega farmer, Oom Piet Karsten, the Karsten Group. They are having offices in 20 different countries in different companies. So I said to them: "Now you saw my business. I saw your business, let us do the deal."

So, they will now give us more bursaries to fund students studying agriculture, as you requested, and I want to thank the Karsten's farmers, and I told the *boere* there, I want you to name this bursary fund after the founding family member Oom Piet Karsten Bursary Fund. It is going to happen, because they see what this Government and my staff are capable of doing, and I am thankful. I give them the honour for the work that they are doing.

Hon Marais, yes, I am also concerned about these issues, the conditions and Pat Marran also raised some of these issues and that is why I will take up this matter of the fights between Zimbabweans and people from Lesotho because it is of grave concern. I do not want any instability in this sector and so we will engage with them about this, but firstly, have proper engagement, understand what the problem is, develop the outcome, get the clear plan and solve the crisis, but I also want to express hon Chair, there were some other questions about foreign policy. I want to assure hon member Marran I read foreign policy every single day. I meet with diplomats every week so I know something about foreign policy, something that if he wants to come for some further information sharing, I am happy that we can do that and I will involve the Deputy Speaker and the Speaker in that regard, so that is one area I think I have some understanding – not the full picture.

Hon member Marran also spoke about land reform. He knows that land reform success in this province, 72%. Hon member Marran also referred to commercial farmers. In fact, tomorrow night we will be celebrating 50 commercial farmers who are successful with a project that started in 2016 so I think we are giving due recognition to the work of those commercial farmers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the staff and the board of Casidra. They are doing an outstanding job. I want to put on record my thanks to all the staff. Agriculture cannot happen without farmers, agri-workers and producers and I want to thank them for keeping the economy growing in the Western Cape.

I want to thank Anton Kruger as well, because they are doing outstanding work. I also want to thank Hortgro, hon member Marais, last month they invited me to a ceremony of a bursary fund, over the last 10 years Hortgro and the producers supporting Hortgro, for the last 10 years they made R43 million available for bursaries for students in this province and I attended that ceremony at Stellenbosch and many of those students who are recipients of that bursary fund are now studying at Elsenburg, so on an average R4,3 million (?) from Hortgro, I want to thank Anton and the Board of Hortgro for their great work, but I also want to thank all the farmers, the agri-workers and the producers.

I want to thank all of them for keeping the economy growing in the Western Cape. I want to thank all the Mayors for supporting agriculture because agriculture happens in a geographical space under the leadership of Mayors.

To all my staff in the Ministry, a big thank you to all. You are all great, fit for purpose. A big thank you to Marietjie van Jaarsveld, the Head of my Ministry; my media officer, Daniel Johnson, and my private secretary Charmaine de Vos and the rest of my staff.

Deputy Speaker, I have defended my budget recommendations in the Standing Committee under the leadership of the Chairperson, Andricus van der Westhuizen. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all the members of the Standing Committee and the Committee Clerk for keeping us accountable. The sharper your questions, the better we become; the poorer the quality of your questions, the poorer we become, so thank you for putting sharp questions to us during the Standing Committee under the leadership of Mr Van der Westhuizen.

Hon Chairperson, today the table grape industry distributed high-end quality grapes from our producers in the Cape Winelands. I want to thank the industry, and particularly Mr Jaco Du Toit. Thank you also to Andrew Patterson, who shared some top quality apples that were distributed outside in the street, also for people because the fruits of this labour must be enjoyed by the citizens on the street in this province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it now gives me great pleasure to table in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Vote 11, Agriculture for 2022/2023 financial year, a budget of R969,218 million. This budget will be pushing forward.

I thank you with our favourite hashtag For the Love of Agriculture. I thank you.

[Debate concluded.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Debate on Vote 2 – Provincial Parliament)

The SPEAKER: Madam Deputy Speaker; his Excellency the Premier of the Western Cape Province; Judge President of the Western Cape High Court; members of the Judiciary; members of the Diplomatic Corps; Cabinet Ministers of the Western Cape Government; hon leaders of political parties; hon members of the Provincial Parliament in the Western Cape; Mayors of municipalities in the Western Cape; members of the Consulate Corps; Heads of Chapter 9 Institutions and Chapter 10 Institutions; the Provincial Police Commissioner; the Provincial Commissioner for Children in the Western Cape; the Provincial Police Ombudsman in the Western Cape; municipal speakers and councillors; members of the media and people of the Western Cape; ladies and gentlemen:

Madam Deputy Speaker, it is my singular honour and privilege to present the Budget of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for 2022/23 financial year.

This budget is a product of a thorough budgetary planning process both internally, as well as with our very own Provincial Treasury. Although the outcome of the process is not always to our complete satisfaction, it has to be stated upfront that the Provincial Treasury understands and appreciates our mandate as the Provincial Parliament, and I wish to thank our hon Minister of Finance and Team Finance for their continued support in this regard. We had extensive negotiations and consultations in our bid to arrive at a final product for this Parliament and of course, a budget is always a question of balancing within the limited resources and myself and the Accounting Officer had this in mind, as we continued to do this work.

Our budget as Parliament has increased by just over R9 million from R217 708 million, including a direct charge, to a sum of R226 803 million. The WCPP baseline is supplemented with R4 376 million which relates to the funding for cyber security, which the Western Cape Provincial Parliament is committed to ensuring that we roll out new technologies, Madam Deputy Speaker, to standardise process, ensuring that our public participation and of course the work of the hon members is enabled in ensuring that the performance of their duties and the tools of trade are properly empowered to perform these tasks. R678 000 has been made available for this purpose in this additional budget.

We are also, as Parliament, part of the Commonwealth family and one of the responsibilities, Madam Deputy Speaker, is that at least once every ten years, we have the responsibility, as the Provincial Parliament, to host the Commonwealth Africa – in fact, all South African Parliaments have the responsibility, all nine legislatures.

So we will be hosting the Commonwealth Africa Region Conference as well as the SOCAP, which is the administration where they convene and sit and engage on matters that confront us as Parliaments. So this is something that we do at least once every ten years and we have been able to put aside an amount of over R3 million in this regard and Treasury has been able to come to the fore in this regard and also supplemented the budget for Committees by R170 000.

The Western Cape Provincial Parliament is committed to continue to provide procedural and related support to the House and our Committees to conduct our business of law-making, effective oversight and public participation.

As Provincial Parliament, Madam Deputy Speaker, hon members, we will also continue to ensure that not only do we do public participation, but it must be qualitative public participation. Enabling facilities for the hon members of Parliament and financial support to political parties. We will continue so that hon members and political parties have the appropriate resources and tools of the trade to perform their constitutional obligations. This will be continually reviewed and assessed on an annual basis and whenever the need arises given the ever-changing world of work.

That means, Madam Deputy Speaker, we need agility, but we need leadership. To achieve the above, the strategic imperatives for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament are among others to ensure that we reposition the Western Cape

Provincial Parliament as a leading regional Parliament, that is in touch with all its people and to position the ICT to be at the centre of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's transformation to a modern Parliament of choice and to further strengthen the ability for this Parliament to make laws, effective laws, good laws, quality oversight over the affairs of the Executive and of course quality public participation.

So as the Executive Authority of this Parliament, last year I convened a two-day strategic review and planning session where the Deputy Speaker and I spoke with the senior management team with a view to reflecting on the progress made by the Western Cape Provincial Parliament in realising the vision of the Sixth Administration, and to identify priorities towards the end of the term.

Specific objectives of the session, Madam Deputy Speaker, included among others, to reflect on the key strategic issues impacting on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, to review the performance in the executing of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament legislative mandate, review progress in relation to the key commitments since the start of the Sixth Parliament, and to identify emerging issues, including risks and to identify critical imperatives towards the end of the term.

The strategic overview of the factors impacting on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, which we have identified among others, include the salient matters: the impact of COVID-19 and the question therefore, on how we responded as this Parliament?

So the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the manner in which the Western Cape Provincial Parliament has been able to execute its mandate, and in the core areas of oversight, law-making and public participation in particular. It further necessitated adjustments to both the business and operating models including workplace policies, systems and practices. The profound disruptive effects of COVID-19, whilst introducing a significant amount of risk to business continuity, a risk which we successfully mitigated, Madam Deputy Speaker, it has also exacerbated the shift towards our ICT enabled environment in line with our objectives to transition to a modern Parliament, and of course this has further elevated seven areas in our ICT, in terms of risks, including the cyber security, data and personal information risks and of course there is even much more legislation in this particular area of work.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we know and of course the Chair of QOC, who also happens to be the Chief Whip of the majority party, chaired the COVID-19 Response Team. The Committee's mandate was simply to ensure that Government does not simply administer the budget, but there are also checks and balances in that process. And I must say that it was this Parliament that led in this area, and we are proud of that.

Madam Deputy Speaker, we live in the vuka world, with immense levels of volatility and uncertainty, where as decision-makers we have no time, but we have got to make decisions fast, and take tough decisions in an extremely complex environment, defined by heightened levels of ambiguity.

And it has also hastened the need for a review of the extent to which existing capacity aligns to a modernisation agenda that which we seek to achieve, which requires specific skills to drive in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Madam Deputy Speaker, this has also brought into question the appropriateness of the supporting infrastructure and facilities in the future world of work. Accelerated technological response and advancement included among others a necessity to re-examine our response in how we use technology and look where we are now, we are all connected in this Parliament in a hybrid session and of course, we do so because there are competent enablers on our ICT environment based on the capacity to employ and reskill.

People are willing to do this work and are willing to put everything aside to support this Parliament, to do its work. Pursuant to this is the accelerated technological adoption and penetration in society. There is no way that we can work alone and think that us being us, it is enough.

We have got people out there who expect that members of Parliament must be able to engage and integrate with them on the real challenges that confront them. But how do we do this if it is not through interactive and effective public participation tools and instruments? Whilst technology has been widely available, Madam Deputy Speaker, the reality is the gap is quite huge. The gap is quite huge between citizens and Government institutions and politicians.

There remains a risk of marginalisation due to limited access to data and technology, a key challenge for Legislatures is thus to enable free public access to data and thereby increasing the levels of participation and engagement of citizens and the work that we do, as Parliament. So technological access has however increased access to information and awareness and that has fundamentally challenged traditional notions of citizen's engagement. Agility is the key. Continuously improving in the way of doing work is the only response in our area of public participation if you want to be taken seriously as Parliament.

Madam Deputy Speaker, the further constraint to the fiscal environment is that our global economy has seen a slowdown from 2019, with a further sharp contraction due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the future projections in this area. Despite some initial positivity due to the roll-out of vaccination programmes and more people taking up the vaccines, we still however are very worried. And of course, the continued resurgence due to new variants further creates this uncertainty and instability. And what is the nature, what is the future world of work and what kind of society will this Parliament be able to function in? And the bleak economic outlook is the one that confronts us if we look at the numbers.

The pressure rises from, in particular, the changing technological landscape and how we are going to be employing these instruments also for our own members. Is the instrument that I am using still going to be fit for purpose for next year? Also how are we going to ensure that as we continue to do our work, we are able to say to our constituencies, yes, we will work from home if you work from home but as a member of Parliament can you really work from home?

That is the reality, we as members, find ourselves in and obviously as the Head of Parliament I have a responsibility with the hon members here to make things work for this Parliament. And obviously, which has been a serious matter, a lack of confidence in public institutions which translates into a lack of confidence in Legislatures, and this Legislature is not in any way an exception, and a lack of appreciation for the unique role that Legislatures play within a democracy.

This I have picked up as I go around with hon members to talk about a new programme in this Parliament and public participation called Thetha Nathi. You hear what people say and some reservations that they have about those who govern and about those who claim to represent them and the extent to which they represent them, and that is a very serious defining moment for us as elected representatives. But this Parliament has a huge role to play and thanks to those hon members who continue to support this programme because it enables Parliament to be closer to the people.

Madam Deputy Speaker, increasingly we have seen a greater impact where the WCPP is viewed as a key role-player in the promotion of good governance deepening democracy. Our audit outcomes show this case, clean audits after clean audits, at least they show something, that there is something that is happening that is very, very good here; the money that we are given by the public purse, that we use it on the expected outcomes. We are able to deliver on the deliverables that were promised in our strategic plans and APPs and of course in our Budget. We do not spend, of course what we do not have. I heard some Ministers mentioning that and that was quite impressive.

In light of the above, the following imperatives we identified to both respond to the changing landscape and address any possible shortcomings, the repositioning of the WCPP as a leading regional Parliament, in touch with all of its people, I have said this earlier, also to place ITC at the centre of the WCPPs transformative agenda, to offer more of Parliament that we want to see, strengthening law-making and oversight plus public participation.

Priorities to this end, Deputy Speaker, have been to also look at how we keep Parliament effective and also continue to deliver the services within the limited resources and how we prioritise all our programmes towards the MTEF and be able to complete the full cycle? This is obviously something that will require some serious reprioritisation to begin to respond to the priorities with immediate effect. It will then again mean more substantial reprioritisation to address all the critical areas over the next two financial years towards the end of this term. This would need to take the current Western Cape constraints and fiscal conditions into account and whether budgetary funding is sufficient to cover strategic priorities as well as whether the Western Cape Provincial Parliament's ability to maintain its role of effective oversight within the province and public participation is indeed catered for.

I have a great sense of gratitude and appreciation for the work of this Parliament led by the Secretary and the Administration, and the entire staff complement of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, the sterling support rendered to our members of Parliament in doing their work and making this Parliament an employer of choice.

I am proud to be an employer who has such a professional and a very competent team of individuals who are able to ensure that in their performance there is ongoing support and commitment, not only to members but to the people of this province in the work that we do.

We are nothing without our personnel through whom we are able to succeed in the work that we do, and this does not go unnoticed. I want to say to everyone who works for this Parliament: your work is appreciated not only within this institution but in the sector as a whole. We have become trendsetters, we have become a Parliament that others want to learn from and for that let us continue to be exemplary in our way of work. That does not come cheap, it takes sweat and blood and sacrifice. I know the long hours that our staff members work and at times taking calls at night from the hon members just to get the job done and for that, I want to say thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker, and thank you hon members. Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you Deputy Speaker. The ANC cannot support this Vote. One hundred and ten years ago a group of African intellectuals gathered in Mangaung. Two years after the founding of the Union of the South Africa, the Reverend John Langalibalele Dube and Dr Pixley ka Izaka Seme, amongst others, gathered in order to advocate for, and fight for the rights of all peoples of this country, especially the African majority.

In founding the ANC in 1912, the organisation I am proud to represent here today, has existed for two years short of the centenary of the existence of South Africa as a country. The establishment of the ANC was a direct result of the establishment of South Africa, and therefore it is a legitimate question whether our country can survive without the ANC.

South Africa, as a country, has known no other political organisation that has lived as long as the ANC has, yet this is a debate for another day. In 1955, forty-three years after the founding of the ANC, the ANC together with various other formations converged on Cape Town to declare among others, the people shall govern.

In the lead up to the Congress of the People, lawyers such as A P Mda Lembede, Nelson Mandela, Oliver Tambo, Duma Nokwe, amongst many others played an integral role in the formation of the ANCs understanding of constitutional democracy. In fact, taking even a step back, Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, in his book *'The Land is Ours'*, South Africa's first black lawyers and the birth of constitutionalism, traces the work of South Africa's first black lawyers who operated in the 19th and early 20th century. In other words, long before CODESA and the writing of our Constitution, the ANC was steeped in the knowledge of a constitutional system that respected individual rights and freedoms. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, yes Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you could just take your seat, there is a point of order. Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I rise on the Rule of relevance, is this is a history lesson on the history of the ANC or Vote 2 Provincial Parliament?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I was watching that. I am hoping hon Lekker that you are moving directly to the Vote, because relevance does play in terms of Rule 40. Are you going to be continuing to move towards the relevant topic of today?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I am definitely heading there, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I will be carefully watching, thank you very much, you may proceed.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. In other words, long before CODESA and the writing of our Constitution, the ANC was steeped in the knowledge of a constitutional system that would respect the rule of law and that would hopefully use this rule of law as an instrument against injustice. One of the existential characteristics of the ANC was precisely its love of the law and how it found that the apartheid system had actually used the law unjustly instead of pursuing justice.

Deputy Speaker, I am saying all of this, and I provide this brief history lesson today precisely because there are among us, who do not understand what hon Baartman will turn the mandate of Balaleta. Indeed, we must promote democracy, for sure we must not keep quiet in the face of injustice, but democracy is not a free for all. Democracy is simply not freedom to do what you like. A constitutional democracy is based on the rule of law and the principal of separation of powers. A rule of law and the Constitution where it clearly states that foreign policy shall be determined by the National sphere of Government. A rule of law and Constitution which clearly states that foreign policy and relations with State shall be the prerogative of the Executive at a National level.

It is extremely disturbing when the Speaker suggests that because of agreements with other countries, the Legislature can therefore not turn a blind eye to what is happening in Ukraine. The Speaker and this Legislature must hold the Executive of this Province to account and not join the Executive. The Speaker and this Legislature are not a wing of the Executive in this Province. It must not get involved with this Provincial Government when it breaks the law in violation of the Constitution of the Republic and the Constitution of this Province.

This Legislature should have called the Premier and his Cabinet to account for pursuing a DA foreign policy. Instead, he had to see our building, yes, this is a Legislature too, being lit up in the colours of the flag of a foreign country. Even worse still, we hear that this was not paid for by the Legislature. Then who paid for it? The debate on Palestine sponsored last year by Al-Jama-ah would also have cost this House nothing.

The public engagement programme of this Legislature explains to us that they will soon be rolling out a social media campaign to ensure involvement by the public in budget processes, law making processes and oversight, however, maybe they would first want to stop at the Speaker's office and teach him how to use WhatsApp.

The lighting up of the Legislature building could easily have been discussed in a WhatsApp group as urgent as it was, a WhatsApp group representing all the parties in this Legislature. The Speaker does not need to first call a Speaker's Consultative Forum. In that WhatsApp group the Speaker would have realised the majority of the parties represented in this House would not have agreed with him. Former Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng was taken to task by the Judicial Conduct Committee for engaging in political controversy. The former Justice had to learn about the separation of powers. It is simply not the constitutional prerogative of the judiciary nor the Legislature to get involved with foreign policy matters, let alone a Provincial Government.

This House and its leadership must learn about the separation of powers and the Rule of Law because our very democracy, a democracy advocated by the ANC in its 110-year history, depends on it.

Deputy Speaker, the leadership of this House does not understand the separation of powers, the budget for overseas trips by the Secretary, while the budget of communities is dire. The hon Baartman is correct, committees are the engine room of Parliament.

While the budget of the offices of the Speaker and Secretary increases by over a third each, we are told that is it because the Committees' budget is cut. The ANC has raised before, and will raise it again, it cannot be that a non-core function or programme is taking most of the money. Even worse still, it cannot be that most money goes to Programme 1, which is Leadership and Administration.

The core functions of this Legislature are Programmes 2, 3 and 4. How is it possible that we are struggling in these three programmes, but the leadership of the Legislature is getting most of the pie? In fact, even the increase of 6% for Programme 1, which is Administration, is more than the others. We read that the increase is largely due to increases in personnel and COE costs, so a bloated administration but staff members should support being stretched. Members' support, which is critical, is not even increased by 1%, it is less than 1%.

Again, the hon Wenger and hon Baartman, who hypocritically supported the budget today, pointed out in the Oversight Committee that budgeting is about priorities and the priorities in this budget are simply not right. Indeed, this budget sees a budget increase prioritising overseas trips, legal expertise and the Seventh Parliament, while our Committees and the co-functions of this Legislature are neglected.

The ANC will soon be writing to the Secretary's office, to enquire whether members are entitled to use legal services for Legislature work that is not receiving an increase in budget.

The ANC continues to lament the severe pressure that WCPP staff must work under. We criticise this budget being advertised the Friday before Monday, when the budget speech was made, and the deadline being that afternoon, on Monday afternoon. Staffing programmes 2, 3 and 4 are overworked in Legislature. The ANC must continuously do the dirty work of the DA by complaining about issues that some DA members of this House are too afraid to complain about.

We must complain about the slowness of Public Transport and Public Works and how they neglect the maintenance of this building, because the Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker or in fact DA Whippyery, do not have the courage to speak against the MEC in this Department.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC up until now remains unconvinced that taking the SOPA to the people is worth the money that is being spent. SOPA outside of Wale Street is becoming a DA road show. Since Mitchells Plain when the first SOPA was held in our communities, the ANC has demanded that our communities are involved, that time is set aside for us, both in the Executive and in the Legislature to listen to our people.

Taking Parliament to the people rings hollow when the people cannot even access us. In Velddrif, where nearly half a million was spent on SOPA, the public gallery was filled with DA acolytes when the Premier spoke. The hall in Noordhoek was much larger and could have accommodated far more people, but Velddrif was chosen because the DA did not want to face the reality of our people's living conditions.

Indeed, the library was opened in Noordhoek, but in typical apartheid style it was a message of look what we do for you, but you do not deserve to be listened to. We are told that at Velddrif itself R440 000 was spent, and conveniently R373 000 was spent in the district. This shows what a cheap show taking Parliament to small towns is. Why was the extra money not spent in Velddrif itself but instead we had to drive to the already economic hub of Saldanha Bay?

The ANC claims the victory of the digitisation of Hansard but says that more can be done. We therefore welcome the 8,1% budget increase made to these services. Deputy Speaker, this Parliament must come back to basics, leave these international associations or trips and budgets for Committees, respect the rule of law and the Constitution and leave foreign policy to National Government.

The ANC after its founding, and as a resolution of Mangaung in 1912, sent its first delegation to the then King of England. We have been doing foreign policy since our establishment. At one stage when hon Marais was serving in that apartheid tricameral system, the ANC had no foreign representation than the hon Marais Government did in foreign countries.

In fact, President O R Tambo was hosted as a Head of State and red carpets were rolled out for him at airports while the apartheid regime was the skunk of this world. Leave foreign policy to the ANC National Government. We cannot support this Vote. I thank you,

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, you strive towards quality public participation on issues like performance or of our mandate, identifying risks, discussing the impact of COVID-19, oversight functions, adjustments to policies, these are noble things to pursue.

You are like a beacon of hope, a lighthouse for sailors that are drowning, because we are drowning in this country. Parliament's image has been destroyed at national level and we are living in the shadow of big brother who has no image. You must pull us out of that identity that we are also just a Parliament that could possibly be corrupt and that has incompetent people. National Parliament is no example to follow.

I heard members here talking about their Ministers that are no example to follow. We must reposition the Western Cape Parliament and you have my full backing on that. We do not even get coverage on television. Anytime a Minister says anything, no matter how stupid, he gets a whole hour on TV to explain his stupid policies, if he is National. We do not get that coverage and it is time that we insist that we, in the Western Cape want coverage of our sessions too, not only on television but in the media. I have been with you to two Thata Nathi ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Thetha Nathi.

Mr P J MARAIS: Okay, okay. [Laughter.] Theta Nathi, in Bellville South and Mitchells Plain and the people loved it. We introduced ourselves to them and said this is who we are and how we do things. No National Minister can go there and say this is who we are, and this is how we do things because then we will find out more secrets.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member, your time is up.

Mr P J MARAIS: I should never have gone out, Deputy Speaker. [Laughter.] [Time expired.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament receives an amount of R176,5 excluding the direct charge for members' salaries to be appropriated in the 2022/23 financial year. This represents a 4% increase on the previous year and estimates rise to R190 million in the MTEF. Deputy Speaker, this is an important budget because Parliament is important. The world over, Parliaments exist to represent the people of their nation or their region, they exist to give life to the concept of government by the people.

As public representatives, we bring the views of our constituents to this House and to decision-making. Parliament ensures representative democracy, and it rests between the Executive and the Judiciary. Making laws and overseeing the Executive and debates such as the ones that we have been engaged in over the last three days, battling out the budgets allocated in service of our citizens, debates on policy, debates on laws. These are the ways in which this House serves to be the platform to discuss relevant and important issues of the day in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, we are also scrutineers by overseeing the policies and work of Government, we check that our citizens receive the very best service delivery, and that Government finances and spending are spent in a proper way and are not wasteful. And this includes the spending on Parliament itself which is the topic of this very debate. In order to perform these functions, House sittings, oversight, law-making for the WCPP is set to receive R23,8 million in the upcoming financial year in the Parliamentary Support Services Programme.

Another crucial pillar of Parliament is to facilitate public participation. Meaningful public participation in our draft laws, meaningful public participation in the rights that are afforded by promulgated laws. And this also necessitates public education on our legal framework and public participation with the aim of helping us as representatives to understand how service delivery or lack of service delivery affects you, the resident.

With this aim the Public Engagement Programme is set to receive R59,5 million. Oversight, law-making, and public participation are the pillars of this institution and indeed of any Parliament. These three pillars rest on a firm foundation of Standing Committees. The Standing Committees perform all three of these functions. If this foundation is not dug deep enough, and does not get the best quality cement, it does not matter how tall or how modern the skyscraper is, it will begin to crack and crumble in high winds and when the earth starts to move.

These Committees do such important work, for example the world class workshop of the Budget Committee on Money Bill Amendment. Just in the last month, our Standing Committees have debated and adopted the report, through public participation on the Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Fund. The Social Development Committee had an unannounced visit to a school living with disabilities in the Stellenbosch District Municipality. The Environmental Affairs Committee delved into waste management, including the sorting of waste, energy from waste, recycling options as well as costs and future opportunities; or the Human Settlement's upcoming visit to the Langeberg Municipality to understand how structural rectification and the hand-over of title deeds and beneficiaries will be managed; or the Health Committees commitment to TB; or the Community Safety Committee's visits to police stations where most of our crime occurs and where the vacancy rates are in excess of 12%; or the work of the Ad-hoc Committee; or the Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Development; Local Government; Agriculture; Cultural Affairs and Sports and so on.

This is the work that these engine rooms perform, across party lines where members of all parties represented in this House, work together to get the work done in the interests of Western Cape residents. While in the House our debates are the battle of ideas, where our ideological and policy differences clash and are robustly debated. But the Standing Committees are the centre of activity of much of Parliament's work and in these Committees, political party representatives cooperate, and they collaborate, and they travel to the furthest towns, cities and *dorpië*s of this magnificent province.

We understand that in tough economic times there are many competing priorities that need funding from this budget.

There will always be some give and some take, but oversight, law-making, and public participation are not simple priorities. They are the very core, the profound foundation of everything that this Parliament is established to achieve. This is in part why the WCPP has reprioritised to ensure strategic partnerships that will allow it to achieve more, with limited resources.

At the same time, this Parliament has been hard at work to digitise and move our work and our papers online, and this is more than just a commitment to modernisation, it is a commitment to using opportunities created by the Fourth Industrial Revolution to make our work more accessible and more transparent. Now a resident can make an oral submission using WhatsApp. Now anyone can use the YouTube link and see how we are representing them. Similarly, any resident can now access parliamentary questions and papers and replies, online.

Part for the R78 million in Programme 1 goes directly towards this aim. And finally, the structures to support members in their constitutional obligations in service of the people that we represent, are set to receive R5,3 million. The functions of Parliament are essential to the functioning of our democracy in the Western Cape. Without a democratic institution to fulfil these important functions and represent the people, the Government could not be held accountable, and democracy would be without a vital check and balance and there would not be proper public representation.

I would just like to respond to hon Lekker. I would like to say that the Western Cape is not a regional office of the National Government. It is elected by the people of the Western Cape, with its own policies and its own manifesto and that is vastly different from the National Government. If engaging in international relations is illegal, according to her, I have no doubt she will then report the Premier of Gauteng Province, who in his strategic objectives has stated, fostering strong international relationships as one of their key priorities. Also, if she was so opposed to the budget, yet she could not be bothered to attend the Parliamentary Oversight Committee to come and note the ANC's objections to this budget.

So, in conclusion, I would like to thank the very able members of the WCPP staff under the leadership of the Secretary and the Speakership. It is thanks to you that this institution works, and it works well. Thank you very much. I would also like to thank the Procedural Officers of the Parliamentary Oversight Committee which oversees this Executive Authority of the WCPP. For the reasons that I have stated, the DA supports Vote 2 Provincial Parliament.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I always try to be circumspect in what I engage on and of course how I engage and that is primarily because I want to keep my office as an office that is impartial, as an office that supports all political parties, in this Parliament, but of course as an office that is responsible for the decorum of the institution.

But I will not be silent, Madam Deputy Speaker, when a member in this House relegates the senior office of the Speaker which is a political one, and secondly, who is the Executive Authority of an institution like this Parliament.

It is good to be nice, Deputy Speaker, but in being nice it does not mean you must be naïve and be useless.

So what I have done over the past three years is to ensure that we work together as a collective. But I do not want to be useless, I want to be useful to this institution and everybody who sees this place as a place of hope. Having listened to hon Lekker, Madam Deputy Speaker, I cannot help but feel embarrassed that a Chief Whip of this Parliament, it does not matter which side you sit on, but you lead members of Parliament – she is a member of this Committee of the POC led by hon Wenger. Yes, you may have differences of opinions on matters but not to relegate an institution that – she knows the role of the office of the Speaker and compares it to some Chief Justice somewhere.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute hon Speaker, if you can just take your seat, hon Sayed what is your point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, is it in order for the hon Speaker to describe another member as useless?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Speaker, did you use the word useless?

The SPEAKER: Madam Deputy Speaker, not only will I never utter such words, but what I would like to say is that I did not say that ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought not.

The SPEAKER: ... unless the member was sitting somewhere, because he is here with us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright thank you, hon Speaker. So hon Sayed what I will do is I will check. The Speaker said he did not. I did not hear it, but I will double check in the Hansard, and we can always revert to the next sitting. Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Over to you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I respect all members of this House as disagreeable as I may be on some issues, but I will not be disagreeable to the individual and the dignity and the decorum of a member. So to the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC, he will come and say sorry to the Deputy Speaker and to the Speaker ultimately, for having misheard me. Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

What I am saying is that I felt embarrassed sitting here as the Speaker, and of course what embarrasses me is that the hon member that spoke is the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, and I consult them on many issues that affect this Parliament. I consulted nobody on this one, I took an executive decision, but I invited everybody. There was no secrecy.

Let me tell you why I did what I did on Ukraine and on this war, in particular. We are a constitutional democracy, and this Parliament is founded on the basis of a constitution, under Act 108 of 1996.

We even have our own Provincial Constitution that supplements that which is not distinct in feature, but it complements that responsibility. So there is no way, that as the Speaker, I will keep quiet in the wake of adversity, in the wake of human rights abuses and in the wake of injustice and non-democratic and anti-democratic behaviour and especially when it affects women and children.

We have seen what has happened in Ukraine and my responsibility in 2022, I was not here in 2020 something or other. I am here now as the Speaker. A war starts in the not-so-distant future from where we are. Any war that starts will affect you and if you choose to be neutral and be a coward, which I am not, then the responsibility will then be shame on you because your grandchildren and their grandchildren will never forgive you for having been quiet, given such responsibility to lead them, in this age and time.

So this says we cannot create moral ambivalence and say why did you not do this there, why did you not do that there? Why do you not act decisively as an authority right now? That is what I did, I acted.

Now again, on the issue of SOPA, Madam Deputy Speaker. I heard it for the first time. I have never heard before that the ANC does not want SOPA to be out in communities anymore. The ANC says we do not want Parliament to go to the people. It is embarrassing, again another embarrassment and I hope, and I pray that she was not speaking for the ANC. If she was, that would be a huge indictment on what we are trying to build at this institution because we have been working together and trying – in every SOPA to work together, Madam Deputy Speaker and the Deputy Chief Whip sitting over there that side, you will agree, and the members who are connected virtually.

Whenever there is a SOPA programme, every year we come together, even when we started this programme. And I must say that we will never not go to the communities because somebody objects to it because we are here because people have elected us to represent them. In fact, they are our employers, we owe it to them, at least that much, to go to them.

We should not be scared to go to our people, because this Parliament is not for those who are elected, it is for those who cannot have their voices heard in this institution. But how do we do that? That is why there is Theta Nati, there is SOPA out to communities, and it is not a panacea by any means. It is not a silver bullet, but it does go a long way to addressing some of the shortcomings and I do hope that I heard her incorrectly, the Chief Whip of the Opposition, Madam Deputy Speaker. I hope she did not mean what she said but I do not think she spoke for all the ANC members in this Parliament. Furthermore, on the issue of international relations ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Speaker, will you just take your seat please. Hon Lekker what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you. My point of order is on the Speaker misleading the House by not correctly outlining what I said, but rather his own analysis because I never said the ANC does not support taking Parliament out of ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lekker. That is not a point of order. The Speaker may continue.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): But he is misleading the House, Deputy Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Then maybe you can, in a future motion, correct him. That would be alright but, in the reply, here we cannot have a debate on the substance of the Speaker's comments in his final remarks. So unfortunately, I cannot allow that to be debated because I would not be able to verify or referee that comment.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): May I ask you to listen to Hansard, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I can listen to the Hansard, but I would not be able to judge on misleading the House. Okay, I tell you what, I will listen to the Hansard, and I will revert back to you in the next sitting. Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I proceed, I would like to further reiterate our commitment to work with the diplomatic corps and the consular core. We have a responsibility to build a much better world than the one we found. It has never been so desperate and more pressing and more urgent that we do so and that is why our commitment continues to be that of building a Western Cape that is part of the global community.

In 2019, when I was elected here as the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, we took a decision to put together a strategic approach on international relations and how this Parliament should position itself in this area of work. We have always been part of the community, but we said we will actually take it a step further by even refining our policy position on international relations and how we should work. So to be sitting here, Madam Deputy Speaker ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Speaker, I apologise for interrupting you in the middle of your sentence but there is a point of order, apologies. Hon Marran, what is your point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Deputy Speaker, is it parliamentary for the Speaker to say that those who have taken a neutral stance in the Ukraine conflict with Russia, those who have taken a neutral stance, are cowards? Is it parliamentary for the Speaker to say that, that we are cowards because we have taken a neutral stance?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, I am very careful to limit freedom of speech. When things get a bit derogatory, I fully understand but I do not want to, because one day you may want to use that word and then we are in a situation where we cannot even open up our mouths because everything, we say is unparliamentary. Can I apply my mind on this matter, please, hon member Marran?

I tell you what, again, for the sake of the smoothness of this Vote, I will apply my mind and come back to you but for now, I would like the Speaker to continue.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I really do not want a big debate breaking out at the end of a very long budget session, over three days, so I am going to be accommodating and allow the Speaker to continue. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will not expand on that question, I will continue with what I was talking about.

So, our responsibility, as this Parliament, is that we will work closely with the international community. Yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker, have been very active in this space, and you know what it means for our Parliament. Our members of Parliament do not have all the skills set they need to function efficiently and to function effectively. So as, is our staff. So, we continue to improve in this area, because you want to have the best machinery, both on the political front, and also on the administration part. And we tap into the resource that is available there. That is why we continue to send members to conferences, but also to attend trainings, training opportunities that are available in the space. This South African Government, nationally, as part of the legislative sector, we have taken a decision to go and renegotiate with the European Union.

The former Speaker will tell you we have been trained by Europeans; they have been paying for us to go to school. I am one of those who has studied, I am doing my Master's Programme, paid for by the European Union in South Africa, through the legislative sector. That means we cannot divorce ourselves from the global community. Yes, you must be able to condemn and call each other when we are wrong. And that is why it is important, if you love me so much, tell me when I am wrong. You cannot use the brother/sister and say, because we are brothers, even if you are wrong, it is okay. It is like standing and watching someone kicking his wife, and her teeth out, and you say, no, he is my friend. That is not a friend. That is not a friend. So, our responsibility is to be genuine friends, honourable friends, good friends, who believe in justice and human rights. And that is why we do what we do.

Let me move on quickly, Madam Deputy Speaker, and say that hon Marais, †agb Marais, ek is baie dankbaar, meneer. Ek is baie dankbaar. [hon Marais, I am very grateful, sir. I am very grateful.] You have said everything that I would otherwise have said about a number of things, but, in particular, this Parliament, that it is a beacon of hope. You have said it. It is a frontier for those who cannot speak for themselves, but also it is a place where people are beginning to see what Parliament should do. And thank you for your words of wisdom and support in this regard. And, obviously, for supporting Thetha Nathi as you have yourself, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Marais indicated he has been to many. You saw him when you attended the Thetha Nathi Programme.

Finally, to the Chief Whip and the Chair of this Committee, I want to say that we have had a number of extensive engagements on the issues of budget, and the Chair of the Committee is correct, we need, really, to put much more resources into this area. I mean, now it is sitting at R1,9 million; if you take the rollover that we are putting into this, because currently it is R1,25 million, and we want to top up, we are sitting at about R1,9 million. And that is because of some of the spending patterns over the years, some of which happened during COVID-19, in some cases 20% was being sent back, Chair through you, Madam Deputy Speaker. In some cases, 30% was being sent back to the fiscus. But all of these are the mechanics of COVID-19, among others.

But because when we work in the environment of budgeting, we get monitored if we do not spend. We get asked why they should give us more money, as Parliament, forgetting that a sub-programme that does not spend all of its money does have, in some cases, reasons that are substantive as to why. Like, in this case, it was COVID-19, but to Treasury it would mean something else, in terms of budgeting and how they allocate resources to the institutions, which affects our baseline and increases.

So, we then had to, as this Parliament, myself as an executive authority, I take full responsibility for that. And the accounting officer has to take that same responsibility to ask do we continue putting in more money, and then there is, again, under-expenditure, but then Treasury says we cannot give you money.

So, what I then said to the Secretary is that, no, we cannot rely on just the rollover, but let us look in total, how do we involve the Chairpersons of Committees, Madam Deputy Speaker, in the draft budget processes, because this is the scientific way of doing things. Budget is not just, you know, me wanting more money, then I go, you know. I mean, the Minister of Social Development, I heard her speak earlier, as a banker, saying you cannot spend what you do not have. But, also, you budget based on how you are going to spend.

COVID-19 has affected the budget of Committees, and how that budget gets to be appropriated. So, that is the elephant in the room, and we should not be bickering about this, but accept that it is the elephant in the room, and to resolve that very issue, Madam Deputy Speaker, my responsibility was to say that Madam Deputy Speaker is the Chair of Chairs, and the Chairperson's of Committee must continuously engage, and advise the administration of the key priority areas, the planning going forward, so that you say in this year this is what we want to do, in this month, and this is what we intend to do as we plan. But there is no excuse. Committees can only function optimally if there is enough budget towards it. It will never be enough, but we need to keep supporting, and putting in more and more oil, so that we are able to start the engine.

I think the Chair of the Committee made mention here that the Standing Committee is the engine of Parliament. It is a fact. I was a Chair myself, and Madam Deputy Speaker was also the Chairperson of a Committee, so we know what this means.

But we need to work better together and plan the road ahead in how we can, at least now we are still in the COVID years, we do not know what the future holds but we do know where we are.

I mentioned the Vuka world, I mentioned some tough decisions that we have to make within the limited resources, but that includes taking the Committees with us. We do not want them to feel like a stepchild. They can never be a stepchild. They are, in fact, a very important partner in what we do.

Also budgeting for international relations trips, Madam Deputy Speaker; we need to, because the budget as it stands includes that as well. So, we do not have something else that is somewhere to take care of the international relations trips. It is part of this budget. So, when one reads the budget, you must know if you spend R20 to buy milk, instead of buying one for R10, then that is the reality, you are going to have a situation where you cannot spend on bread. So, those are the technicalities that we need to work with, notwithstanding the fact that what has been appropriated is not enough, and we will continue to augment that, through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, in response to the Chairperson of the Committee. And, again, to appreciate the support of the Committee, led by the hon member Wenger, as the Chairperson, and all the other work that she does for this Parliament.

She successfully led the COVID-19 Committee, which has made this Parliament one of the best, and a shining example in the world, not only here. I was asked to go to Tanzania, through you Madam Deputy Speaker, Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC, I was supposed to be there now to represent this Parliament, not myself, not the DA, this Parliament, all of us, on how we have done what we have done during this crisis and this pandemic. And that is because of the co-operation that we have seen in this Parliament, where we can sit here, and I am speaking, and members are connected virtually, but they are quiet, listening and participating, following the Rules.

You have not seen the chaos in some other Parliaments, so the world wants to hear how we do what we do. Despite the disagreements from time-to-time, we have seen some of them during the debates, but we continue to do our work, and respect the processes, and respect the decorum of this House. So, for that I thank the Chairperson of the Committee, and I thank all the hon members of the Standing Committee for their support.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your wise counsel and ongoing support. Yes, as a Deputy Speaker there may be areas where you say I want to prioritise that, I want that, but the reality is we are able to pull through, and work as a collective in representing this institution. And I have seen it, and I want to thank you very much for that, Madam Deputy Speaker, and say to the Secretary, Mr Romeo Adams, †baie dankie, meneer [thank you, sir.]

Mr R ADAMS: Pleasure!

The SPEAKER: †Baie dankie. [Thank you.] It is not easy to lead in an environment where you have got seven political parties that all have different interests at times.

But when you lead as an administration, and you lead professionally, and you are impartial, following our values, with the senior management team, the CFO, and all the other Directors, you are able to see a ship that is stable, and this Parliament has been. So, thank you very much for your support and leadership.

†Gcwanini Sibewu, Miya, †to the head of my office, †enkosi yihlo, ndiyabulela [I thank you my brother, for your support] and leading the office of the Speaker †ingeyeli ukhona [not to sink] while you are there. Thank you very much. We appreciate the support, myself and the Deputy Speaker.

This is where I come to an end, Madam Deputy Speaker, to say that this Budget Vote 2 of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament is a budget that will not only be able to make just and good laws, but it will ensure that we involve our people in how we make decisions and ensure that we have a very strong Parliament that is able to do quality oversight over the affairs of the executive. A strong parliament is a strong government. If we are weak as Parliament, the executive led by the Premier, will be very weak, and you will see the collapse in our democratic structures.

Thank you very much. May God bless you.

[Debate concluded.]

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Consideration of Votes and Schedule)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers, but that parties who wish to do a declaration on all votes and the schedule now, be afforded an opportunity to make such a declaration for a maximum of three minutes. I will now afford the parties an opportunity to make their declarations. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The ANC declines to support this Appropriation Bill. The double standards of this DA Government, grandstanding by MEC Fernandez, then listening to the vitriol of blue spiderman, MEC Simmers; DA MPLS who do not know their Legislature or Executive, to a point of responding directly, as Deputy MECs. We need a workshop on the separation of powers here, or surely DA voters and the public are getting a raw deal. Budget debates are fraught with playing the person more than the ball, with the stinking blue mentality of supremacy, which is highly unparliamentary, but also a sign of weakness in arguments. “Words start to lose value when actions do not match.” – Anonymous

Outbursts on Russia and the Ukraine; where have you been, and what is driving this sudden wake up from the Blue Train, whilst global atrocities have been muted against many children, and citizens of the world, and this DA has been mum, and cut the Russian nose to spite Western Cape wine producers, as hon Marran has raised here.

What is your stance then, as this DA Government? Imply to Mr Malcolm Green, a black company, La RicMal Wines, Lerato wine brands, who, through DTIC in the 2020 Trade Show, was excited about the market opportunity to expand their footprint; Rydal Jefftha of Koopmanskloof Wines in Stellenbosch, from 2016, through DTIC, signed a multi-million Rand deal to ship about 60 000 bottles of their wine, just to name a few.

So, the DA must not throw ideological jabs using this budget debate, and this Parliament, but must open a debate in this House on the Ukraine and Russia, and ensure that when MEC Maynier quotes the late Bishop Tutu, he must not quote him out of context, about us being on the side of justice, peace and human rights. This he said ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

Ms N D NKONDLO: ... when he was returning from Palestine, and after his observation there, something that the DA is refusing as a discussion in this particular House. †Anikwazi ukuthetha ke kuba nisondele enxebeni. [you cannot speak because you are close to the pain of what is happening.]

We must, once again, register our serious concerns about how this budget was, firstly, delayed, and then rushed through. We cannot be doing to the people of the Western Cape justice, and we cannot be exhausting our constitutional mandate as this Provincial Legislature by budgeting. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. You may proceed hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO: We cannot be doing the people of the Western Cape justice, and we cannot be exhausting our constitutional mandate as this Provincial Legislature by budgeting comprehensively if this budget process is as rushed as it is.

Secondly, the ANC cannot support this Appropriation Bill, because budgets are about choices. The DA, through this Provincial Government, is making budget choices based on ideology. We have seen consistently over the last few days no targeted provisions or interventions as a direct response to inequality and poverty, never mind selective mapping.

Once again, as we were told, we received this inactive morality that was preached by hon Meyer here, Deputy Speaker. Constantly we saw throughout each budget vote, a reinforcement of the old, and the maintenance of the *status quo*. Fighting the second pandemic for this Provincial Government is about ensuring those who had access to past privilege and resources, re-establish themselves as they were before COVID-19. That, once again, demonstrates inactive morality. [Interjection.] As the ANC, once again, we do not support this budget. Thank you. [Time expired.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP supports the budget. Although there is a lot of room for improvement, we, at least, must agree that the Western Cape is doing a better job than the ANC National Government, and that is why we support the Bill. Thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Deputy Speaker, you do not reject a building, excellent positioning, lovely building, but there is a blocked drain, and there are a few broken windows here and there, and now you say I reject the building. That is the Western Cape. If there are a few broken windows, it is still the best investment in this country, and I support it, from the Freedom Front's side, or position, wholeheartedly, because it is still the best property in the country. Thank you. [Applause.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL-JAMA-AH): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Al Jama-ah does not support this budget and the DA can learn a lot from the ANC. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, on a procedural note, I just want to make a few procedural points, but it can come into my three minutes, asseblief.

Firstly, the National Treasury was delayed in sending the Western Cape allocation letters. You cannot consider your Provincial Budget if you have not received your allocation letters. So, the Provincial Budget was delayed, and the letters and the information was sent to members to say the allocation letters were not received, and this is why the budget is delayed. So, I do not know where those members were. In fact, I do not know where member Mvimbi is today, because someone else was speaking on the budget. He is actually the member on the Budget Committee, because these days opposition members want to know where everyone is. And, quite frankly, Deputy Speaker, member Mvimbi was also not in the Budget Committee, so the ANC actually did not indicate on this Bill what his position was, and no alternate was sent. And I am very surprised at what Al Jama-ah is saying, because he was in the Committee, and when I was waiting for his objection, he did not register that he is objecting to the Bill. So, in terms of procedure of the Budget Committee on this Bill, Al Jama-ah, in Committee, supported this particular Bill.

But anyway, Deputy Speaker, this budget will capacitate the Provincial Government in pushing forward to see true recovery and growth for residents. R19,6 billion will be allocated over the next three years on various programmes and initiatives, aimed at creating an economic ecosystem, which will see support to all sectors.

More than this, the R30,3 billion set aside for infrastructure development is an investment in the economic and social wellbeing of all residents in the Western Cape. So, Deputy Speaker, while members Dugmore and Sayed are busy lobbying against each other for the votes of those three ANC branches, and I hear member Nkondlo is also apparently running for Secretary, or something-something, the Western Cape will perform robotic surgery ... [Interjection.] in our hospitals. We had the first robotics in a public hospital in Africa.

The Western Cape will invest in broadband to address the digital gap; we will provide legal support assistance, and advice, and forensics to municipalities without capacity; we will clear alien vegetation, and train drone pilots for agriculture and environment; we will fund the Digital Library Archives, so that our heritage and culture can live forever; continue to provide integrated human

settlements; deliver first class education for every child in every classroom; create an environment that creates jobs; and continue to support the wellbeing of our citizens, and fight for their safety.

R1,2 billion has been allocated over the medium term to upgrade even and build new health care facilities and schools in our province. So, while we are seeing great innovation, responsible fiscal management by the Provincial Government, in real terms, provincial budgets will not be increasing. In real terms, Deputy Speaker. And every cent will need to be stretched to continue to deliver the best possible services to residents. And despite corruption at a national level, as we have seen in the Zondo Commission reports, the Western Cape will be focused on jobs, safety and wellbeing. Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance supports this budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Member. That concludes the declarations on the Consideration of Votes and Schedule of the Bill. If the Table staff could just confirm how many members are present. 33. Thank you very much. I have to announce that there are currently 33 hon members present, and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. Are there any objections to Votes 1 to 14, and the schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill?

HON MEMBERS: No.

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. That is fine, thank you. I recognise those that are saying there are objections to the Votes and Schedule of the Appropriation Bill. The objections will be noted. The votes and the schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill have, therefore, been approved. The Secretary will then read the Seventh Order of the day.

WESTERN CAPE APPROPRIATION BILL [B2–2022]

(Finalisation)

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I move that the Western Cape Appropriation Bill, Bill 2 of 2022, including the clauses and the short title be finalised.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, the hon minister. There being no list of speakers, are there any objections to the Bill, the clauses, and the short title being finalised? No objections?

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

HON MEMBERS: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections, and they will be noted. I have to announce that there are currently 33 hon members present, and entitled to vote, and the House is, therefore, quorate. Those in favour of the Bill, clauses, and short titles, who have said yes, so can I just hear again, for those that have said yes?

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the Bill?

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: For titles, please say no.

HON MEMBERS: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I believe that the ayes have it. The finalisation, including the clauses and short title of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill, [B2-2022] are therefore approved. Ms Nduneni will you please read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: The Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent. Hon members, that concludes the business for the day but before we log off, just a big thank you to everybody who participated, and we know this was a lot of work over the last three days. Thank you to everyone who put in a huge effort. Thank you for your collegiality. It was very important to pass these budgets, and we appreciate the support of all members and of the Executive of this House. We will now end the meeting, and all members will be exited from the sitting.

The House is hereby adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2022

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker:

Provincial Notice 38 of 2022

Publication of the Western Cape Additional Adjustment Appropriation Act (2021/22 Financial Year), 2022 (Act 1 of 2022), in the *Provincial Gazette Extraordinary* 8574, dated 30 March 2022.

Copy attached.

THURSDAY, 31 MARCH 2022

TABLING

The Speaker:

Tabling of documents in terms of section 132(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003):

Overberg District Municipality

- (i) Municipal Public Accounts Committee: Oversight Report on the Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (ii) Extract of Council minutes: Oversight Report and Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (iii) Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (iv) Annual financial statements for 2020/21.

Copies attached.

TUESDAY, 5 APRIL 2022

TABLINGS

The Speaker:

Tabling of documents in terms of section 132(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003):

1. Hessequa Municipality

- (a) Oversight Report on the Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (b) Extract of Council minutes: Oversight Report and Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (c) Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (d) Annual financial statements for 2020/21.

2. Overstrand Municipality

- (a) Oversight Report on the Annual Report for 2020/21.
- (b) Annual Report for 2020/21.

Copies attached.

**INTERPELLATIONS,
QUESTIONS AND REPLIES**

Questions and replies as received from departments

QUESTIONS

For written reply:

Premier's institutional refresh initiative

1. Mr S N August asked the Premier:

With reference to his reply to question 2 of 28 January 2022:

- (1) Whether the decision to centralise all infrastructure components in a single department and to create a single department for urban mobility (as announced in his 2022 State of the Province Address) was informed by the "refresh initiative"; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) on what date was tender DOTP LTD 003-2021/22 awarded to a certain company, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply;
- (3) in terms of which relevant supply chain management prescripts did his Department proceed with the limited bid to appoint this company;
- (4) what are the details of the recommendations made by this company to the Western Cape Government to date regarding the institutional refresh and the reorganisation of Western Cape Government departments;
- (5) (a) what is the value of tender DOTP LTD 003-2021/22, (b) how much has been paid to date to a certain company, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, (b) when does the contract for this tender terminate, (c) what deliverables remain outstanding for this tender and (d) on what date did this company commence work on the Premier's institutional refresh initiative pursuant to this tender;
- (6) whether this company began conducting interviews with senior officials for the purposes of the Premier's institutional refresh initiative prior to the date referred to in (5)(d); if so, why;
- (7) (a) what projects are still to be undertaken but have not yet commenced as part of the Premier's institutional refresh initiative and (b) what are the (i) time frames and (ii) estimated costs for these projects?

The PREMIER:

1. (1) As the political head of the government, I originated the concept of refreshing the WCG with further exploratory work by the administration being mandated by the Cabinet in April 2021. Between May and November 2021, myself and the Director-General led this further work, hosting several discussions with provincial Ministers and Heads of Department. In November 2021, an external service provider was on-boarded to support in the review, design and alignment of the WCG Macro Organisation Design, and this work was concluded in February 2022. Further work in this regard is still underway, led by an internal team, and expected to continue, in collaboration with other partners and stakeholders, including unions, over the years to come.

I am informed by the accounting officer in the Department of the Premier as follows:

- (2) 19 November 2021
- (3) In terms of **NTR 16A6.4 and PTI 16A5.5.4**,

The company was appointed by way of a limited bid (DOTP LTD 0003-2021/22). The supply chain management prescripts permit a limited bid process as a form of procurement.

- (4) Recommendations were made in the following respects:
 - Integrated infrastructure department
 - Provincial mobility department
 - Strengthening reporting on the economic portfolio
 - Enhancing the provinces leadership mandate
 - Clustering approaches

Premier made announcements in respect of the above in SOPA 2022, which may be found here: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/gc-news/316/57989>

- (5)
 - a) Tender value was R448 500;
 - b) Paid – R448 500;
 - b) 28 February 2022;
 - c) None;
 - d) 19 November 2021.
- (6) The company did not conduct any interviews with senior officials in connection with the work that was procured by the Department under limited bid (DOTP LTD 0003-2021/22), i.e. to review, design and align the WCG Macro Organisation Design and to support the WCG to define a coherent set of decisions to refresh our approach to delivery prior to 19 November 2021. Interviews specifically relating to bid (DOTP LTD 0003-2021/22) were conducted post 19 November 2021.

Some senior officials did engage with the company prior to 19 November 2021 in connection with the refresh initiative.

The need was identified to source external support in the review, design and alignment of the WCG Macro Organisation Design, and a decision taken to embark on a bid process.

- (7) (a) Whilst the tender, and related work, has ended, further internal work on this project is ongoing, and envisaged to continue for years to come; (b) Ongoing; (c) None.

Economic development Partnership: transfer payments

2. Mr S N August asked the Minister of Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

With reference to his reply to question 2 of 28 January 2022:

- (1) Whether his Department has made one or more transfer payments to the Economic Development Partnership in the 2021/22 financial year; if so, what are details of the amounts;
- (2) (a) what proportion of these transfer payments comprised funds made available by the Department of the Premier, (b) of the transfer payments in (1), what proportion was initially allocated and/or paid by the Economic Development Partnership to a certain company, whose details have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, and (c) what was the stated purpose of these allocations or payments in accordance with the relevant transfer payment agreement and business case;
- (3) whether the allocations or payments referred to in (2) and/or purposes of these allocations or payments changed at any stage; if so, (a) on what date or dates did this occur, (b) what are the details of these changes (including the changes made to the relevant transfer payment agreement and business case) and (c) why did these changes occur;
- (4) on what date did the Economic Development Partnership appoint a certain company, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, to carry out the institutional refresh project initiated by the Premier and his Department in the 2021/22 financial year;
- (5) at the time of the appointment referred to in (4) was the institutional refresh project initiated by the Premier and the Department of the Premier contemplated by the transfer payment agreement or agreements and business case or cases referred to in (2) and/or (3);

- (6) when did this company commence work on the institutional refresh project initiated by the Premier and the Department of the Premier in the Department's 2021/22 financial year using funding transferred by his Department to the Economic Development Partnership;
- (7) what projects relating to the Western Cape Government, other than the institutional refresh project, did this company undertake using funds transferred to the Economic Development Partnership by his Department during the 2021/22 financial year;
- (8) (a) when did the appointment of this company by the Economic Development Partnership to undertake the Premier's institutional refresh project end in the Department's 2021/22 financial year and (b) why did it end;
- (9) how much of the funds transferred by his Department to the Economic Development Partnership in the 2021/22 financial year was paid by the Economic Development Partnership to this company for the Premier's institutional refresh project?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

2. (1) Yes. I have been advised by my Head of Department that the following transfer payments were made to the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership (WCEDP) in the 2021/22 financial year by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT):

Month	Amount Transferred
June 2021	R3,475,000.00
August 2021	R3,475,000.00
December 2021	R6,680,000.00
February 2022	R3,475,000.00
Total	R17,105,000.00

- (2) (a) R2,500,000.00.
- (b) I have been advised by the Chief Executive Officer of the WCEDP that, of the transfer payments in (1) the company in question was paid R89,673.00 (excluding VAT) on 3 December 2021.

I have been further advised by the Chief Executive Officer of the WCEDP that a further R860,000.00 has been committed and is due to the company in question for payment by the end of April 2022.

-
- (c) Based on the original 2021/22 Business Plan approved by DEDAT on 28 May 2021 (“the Original Business Plan”), the Transfer Payment Agreement concluded between DEDAT and the WCDEP, dated 23 June 2021, the revised 2021/22 Business Plan approved by DEDAT on 17 November 2021 (“the Revised Business Plan”), and the Addendum to the said Transfer Payment Agreement, dated 7 December 2021, together with inputs received from the Chief Executive Officer of the WCEDP, the stated purpose of the payments made by the WCEDP to the company in question was for the WCEDP’s “collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth” programme.
- (3) Yes, an additional allocation of R2,500,000 (see 2(a) above) was made available by the Department of the Premier in the 2021/22 Western Cape Adjustments Budget.
- (a) I have been advised by my Head of Department that this additional allocation was transferred to the WCEDP on 15 December 2021 as part of the December 2021 Transfer Payment of R6,680,000 listed in (1).
- (b) The Original Business Plan was revised, and an Addendum was drafted to the Transfer Payment Agreement to update the WCEDP’s “collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth” programme and to set out how the augmented funding made available by the Department of the Premier (as referred to in paragraph 2(a) above) was to be allocated to and used by the WCEDP. Specifically, under the revised Business Plan, the WCEDP’s “collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth” programme contemplates *inter alia* the WCEDP focusing on building capacity for collaborative practice and the sharing of best practice for collaborating for collective impact. This involves the WCEDP playing a leading role in facilitating and encouraging the formation of new partnerships between relevant sector formation, business organisations and networks, community-based organisations, academic and research networks, citizens and other stakeholders. The focus of these new partnerships is to identify and address challenges experienced by all relevant stakeholders within the context of enhancing economic recovery, job-creation and growth efforts. The funding referred to in paragraph 2(a) above was required to support the WCEDP to expand the number and scale of collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth by specifically establishing a multi-stakeholder mobility partnering platform to find collaborative ways to address shortcomings in the transport and mobility system and by developing a series of partnering toolkits for municipalities and their external stakeholders in business and communities.

(c) As per the Appendix 1 of the Revised Business Plan:

“In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on lives and livelihoods, combined with the recent unrest in other provinces amidst the ongoing legacy of poverty and unemployment, citizens in the Western Cape face major challenges. These include service-delivery gaps and a rise in the drivers of crime and violence and unemployment. To compound these challenges, there is a widespread lack of hope in South Africa’s future that is impacting business confidence and the mental wellbeing of individual citizens. The pandemic, and related economic and social hardships, have eroded trust in institutions, including government.

The programme run by the EDP focuses on collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth. This programme involves building capacity for collaborative practice and the sharing of best practice for collaborating for collective impact. Through this programme, the EDP plays a role in facilitating and encouraging the formation of additional partnerships between relevant sector formations, business organisations and networks, community-based organisations, academic and research networks, citizens and other stakeholders, including transversal and inter-governmental partnerships within government, and between government and non-state actors, to contribute to (a) the development of relevant economic and market intelligence; (b) the enhancement of economic system performance and monitoring; and (c) the implementation of economic vision, strategy, and delivery.

Initially, Programme 5 was the smallest of the EDP’s five programmes, focusing on partnering and partnerships for integrated service delivery, and contributing to the design and roll out of the national Social Employment Fund (SEF), with a relatively small proportion of the original budget allocation. It has become clear that regional economic recovery will need greater and more intense levels of partnering and collaboration, particularly with regard to the performance of the newly-elected municipalities in conjunction with their local business, community and academic partners.

Accordingly, the EDP has requested an additional R2.5m to expand the number and scale of collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth. The EDP will focus on two specific areas of partnering:

1. A high-performance regional economy depends on a well-functioning transportation and mobility system. The EDP will, through a process of consultation with relevant public, private and community stakeholders, establish a multi-stakeholder mobility partnering platform to find collaborative ways to address shortcomings in the transport and mobility system;

2. Well-functioning municipalities are a critical component of a high-performance regional economic system. To carry out their functions, municipalities need to be able to successfully partner with their external stakeholders in business and communities. The EDP will develop a series of partnering toolkits for municipalities and their partners.”
- (4) I have been advised by the Chief Executive Officer of the WCEDP that the company was not appointed by the WCEDP to carry out the institutional refresh project initiated by the Premier and his Department in the 2021/22 financial year.

I have been advised by the Chief Executive Officer of the WCEDP that the company was appointed on 01 October 2021 to provide advisory support to the WCEDP to deliver the “collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth” programme as detailed in the Original Business Plan and Transfer Payment Agreement. Thereafter, company was appointed for a second time on 01 February 2022 to support the WCEDP to deliver the “collaborative practices for economic recovery and growth” programme as detailed in the Revised Business Plan and the Addendum to the Transfer Payment Agreement.

- (5) No, I have been advised by my Head of Department that the Western Cape Government’s institutional refresh project is not referred to in the Original Business Plan, the Revised Business Plan, the Transfer Payment Agreement concluded between DEDAT and the WCDEP, dated 23 June 2021, and the Addendum to such Agreement, dated 7 December 2021.
- (6) Refer to the response to (4) above.
- (7) Refer to the responses to (2) and (3) above.
- (8) Refer to the response to (4) above.
- (9) Nil. See the response to (4) above.

Safety Plan and LEAP officers

3. Mr M Kama asked the Acting Minister of Community Safety:

- (1) (a) What is the (i) number and (ii) details of the meetings that the Department has had with the City of Cape Town regarding the Safety Plan and LEAP officers between 2019 and 2022, (b) what were the (i) discussions and (ii) resolutions of such meetings and (c) can copies of the minutes of these meeting be made available;
- (2) (a) how many meetings and engagements did the former Minister and the Mayoral Committee Member for Safety and Security have in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021 and (iv) 2022 to date regarding the Safety Plan and (b) what were the (i) discussions and (ii) resolutions of such meetings?

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

3. (1) (a – c)

No	Year	Date of meeting	3.1(a)(i) Number of Meetings	3.1(a)(ii) Meeting subject	3.1(b)(i) Discussion points	3.1(b)(ii) Resolutions	3.1(c) minutes
1	2020/2021	04 October 2020	3	HOD LEAP Project Meeting	LEAP Business Plan (progress) /Governance framework / Deployment	The purpose of the meeting was to provide feedback on progress, therefore no decisions were made.	✓
		23 October 2020		HOD LEAP Project Meeting	LEAP Business Plan and Transfer Payment Agreement (TPA) (progress) /Governance framework / Redeployment / LEAP Data		✓
		20 November 2020		HOD LEAP Project Meeting	Budget / Feedback from Operational Steercom / LEAP Dashboard		✓
2	2020/2021	29 October 2020	3	LEAP Operational Steercom	The discussion was related to the updated recruitment training and deployment reports.	The resolutions only refer to the discussion points.	✓
		10 November 2020		LEAP Operational Steercom			✓
		23 March 2021		LEAP Operational Steercom	The LEAP Business Plan, TPA, financial compliances were also discussed.		✓
3	2021/2022	11 August 2021	1/1	LEAP Operational Deployment	The discussion related to the updated recruitment	Resolutions only refer to discussion points	✓
		18 August 2021		LEAP Operational Deployment			✓

No	Year	Date of meeting	3.1(xxx) Number of Meetings	3.1(xxx) Meeting subject	3.1(xxx) Discussion points	3.1(xxx) Resolutions	3.1(x) minutes	
		29 August 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment	training and deployment reports.		Y	
		01 September 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment	The LEAF Business Plan, TPA, financial compliances were also discussed.		Y	
		08 September 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		22 September 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		30 October 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		03 November 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		08 December 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		15 December 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		22 December 2021		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
		05 January 2022		LEAF Operational Deployment		The discussion related to the updated recruitment, training and deployment reports.		Y
		19 January 2022		LEAF Operational Deployment				Y
		02 February 2022		LEAF Operational Deployment		The LEAF Business Plan, TPA, financial compliances were also discussed.		Y
		14 February 2022		LEAF Operational Deployment				Y
		02 March 2022		LEAF Operational Deployment				Y
		23 March 2022		LEAF Operational Deployment			Y	
			28					

Year	Number of meetings	b (i) What were the discussions	b (ii) Resolutions
2019	0	None	None
2020	2	LEAP Update	The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the update on the LEAP programme
2021	1	LEAP Update	The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the update on the LEAP programme
2022	0	None	None



REFERENCE: DCS B/1/3/2

SAFETY PROMOTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

DRAFT MINUTES OF LEAP OPERATIONAL STEERCOM 02/2020

DATE | Tuesday, 6 October 2020
 TIME | 14H00
 via SKYPE

Present:	Initials	Designation	Responsibility
Mr. T Wingrove	(TW)	Director	DoCS
Ms. Amanda Dixel	(AD)	Director	DoCS
Mr. R Lagkor	(RL)	Deputy Director	DoCS
Mr. Petrus Roberts	(PR)	Director	CoCT
Mr. Bhekithembu Simelane	(BS)	Deputy Director	DoCS
Mr. Shaun Smith	(SS)	Assistant Chief: Law Enforcement	CoCT
Ms. Suvuyiswe Nani	(SN)	Law Enforcement: Finance	CoCT
Ms. Joan Bailey	(JB)	Assistant Director	DoCS
Ms. Prudence Pina	(PP)	Admin Officer	DoCS
Mr. Mark O'Connor	(MO)	Acting: Support Service Manager	CoCT
Apologies			
Mr. S. George	(SG)	Chief Director	DoCS
Mr. Bradley Lockay	(BL)	Director	CoCT
Jason Hamilton	(JH)	Regional Inspector: Law Enforcement	CoCT
Marius Schoeman	(MS)	Project Manager: Corporate Services	CoCT
Angeline Brooks	(AB)	Clerk	CoCT
1. Welcome			
TW welcomed everyone to the meeting.			TW
Previous Minutes			
The minutes of the previous meeting dated 17 September 2020 have been accepted and signed off.			TW
4. Leap Business Plan 20/21 Progress Update			
Final input from CoCT LEAP Operations Docs received various internal comments and inputs and is currently busy with collating the information received. Once done, it will be forwarded to MS and hopefully the process is driven towards finalisation of the LEAP Business Plan and the IPA.			TW, MS, and RL

<p>RL indicated that most of the input is consolidated into the TPA and the annexure. This has been communicated with MS.</p> <p>Follow up will be done with MS w.r.t. and update I.F.o. the internal process of CoCT.</p>	<p>TW</p>
<p>5. Governance Model and adoption of Terms of Reference</p> <p>5.1. Input from CoCT</p> <p>RL reported that DoCS had a discussion with JH and SS on the Terms of Reference and inputs were received. The element of the priority focussed areas were added as well as the reporting of data knowing that the information required informs deployment and is built into the Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Operational deployment will be determined from proper geographic and demographic analysis but based on statistic baselines that is made available.</p>	<p>RL, JH and SS</p>
<p>AM mentioned that there are a few issues to be added in terms of the evidence-based data collection and they are still in a process to outline what the data needs would be. The data collection needs to be linked to the LEAP official activities and objectives.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>The Terms of Reference will be the guiding document for the Operational Steeringcom in terms of a governance structure. Once all input is received and updated it will be submitted formally for signature to DoCS and CoCT.</p>	<p>TW</p>
<p>5.2. Appointment of Chairperson and Secretariat for the meeting</p> <p>Chairmanship for the meeting will be alternated between TW(DoCS) and Dr Robert or SS(CoCT) on a bi-weekly basis.</p>	
<p>The Secretariat for the meeting will be DoCS while CoCT will continue to assist with the SATPE meeting appointments as per agreement.</p>	
<p>The TOR to be signed off by the next meeting.</p>	<p>TW</p>
<p>4 Operational Deployment: Refocus on priority areas from 1 October</p> <p>4.1. Operational deployment Plan per areas – 5 areas</p> <p>RL reported at the last engagements with the CoCT it was indicated that they have been devolved into the district areas e.g. area south, area north and they have not been deployed into the priority areas. Currently their functions are to deal with land eviction and protesting. A decision has been made to return them back to the priority areas. It was agreed</p>	<p>RL</p>

<p>that in the new TPA the focus will only be the priority areas with a response team. After a discussion based on a demographic needs analysis, we might have to look at reducing areas and have a higher number of staff depending on a shift system.</p>	
<p>SS responded that they have to redeploy back in the five priority areas, Khayelitsha, Philippi, Delft, Bishop Lavis and Nyanga. Deployment to be 100 per area and if a two shift apply it will 50/50 based on the decision that are going to be made I.L.o. the areas. A mini launch "Knock and Drop" will be held on 16 October 2020 which is basically information that will be shared in these areas.</p>	RL and SS
<p>AD did a presentation of the homicides over the Covid19 lockdown period. Khayelitsha showing the most homicides followed by Philippi East, Nyanga and Delft. Bishop Lavis has only a few homicides. Also discussing the amount of murder in areas.</p>	AD
<p>7. Operational Deployment 7.1 Leap Reporting & Data Team/ Improving TPA Reporting Frameworks - Annexure B TPA</p>	RL and JH
<p>RL briefed the meeting on the Reporting Framework and mentioned that there are ongoing engagements between CoCT and DoCS to ensure that information is available and can be reported in the required manner that meets the expectations from the Western Cape Government. The TPA is cross reference with the Sections in the Business Plan.</p>	RL and Dir Lockay
<p>Section 1: Financial Environment - Deals with financial indicators monthly or quarterly and ongoing liaison continue with JH on progress on procurement and expenditures, particularly on close monitoring to expedite the issues in establishing the basis as a high priority in the business plan.</p>	RL, SS and JH
<p>Section 2: Human Resource Environment - Deals with the human resources elements which includes the number of people in an overall perspective. This includes human resources I.L.o. the command and control teams, human resource and administrative teams and human resource and financial teams that is all budgeted for.</p>	
<p>Section 3: Deployment of LEOs in priority areas (565) - These monitoring indicators deal with all law enforcement officers deployed in priority areas. This includes the LEOs, Inspectors, Principal Inspectors, Senior</p>	

<p>Inspectors and Regional Inspectors that is involve in the operational support plan for the LEAP deployment.</p> <p>Section 4: Recruitment training & Competency of LEAP operational staff. Indicators to be monitored includes the training plan, training teams, competency, accreditation of courses completed and issuing of equipment i.e. firearms and pepper spray. Since Covid-19 we have to rethink about the implementation of the pepper spray. Those considerations will also be monitored.</p> <p>Section 5: incidents of crime in priority areas Weekly operational incidences are reported and then collated into a monthly report L.T.O. the totals received from CoCT. Some of those indicators are secondary indicators that will indicate to us if there is a reduction of crime in the communities. Docs research team also to engage and provide input in this regard.</p> <p>A Crime Pattern Analysis (CPA) will be the basis for implementation and that will be done with SAPS in Clause 5.</p> <p>PR requested Docs to engage at a Provincial level with SAPS to attend the Steercom Operational Meetings in order to measure operational impact in the five priority areas as this is a Safety Plan from the Province. CoCT cannot be evaluated alone on these issues. The matter will be escalated to DoCS Acting HOD.</p> <p>Section 6: Community and SAPS engagements per area – These indicators deal with the establishment of the stations. To what extent are we prioritising the expenditure budget around the establishment of the station basis for the areas, and to ensure that they have the necessary workspaces, technology, equipment and administrative support at their basis.</p> <p>Section 7: Deals with the governance model. MS to include the final governance model as an annexure to the Business Plan. Docs will also include it as a annexure to the TPA.</p> <p>Section 8: Partner Roles and responsibilities – This section is directly linked and clearly stipulated in the Government Gazette.</p> <p>Section 9: The summary of the overall Monitoring Tool. Data sources to be used that exist in the CoCT or that is clearly outlined within the Business Plan. Docs will monitor strictly with what is in accordance with the Business Plan and the TPA.</p>	
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7.2. Weekly Stats reporting received

FW requested if possible that information be captured for LEAP deployment as per priority area. PR responded that LEAP deployment is currently operational to land invasion. The Mayor indicated to intervene and engage with MEC Fritz and the Premier w.r.t the LEAP deployment. The proposal is that there should still be a LEAP deployment figure for land invasions as well as a figure for priority areas. If agreed, then the CoCT can report as requested. Feedback will be given w.r.t to the decision.

8. General

No general points for discussion.

9. Closing

The meeting closed at 15h20.


 CITY OF CAPE TOWN
 IIZIKO SASELAPA
 ETAD KAAPSTAD

Working together positively together

MINUTES OF LEAP PROJECT MEETING

Date: Friday, 23 October 2020
Time: 09:00
Venue: via MS Teams
Organiser: Rod Community Safety

Present:	Initials	Designation	Responsibility
Adv Y Pillay	(YP)	Acting HOD - Chairperson	DoCS
Mrs L Govender	(LG)	Chief Director	DoCS
Mr T Wingrove	(TW)	Director	DoCS
Ms. A Diesel	(AD)	Director	DoCS
Mr M Fritor	(MF)	COO	DoCS
Mr R Logtjar	(RL)	Deputy Director	DoCS
St Schoemann	(SD)	Senior Project Manager	CoCT
Mrs J Bailey	(JB)	Secretariat	DoCS
Appliances			
Mr R Bosman	(RB)	Executive Director: Safety & Security	CoCT
Mr S George	(SG)	Chief Director	DoCS
1. Opening & Welcome			
YP welcomed all present. The minutes of 09 October 2020 was accepted by the meeting as correct and no corrections/amendments were indicated.			YP
2. Governance arrangements framework – Trevor Wingrove (TW)			
<p>TW reported that from discussions in the Operational Steercom meetings and with the Acting HOD, a few amendments have been made to the framework. TW presented the amendments and indicated that the amended framework will also be presented at the next Steercom to be officially adopted. The next Operational Steercom will take place on 27 October 2020. TW confirmed that Brigadier Visakul from SAPS was invited to attend the Operational Steercom. TW mentioned that due to not all items being dealt with in the Operational Steercom, sub-teams were established to resolve compliance reporting and technical matters between CoCT & DoCS. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance, HR & Performance Reporting Sub-Team • Recruitment & Training Sub-team • Data & Impact Analysis Sub Team 			TW

<p>AD requested whether a SAPS representative can be part of the Data team and YP confirmed that the correct person from SAPS to invite is Bigodier Swart. LG recommended in terms of the Finance and HR compliance team to invite Nazeen Behariden from Strategic Services to support the BCE's.</p>	<p>AD LG</p>
<p>3. LEAP Business Plan and TPA progress - Trevor Wingrove (TW)</p> <p>YP informed the meeting that the Premier has mentioned in his State of the Province address that the next roll out of 500 LEAP officers will be deployed as from April 2021. The adjustment budget is due and urgency require the costing for the next 300 before province's financial year end. MS enquired whether this will affect the signing of the TPA. LG stated that the business plan and TPA must be updated for the full amount for this financial year but will confirm with Legal Services whether there should be an updated business plan and TPA. MS advised that implementation can be done by 2021 financial subject to recruitment processes.</p> <p>YP stated that the Province urgently requires the estimated additional funds required by CoCT to ensure implementation. MF advised that the revised budget is required by Provincial Treasury before the adjustment budget process in November. MS indicated that the CoCT will try and provide feedback by Monday, 31 October 2020 on the estimate budget for the additional 500. YP mentioned that the additional 500 LEAP officers being rolled out will target the next top 5 murder stations. MS noted that the additional 500 LEO member must be divided in 5 areas on a three (3) shifts system basis. CoCT will review if the 24-hour shift system can be implemented and if it will make operational impact. CoCT will investigate the respective options and update in the revised Business Plan.</p> <p>AD enquired with regard to which areas the additional 500 will focus on and indicated that the areas must be adjusted based on the crime stats. YP stated that the areas enquires are to be dealt with at the Operational Steercom and a recommendation must be brought for this meetings consideration and approval by CoCT and MEC. AD and TW to review in the Operational Steercom and revert back in the next meeting.</p>	<p>YP LG MF MS AD/TW</p>
<p>4. LEAP priority areas and redeployment status : Razaq Logkar (RL)</p> <p>RL presented the assessment of deployment reports received from CoCT which was reviewed for the period July, August, September noting that by September there was a 94% focus on non-priority LEAP areas. RL indicated there was a significant improvement 12 Oct -18 Oct 2020 after the HOD directed that the focus must remain in the priority areas. The deployment in priority areas improved significantly with the amount of LEO members deployed ranging between 300 members (17% priority areas focus) to 300 members (72% priority areas focused). TW emphasized that they had emphasized the focused on the priority areas and advised CoCT that it will be closely monitored and a standing item on the Operational Steercom Agenda.</p> <p>YP stated that the deployment of LEAP officials in the 5 priority areas with a maximum of 20 LEAP officers redeployed for land invasions were considered as a temporary deployment. Furthermore, YP highlighted that the successes in the re-deployment to the priority areas such as Hanover Park over the last 2 weeks contributed to the expansion to the additional 500 officers. TW emphasize that as the Chairperson of the Operational Steercom, he will continue to emphasize the deployment monitoring in priority areas and advise the CoCT Operational team accordingly.</p>	<p>RL TW MS TW</p>

<p>YP noted that there was a request from SAPS to assist with COCT Khayelitsha deployment. YP stated that these are not priority areas and it would not be advisable to forward the request and therefore Brig Hosking must be informed that LEAP officials are confined to specific areas. MS noted that the matters related to the limited armoury and lack of facilities will be escalated for prioritisation.</p>	<p>YP/ AD MS</p>
<p>5. Surveillance and data committee matters & LEAP Data update - A Dissel (AD)</p> <p>AD reported that there was a meeting chaired by Dr Moodley with DoH and DoFP with regards surveillance committee. The two areas of focus were the data integration in terms of the safety plan and the establishment of area-based teams. AD reported that the LEAP data must inform the Surveillance Committee data. RL thanked Mam Amanda for supporting the LEAP Data Committee that is reviewing the indicators in order to provide better reporting. RL indicated that we aim to have a LEAP Dashboard. AD mentioned that Andrew Faul will also assist with the indicator development process. MF mentioned that he will explore with CE to prioritise the IT resources for the proposed the LEAP data management and LEAP Dashboard</p>	<p>AD RL MF</p>
<p>4. Closing</p> <p>YP thanked all for their attendance. Meeting closed at 08h50.</p>	<p>YP</p>



Western Cape
Government
Community Safety

SAFETY PROMOTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

REFERENCE: DCS 8/11/20

MINUTES OF LEAP OPERATIONAL STEERCOM 3/2020

DATE : Tuesday, 29 October 2020
TIME : 10H30
via SRYFE

Present	Initials	Designation	Responsibility
Mr. T Wingrove	(TW)	Director	DoCS
Mr. R Logior	(RL)	Deputy Director	DoCS
Mr. Shaun Smith	(SS)	Assistant Chief: Law Enforcement	CoCT
Mr. Bradley Lockey	(BL)	Director: Training - Law Enforcement	CoCT
Mr. Jason Hamilton	(JH)	Regional Inspector	CoCT
Mr. Manus Schoeman	(MS)	Project Manager: Corporate Services	CoCT
Ms. Shuvvwezi Ngweni	(SN)	Law Enforcement Finance	DoCS
Ms. Joan Bailey	(JB)	Assistant Director	DoCS
Ms. Prudence Pries	(LP)	Admin Officer	CoCT
Ms. Angelina Brack	(AB)	Admin Clerk	CoCT
Absentees			
Mr. Petrus Roberts	(PR)	Director	CoCT
Mr. Mark O'Connor	(MO)	Acting Support Service Manager	CoCT
1.	Opening and welcome		
	SS welcomed everyone to the meeting.		SS
2.	Previous Minutes		
	The minutes of the previous meeting dated October 2020 have been adopted by RL and SS-second R.		RL SS

6.	<p>LEAP Dedicated Festive Season deployment in priority area</p> <p>Officers will remain in the priority areas for the festive season.</p> <p>The meeting note w.r.t. the deployment of LEAP officers to a non-priority area Monerberg an executive decision was made by ED Scaman and Acting HOD Adv. Pflay was informed.</p>	SI
7.	<p>Leop Reporting & Impact Data Analysis Team Update</p> <p>JH gave the updates of the impacts</p> <p>He said they've received feedback from the doctors and nurses concerns regarding the ambushing of gangs</p> <p>To help these incidents they have been patrolling in the area</p> <p>Arrests were effected in Hanover Park</p>	JH
	<p>General</p> <p>JH gave a brief on the impact of LEAP in the Hanover Park area. Emphasis was on the Hanover Park Healthcare Centre. The community and staff were concerned as they could not get access to the facility. Gangs are shot and when they need medical attention at the facility the opposition will bombard the facility and cause havoc. LEAP continue in patrolling the area and surrounding, and arrests has also been executed. However, there are continuous challenges with LAPS by not getting a case number.</p> <p>Next meeting will be on AG teams.</p>	JH
	<p>Closing</p> <p>The meeting closed at 12h05</p>	



DRAFT MINUTES OF LEAP OPERATIONAL STEERCOM 4/2020

DATE : Tuesday, 10 November 2020
 TIME : 13h30
 PLATFORM: via MS Teams

Present	Initial	Designation	Responsibility
Mr. T Wingrove	(TW)	Director	DoCS
Mr. Johan Brand	(JB)	EDP	DoCS
Ms. Amanda Diesel	(AD)	Director	DoCS
Mr. R Logter	(RL)	Deputy Director	DoCS
Mr. Shaun Smith	(SS)	Chief Director: Law Enforcement	CoCT
Mr. Marius Schoeman	(MS)	Project Manager: Corporate Services	CoCT
Preston Voskuil	(PV)	Brigadier	Saps
Ms. Shuytshwa Ntsho	(SN)	Law Enforcement: Finance	CoCT
Ms. Prudence Pitsi	(PP)	Admin Officer	DoCS
Absentees			
Mr. Petrus Roberts	(PR)	Director (technical challenges)	CoCT
Ms. Mari O'Connor	(MO)	Acting Support Service Manager	CoCT
Mr. Jason Hamilton	(JH)	Regional Inspector: Law Enforcement	CoCT
1. Welcome			
TW welcomed everyone for availing themselves for the meeting. The meeting was delayed due to technical MS teams challenges from CoCT. Several CoCT could not connect to the meeting and apologised.			TW
2. Previous Minutes			
The previous minutes of the meeting on 29 October 2020 was adopted.			
TW mentioned the suggestion of a roaming team consisting of 30 LEAP officers was discussed with the Acting HOD who are furthermore in the process discussing it with the Minister. Feedback are awaited. The roaming team will not only deal with land invasion but will attend or assist other emergency requests.			TW
PV indicated the following concerns: The objective of the safety plan is to address the murder rates in the province and ensure reduction. Is there any correlation between the operations of the roaming team and the			JH

<p>safety plan. Secondly, were there any engagements with higher authority to to enforce these operations as it is not part of the safety plan.</p> <p>JB responded should we deviate from the business plan in any way the business plan should be escalated and amended at a higher level. The business plan will be circulated to all members for input in order to secure final sign off.</p> <p>The business plan will be circulated to all members for final input.</p>	JB
<p>3. Announcement WC Safety Plan head appointment</p> <p>TW announced the following:</p> <p>Mr. Johan Brand was seconded to the Department of Community Safety via the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership to oversee the implementation of the Safety Plan.</p> <p>Brigadier Voskuij will be the official representative from SAPS.</p> <p>The final version of the Governance Framework to be forwarded to the above members.</p>	TW
<p>4. Business Plan Update</p> <p>It is noted that the proposed next five areas i.e. Mfuleni, Harare, Gugulethu, Krosfontein and Mitchell's Plain was forwarded from Acting HOD, Adv. Pillay to Executive Director Sorman on 2 November 2020. Although unconfirmed, it should be added to the business plan. The methodology and clear evidence-based reasons used, and data led to the selection of the priority areas should be indicated in the business plan.</p> <p>MS presented the updated business plan and indicated that it is ready for distribution and comments via track changes. Khayelitsha Site C to be changed to Khayelitsha Site B to be corrected in Business plan. MS will distribute the Business Plan for input.</p>	TW MS
<p>5. Training Pipeline – EPWP & 142 existing trainees</p> <p>The idea is to use the EPWP pipeline to expand some of the law enforcement officers that's already been trained especially where they need assistance. MS is looking if they can integrate the existing pipeline and expand the 150 that was trained last year and integrate them into the pipeline. There might be further requirements such as driver's license, etc.</p> <p>Docs will set up a training and recruitment meeting next week with Director Lockay and will include MS as well as Mr Mark O'Connor to discuss the recruitment plan. The EPWP pipeline can be reviewed in the meeting and feedback to be provided in the next meeting.</p>	EL EL

<p>6. Operational Deployment status presentation 12 Oct. Nov</p> <p>6.1 LEAP deployment status</p> <p>RL presented the current status of deployment. The variations between weekends and weekdays noted. The Deployment currently at 70%- 75% of LEAP staff in the priority areas.</p> <p>PV indicated the following observations from SAPS side noting that the imbalance (i.e. the LEAP deployment) over weekends is concerning. Data led policing tells us that 60-75% of all murders is taking place over weekends. Less people are operationally available over weekends. Another concern is that 20-25% of the members are for non-safety plan initiatives. The current areas are weekend problematic areas.</p> <p>SS responded and indicated that CoCT is working on a rotational HR system which is all about labour relations and bargaining. They are currently looking at the crime threat analysis and are in the process of re-looking at the shift deployment times as well as for the HR section. Once further decisions are made at a senior level CoCT will feedback with recommendations.</p> <p>PV highlighted that SAPS, CoCT and WCG are working towards the same objective which is to reducing serious violent crime and the murder rate. The meeting agreed with the sentiments from SAPS.</p>	<p>RL</p> <p>PV</p> <p>SS</p> <p>PV</p>
<p>6.2 LEAP Roaming Response Teams / Emergency deployment-10% (50 members)</p> <p>RL said they have a very tight framework that whatever the response team and roaming response team does in terms of other activities is closely linked with the objectives and its tie to the governance framework in more specifically.</p>	<p>RL/SS</p>
<p>7. LEAP Dedicated Festive Season deployment in Priority Areas</p> <p>SS said LEAP are currently deployed into their areas. Deployment in Mowenberg has stopped on the 1st November 2020. The current LEAP teams will continue and be dedicated to the areas throughout Festive Season.</p>	<p>SS</p>
<p>8. Leap Reporting & Impact data analysis team update</p> <p>AD said they look the team through the data that can be stored and captured on the EPIC system and which is where LEAP data will be stored. CoCT are reviewing noting workforce planning Resource allocation Vehicle and human resource management. Dispatch functionality (taking calls, mobile components and the reporting).</p>	<p>AD</p>

<p>AD indicated several engagement are taking place on LEAP data and RL tasked to organize a work session with CoCT Docs and SAPS to discuss the categorisation of data to facilitate reporting on LEAP. This was discussed looking at a LEAP Data team meeting on evidence-based approach to policing and trying to tie the indicators to the activities that the LEAP officers will be doing.</p>	AD/RL
<p>The reporting frameworks must be adjusted in terms of the evidence-based approach to policing noting specifically which reporting indicator will be utilized to indicators measure a LEAP contribution to the reduction of the murder rate. AD will also follow up on the data integration and dashboard creation session where they can work with our IT services and CEI to create a dashboard for the data that is being collected.</p>	AD
<p>CoCT is busy refining electronic reporting format that will be used to report to Docs on the data collected via LEAP & the Deployment. They are attempting to align this with police precincts as they have different boundaries. At this stage of the reporting is manual and not systems driven, and we working towards improving this.</p>	RL/AD
<p>1. Next Meeting</p> <p>The provisional date for the LEAP Data categorisation / integration work session is 28 November and the next Operational Steercom meeting will be on 1 December.</p>	RL
<p>3B. Closing</p> <p>FW thanked everyone and meeting was closed at 15h00.</p>	RL

CHAIRPERSON

DATE:

SECRETARIAT

DATE:



MINUTES OF LEAP PROJECT MEETING

Date: Friday, 30 November 2020
Time: 08h00
Venue: via MS Teams
Organiser: HoD Community Safety

Present	Initials	Description	Responsibility
Ms L Govender	(LG)	Chief Director - Chairperson	DoCS
Mr T Wingrove	(TW)	Director	DoCS
Mr M Fritzer	(MF)	CFO	DoCS
Mr R Logoor	(RL)	Deputy Director	DoCS
M G Connor	(MC)	CoCT, Law Enforcement - Corporate Services	DoCS
Ms P Pina	(PP)	Secretary	DoCS
Apologies			
Adv Pity	(PF)	Acting HoD	DoCS
Ms A Dzial	(AD)	Director	DoCS
Mr M Schoeman	(MS)	CoCT, Corporate Services - Senior Project Manager	
1. Opening & Welcome			
<p>LG welcomed all present. The minutes of 23 October 2020 was accepted by the meeting as correct and no corrections/amendments were indicated.</p>			LG
2. Revised budget allocation and business plan update – M Fritzer/T Wingrove			
<p>MF reported that the department and the CoCT is reverting back to the original budget. Letter was issued to the CoCT. The amount for the financial year (DoCS) is R417 million, for the 2021/2022 financial year the amount is R 550 million and for the 2023/2024 financial year the budget is R400 million. There was a deposit from the CoCT back into CoCS' bank due to surrendering of undepending of previous financial year. Amount returned was R18 million and CoCT are keeping R22 million for rollover implementation.</p>			MF
<p>LG mentioned that MF called yesterday, and figures are not the same. DoCS figures are more than what the CoCT can spend. Clarity was provided to MS. MF to explain how would transfer take place either in tranches or to transfer the full amount. TW mentioned that all parties aware that the roll out will only happen in next financial year and not this year. MF reported that money cannot be transferred if the business plan does not reflect the full amount. Can only transfer what is requested in the business plan but would prefer that CoCT has money and request for roll over instead of DoCS having the money and request roll over. LG stated that all are clear to money to be</p>			LG

<p>transferred and what is to be placed in TPA. RL mentioned that it will not be practical to project implementation by departmental year end. LG confirmed that next 500 will only happen in new financial year.</p>	LG
<p>LG advised that we request CoCT to finalise business plan and TPA. TW confirmed MS will relook and align business plan however it may be with the reduced budget. TW reported that a meeting took place last week with Mr Johann Brand and Sig Votkuil (SAPS) and a decision was made that the business plan must be submitted to PC for comments. TW advised that cut-off date for comments is 24 November 2022. Final input will be received from SAPS and Mr Brand and all inputs will be considered.</p>	LG TW
<p>TW reported that the TPA has been sent to Legal Services. TPA will be vetted once the signed business plan is received from the CoCT.</p>	TW
<p>3. Operational Steercom feedback - Trevor Wingrove</p>	
<p>TW reported that the operational steercom meeting took place and EDIP. Mr Johan Brand was introduced. All LEAP officers are now deployed in the 5 priority areas since 12 October 2020. Other issues raised was the festive season initiatives which must be in the 5 priority areas. Also discussed with Chief Hamilton responsible for deployments only in 5 priority areas. If deployments are not happening as discussed, matters will be escalated to ED Bosman and HCO.</p>	TW
<p>RL presented deployment status for October up to 15 November and weekly deployment has now stabilised at 70% -75% weekday and 25%-35% weekends. The LEAP teams will remain throughout and after the festive season as well. The COCT is exploring the weekend challenges and how to improve the shift system. Significant amount of arrests is shown within the areas and the impact of the programme is evident.</p>	RL
<p>Some challenges noted are that: 1) Not all officials are equipped with a firearm due to the lack of storage of armory facilities; 2) EPIC radios not distributed to all and SCM still to expedite.</p>	
<p>LG enquired progress on armories and facilities. MC reported that MS is dealing with that but that they are looking at alternative locations with approval by MS. The process is being prioritised with the CoCT for alternative armory spaces. LG advised RL to place on Agenda of next OPS Steercom for further prioritisation and feedback in next meeting.</p>	MC/ RL
<p>RL also confirmed that there will be a work session with the data sharing team and EPIC team to improve and analyse data received from CoCT. TW reported that no confirmation was received yet but there have been 5 additional areas was recommended by the OPS Steercom identified.</p>	RL
<p>4. Surveillance and data committee matters & LEAP Data update - A Diesel</p>	
<p>TW requested for the item to stand over for AD to provide feedback and Johan Brand and Louis Brown also engaging the SAPS & COCT Operational Heads on these matters.</p>	TW
<p>5. LEAP Dashboard and Data Management - Mogamat Frizler</p>	
<p>The initial meeting was held between DOCS and CBI. The IT Steercom meeting raised the LEAP dashboard and application on their agenda and will proceed with Business Feasibility & Requirements Study (FRS). The LEAP application is not in our current IT ops</p>	MF

<p>plan but will be included as agreed with CBI. There will be cost implications and the amendment to the ops plan will be given priority. We will engage with CBI on their resource and cost needs and allocate the budget with the Programme Manager.</p> <p>The Directorate and CBI will start the dashboard design and application design asap. There are interdependent subsystems being developed and reporting systems in the crib-based teams and the DCH surveillance team and it will have to feed into each other. MF advised department is to look at need holistically in the context of the Western Cape Safety Plan in province where DCH is leading. In the allocation letter, department of health has received R3m to further develop their system and therefore the interdependencies and integration of LEAP application into the Health system will need to be considered in the BRS & Specifications process with CBI. LG agreed with CFO and department should avoid on duplication (health) and cost implications. AD is able to provide input as she is part of that team as well. TW requested RL to follow up on the CBI meeting and feedback on progress between JPP & P&F of the next meeting.</p>	<p>I</p> <p>AD</p> <p>TW</p>
<p>6. Closing</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled to take place on 04 December 2020. LG thanked all for their attendance and hard work and commitment on the project. Meeting closed at 09h40.</p>	<p>LG</p>



SAFETY PROMOTION AND PARTNERSHIPS

DRAFT MINUTES OF LEAP OPERATIONAL QUARTERLY STEERCOM 01/2021

DATE : Thursday, 25 March 2021
 TIME : 11H00
 via SKYPE

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Mr. Trevor Ingrove	(TI)	Director	DoCS
Mr. Rudolph Willemse	(RW)	Chief Law Enforcement Services	CoC1
Mr. R. Logeur	(RL)	Deputy Director	CoC1
Mr. Shesithemba Simelane	(SI)	Deputy Director	CoC1
Mr. Shaun Smith	(SS)	Assistant Chief, Law Enforcement	CoC1
Ms. Marisa Schoeman	(MS)	Project Manager, Corporate Services	CoC1
Prudence Pine	(PP)	Admin Officer	DoCS
1. Welcome			
RW welcomed everyone for availing themselves to the meeting			RW
2. Apologies			
No apologies received.			
3. Previous Minutes			
The previous minutes of 10 November 2020 was adopted.			TW
4. LEAP Narrative assessment Overview			
4.1. LEAP first Narrative Financial Assessment of 31 December 2020			RL

<p>RI gave an overview and indicated that we have to report according to the clauses as per monitoring the financial framework within the TPA. The CoC's expenditure is currently at 24%.</p> <p>4.2. Quarterly update 31 March 2021 RI mentioned that this detail relates to the expenditure to date. Opex and Capex budget. DoCS look at the output of all expenditures and if it is within the M&E framework. It should be noted that there are areas of concern i.e. firearms and noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic the financial expenditure was delayed.</p> <p>4.3. BCE Quarterly & CIVOC Reports & Narrative Reports due 30 March/ 30 June 2021 RI just avoided the meeting of the above and the due dates for submitting these reports. Separate meetings will be scheduled with regards to specific items or issues concerning</p>	
<p>5. LEAP Corporate & HR Support staff expenditures and costs in progress</p> <p>MS reported the following:</p> <p>Constructions at the various facilities is currently in progress and will hopefully be completed by end of June 2021.</p> <p>The recruitment process is delayed. They are currently busy with the assessment phase.</p> <p>LLEOs on track to appoint 260 by 1 April 2021 and the submission has reached Executive Director for signature. The contract will then be generated.</p> <p>The bulk of staff to be appointed during the month of April 2021.</p> <p>RI mentioned that should there be any hick-ups we should do an adjustment on the 2021/22 budget.</p>	TW
<p>4. Operational Deployment Verification as of 31 December 20 & 31 March</p> <p>6.1. LEAP Phase 2 (next 500) Currently in progress. 250 to start in April 2021 following another 49 LLEOs to start by 30 April 2021 due to delays. The appointment of 50 vacant inspectors is also in progress.</p> <p>6.2. BOE Over-deployment Status & Vetting status as at 31 December 2020 & 30 March 2021</p>	MS FB

<p>IS mentioned to the meeting that the methodology they are using U.S. verification of deployment is counting warm bodies. This means staff on maternity leave, suspensions, resignations, no appointment cards etc. are not counted as a warm body.</p> <p>4.3. Update on Mitchell Point deployment The current deployment is 50 and it should be noted that the focus is not on the quantity but quality.</p>	SS
<p><u>7. Narrative – NSI facilities Establishment</u></p> <p>7.1. Firearm & Armoury installation progress SS mentioned to the meeting that they are currently busy with the process in boxing the safes. The bulk of the safes will be in Bishop Lavis and 7 in Mtsheni.</p> <p>7.2. LEAP Procurement update MS provided an update on the following: Rifles – 7.1, Million spent Uniforms – The current tender has been delayed with 6-7 months. The legal adviser made a recommendation to review. Firearms urgent matter to attend to.</p>	SS MS
<p><u>8. LEAP Reporting and capturing -Powerbi Dashboard</u></p> <p>SS indicated to the meeting that 60% in terms of developing the BI Dashboard reporting template are done. This will be introduced to managers to review and for approval once finalised.</p>	SS
<p><u>Cloths</u></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 12h15</p>	



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 11 August 2021**

Time: **07h00 – 08h00**

Venue: **MS Teams**

I. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logie
Dr Roberts
Chief Smith
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Ms T Steyn-Dowie

Mr Brand indicated that this weekly meeting will be to update everyone on the progress of the LEAP deployments which will be useful when giving feedback to the monthly meetings with the Political Principals from both the CoCT and the Ministry and to assist with the Safety MANCO presentations.
Once LEAP is fully deployed, we can possibly then have these meetings bi-weekly or monthly.

1. Update of the roll-out of the second phase of LEAP deployments

Chief Hamilton

- A 191 LEAP officials have been deployed.
- Challenges: - not all officials are firearm competent. All but 3 have completed the basic firearm training.
- 4 members still has to do remedial

- Statement of results that are outstanding from the College and firearm permits cannot be issued without it.
- It has been requested the amount of firearm permits being issued daily be increased.
- Vehicle deployment is also a challenge that is being exacerbated by the COVID protocols.
- Transporters have been received but drivers need a PDF
- From a resource and logistical point, that is the main challenge, but they are currently being dealt with.
- From the 191 members, there are staff without appointment cards so in order to be creative, they have been deployed to the control room on a shift system. (LEAP will have the own control room channel for the LEAP area so as not to clutter the radio control).
- In that way they are being utilised and accounted for.
- Metro Police will also not issue members with a firearm permit if they do not have an appointment card.
- Training of these 191 members is still ongoing and currently staff are busy with tactical street survival. So, while they are in the field there will be call up instructions for them to complete their in-basket training.

Dr Roberts

- Besides the transport issues, it's the first time hearing about the others.
- How many members are being deployed to the control room?
 - 14 members have been identified across the 10 areas and will be deployed in shifts. (4 per shift)
- It has been indicated that there are enough firearms, and the sales are being managed by CoCT, so how many members are without firearms?
 - With the 3new areas, there was 4 members who was previously in possession of official firearms. And so far, 3 firearms have been issued.
 - The challenge is that members are on shift or rest days when they are scheduled, and we have intervened by engaging Metro Police to bring staff in on their rest days and substitute them by either giving their hours back or by lot.
 - The number of firearms being issued will be increased as of today. (10 August)
- Indicated that these are issues that should have been raised already and suggested it be taken up in an in-house meeting.
- What is the current situation with the transport?
 - The current vehicle contingent that has been received for the 3new areas, is two transporters and two Poles per area.

Mr Brand

- How many members are there per station and per shift?
 - It's averaging of 13 per shift and that includes the senior inspector.

Dr Roberts

- In that case how can there be a transport problem?
 - The challenge is that the members need a PDF to drive the Transporters, which is not a requirement in Law Enforcement and these are not the 1Deafier Transporters but the bigger ones.
- What would it take to get the PDFs?

- That is a licensing process where the driver must follow the competency process for the PDP and the City does not pay for that and the individual must pay for themselves.
- Should these issues not have been foreseen?
- When sending the members to college and knowing the numbers, the planning process for firearms and transport as well as the station deployment planning should have been done.
- Indicated that he would take up these issues after the current engagement.

Mr Brand

- It is understandable as everyone was under pressure with this process.
- However, these are the types of questions that will come up in the Safety MANCO and we would need to provide the correct answers as we are accountable to the Safety MANCO.
- Agrees with Dr Roberts and personally knowing these areas well, members can't be sent into the field without firearms because should something happen to that member, the City could be liable for not protecting the member.
- Agrees this be taken up internally and then a complete breakdown be given following Chief Hamilton's previous email, on the number of members deployed, how many are issued firearms as well as the vehicle issues.
- Just to note that a Transporter is not the ideal vehicle to be used in areas such as Walacedene and MtVern and will the City be purchasing more double cabs?
 - That is the plan, and the City is waiting on those vehicles from the supplier.
 - The Transporter was not meant for operational staff but to be used when going on training etc. Instead of sending all the other vehicles away from being used operationally.
 - The Transporter are being used in the interim.

Dr Roberts

- Indicated that he would table these issues in a meeting with Aid Smith and the ED and feels that Chief Smith be invited to the next meeting with the Premier regarding the LEAP deployments, so that issues like these are not tabled at that meeting.
- It's important for him to be kept updated on the LEAP deployments as he needs to keep Aid Smith and the ED updated which also filters through to the HoD, the MEC and eventually to the Premier.
- So, if there are any of these types of issues, don't hesitate to call a meeting at any given time with himself and Mr Brand to discuss the issues.

Mr Brand

- Also indicated the argument between the Premier and PC was specifically about appointment certificates.
- Seeing that this point is again being raised and will personally take it to General Mand for signature.
- We would not want operational issues such as the issuing of appointment certificates to be raised at a Safety MANCO which is supposed to be a strategic meeting.

Mr Logter

- Agrees that all operational issues need to be sorted internally and that all misunderstandings amongst the various partners be sorted out.
- The appointment certificates is an important issues which is needed for the BOE compliance and therefore would need an indication of the numbers once sorted internally.

- Then also need to know the allocation number per area in order to add it onto the dashboard.

Dr Roberts

- How many members does not have appointment certificates?
 - Chief Hamilton indicated that there were engagements with 30 last week and he was requested to send 24 members for fingerprints to be retaken and hence requested that he forward the figures to Dr Roberts after this meeting rather than giving incorrect figures on this platform.

Mr Brand

- Proposed that a formal email then be sent to everyone after CoC1 internal meeting and to give the Chief's line to sort out all the numbers and indicated that this email to be sent by latest the following day (12 August)

2. Progress on the last group of LEAP officers to be deployed which are currently still subject to training

Mr Brand

- This point links into point 1 as well as there are still LEAP officers currently in training and that still needs to do their firearm training (~ 100).
- Would it be possible to get some indication when they will be rolled out because then we would need to strengthen the numbers according the murder rates per area as was done previously.

Chief Hamilton

- Roughly there should still be 100/106 officers in training.
- Firearm training is being rolled out at the Metro Police college.
- It is important to note the level of success in terms of the basic firearm training, which was also flagged by the college, they are struggling to find persons competent in the firearm training, but the process is ongoing.
- There is weekly training scheduled for both firearm rollout and tactical street survival.

Mr Brand

- What is the plans around rolling out these 106 officers, i.e. what happens to the group of about 30 when they complete their training and is ready for deployment?
- Is there a plan for this, how will it work and by when will the last group of phase 2 be ready for deployment?
 - Chief Hamilton indicated that the additional members who are still in the process of completing the basic firearm training and is successful in the training and their PTIC and when the results are loaded and a permit has been issued to them and they have received their appointment card, then they will be deployed, and their training flagged as is currently being done with the 191 officers.
 - In terms of the homicide report, officers will be deployed to supplement the areas who record the most murders.

Dr Roberts

- How many members are being trained per week?
 - Due to COVID protocols, 12 members are scheduled per session / 5day period.

- There is only one group of 12 per week coming from the college and will be deployed once their results have been received.

Mr Brand:

- If there are only 12 officers being trained per week, then to get all 106 members trained, it will take roughly 9 weeks and the report received from Dr Roberts which has already been highlighted at the Safety MANCO, indicated we will be ready for deployment on 17 September.
- Reminded everyone of the implication of giving information and then having to change that information at a later stage.
- The remaining officers will be deployed in the Yareas to beef up the numbers and the reaction unit will remain in Gugulethu as indicated.

Mr Wingrove:

- The LEAP business plan speaks of 1000 boats on the ground, hence feels it's important to have an understanding by when will the full 1000 LEAP officers be deployed.
- And this is crucial to know especially when answering Parliamentary questions.

Mr Brand:

- That question is related to point 7 on the agenda, Update of the appointment of the third phase of LEAP officers
- Indicated that he has noticed that the answer in the parliamentary question sent by 1 October, which is around the corner, so he amended it to say at the end of 2021 in order not to commit to a specific date.
- The Business Plan speaks of 1 October, but everyone is aware that due to COVID-19, that would not be possible.

Dr Roberts:

- Mentioned that from the last report it indicated that the next batch of 250 members have already been recruited, assessed and would have started with their training.
- Chiefs to confirm this.
 - Chief Hamilton said the recruitment date was set for 15 September, starting with contracting, (officer to receive their notice of appointment)
 - But this depends on how many the colleges can accommodate at the time.
- Informed the meeting that he would need to put monitoring mechanisms in place for all the plans including this one.

Chief Hamilton requested that in terms of accountability and accuracy, that the training college director as well as Malana be included in this platform to give input from their environment.

Dr Roberts indicated that he would involve them but that there should be prior coordinating meeting between Law Enforcement, Malana and Bradley to coordinate the LEAP process before getting to this meeting. He suggested that between the Chiefs and the college to have weekly meetings and then the Chiefs can report back to this meeting.

3. Identification of possible problems with relationships with SAPS Station Commanders with coordination

Mr Brand

- Informed the meeting that Gerda van Niekerk indicated that if there is any Station Commander that is not assisting or utilizing LEAP correctly, to direct them to her.
- A conversation with the acting Station Commander of Delft, Col. Naidoo who indicated that he has picked up some issues at Delft and would be more than willing to assist.
- Question is, are there still problems at stations, which stations so that we can ask SAPS, specifically General Manci to deal with these issues with the Station Commanders?
 - Chief Hamilton indicated that he would be having a meeting the Col Naidoo later in the week and address the issues around the lack of cooperation between SAPS and Law Enforcement.
 - The non-cooperative station remains Delft
 - No issues at the other stations

Dir Roberts

- Indicated that he had a drive along with Aid Smith in Nyanga where Brig Nata informed them how happy he was with the LEAP deployments and how he could not operate without them.
- Suggested that a Station Commander like such and the Station Commander of Delft be brought together to compare the two and hear the problems are and why Delft can't seem to operate with LEAP as at the other stations, such as Nyanga.

Mr Brand proposed that if Chief Hamilton does not come right in sorting out the issues in Delft, to let him know so that it can be escalated as this problem is coming on for some time.

4. Progress with the appointment of additional trainers of the Metro Police Training Academy

Mr Brand

- In the Business plan, this was one of the items identified in the delay of training besides the COVID issues. (non-compliance)
- What is the process in appointing the additional trainers?

Dir Roberts

- The JDs was completed, the HR 300 process is in place and there was feedback from Althea Daniels at the management meeting with the ED.
- Will request Bradley LeKay and Althea Daniels to submit a written report to Mr Brand in this regard.

5. GOTT for LEAP

Mr Brand

- Indicated this was an item discussed at political level and was requested if be looked at.

Dir Roberts

- Will defend this issue at the moment and feels the reason for recruiting, training and deploying LEAP officers is to address the rate of murders and attempted

murders in the Province and specifically the 11 identified stations whether a gang station or not.

- Also feels that the focus of these members is the same as the current GDTT team that is reporting under Metro Police and is not aware of any additional / specialised training that was offered to the LEAP or the GDTT officers.
- They were a team that was formed together within the Metro Police environment and are deployed in the gang areas / stations to address the issues of gangs and drugs.
- The LEAP officers also address some issues that can be linked to gangs which is murders and attempted murders as well as addressing the drug issues.
- Hence feels there is not need for any GDTT link because they are already doing the same job as the members in the gang environment.

Chief Hamilton

- When GDTT started out within the Metro Police environment, they usually worked with SAPS in terms of the 252L, concentrating and focusing on drugs within the CoCT.
- As someone on the ground with the staff, feels it would be more advantageous for LEAP staff to receive other types of training and interventions than linking them up with GDTT.
- Has a concern about the quality of LEAP officers in the field, their crime scene management skills as they are not trained or exposed how to deal on crime scenes.
- So instead of having add on, lets first make sure the LEAP officers are up to standard and that the primary function which they should be doing is of quality.
- Even though LEAP does brilliant certifications but have not been exposed to court processes and procedures and because they do not know how to testify, a solid case may fall apart.

Dir Roberts

- Agreed with this statement and suggested to rather focus what is required now in the LEAP environment than to link them with GDTT.

Chief Smith

- Was also in agreement and added that the stabilisation unit was linked to the GDTT and that was not a good 'marriage' as there was always competing which was problematic and therefore feels LEAP should continue on their own as current as their work is already dealing with gangs and drugs.
- Added that simulation training for coming under fire has been suggested and is being looked into by the college.

4. LEAP add-ons and NIO basket, integration update

Dir Roberts

- The professor first needs to see what the team is currently doing and the how the discussion are being held and he would then have a different approach to this.

Mr Brand then proposed to set up a visit for the Professor together with Dir Roberts and the Chiefs, if available, to Bishop Lavis to see what is happening on the ground.

7. This point has been discussed above under point 2.

8. Progress with the implementation of the flexi hour shift system

Dr Roberts

- Waiting to receive feedback from David Kiri from HR and looking to start that process end October.
- A feedback meeting with team relating to this will be held this week and then he will provide feedback to this team.

Mr Laglar added that the grant office from the City has contacted him for a follow up on some of the ground compliance methods. They will discuss issues around compliance and the the TP budget and second report. Just to indicate that there will be some draft reports that will be sent to Dr Roberts office.

CLOSURE

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 08h02



Paul
Chapman

18-08-2021



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: Wednesday, 18 August 2021

Time: 07h00 – 08h00

Venue: MS Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Loggia
Chief Ngale
Chief Smith
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Principal Insp Arent
Dr B Lockay
Ms T Steyn-Dawie

Apologies

Dr Robberts

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Mr Brand informed the meeting that he has received feedback from the Cabinet Sub-committee and indicated that there were serious questions raised regarding LEAP and more specifically on the timelines.

Discussion

Mr Brand indicated that Chief Hamilton has sent the report as requested and briefly went through the report with everyone and highlight a few points mentioned in the report as follows:

- 289 members armed and 156 members unarmed (when will these members be ready to be deployed? A clear timeline needs to be given)
- 8 Vehicles have been allocated per area (hence assume this issue is not sorted)
- Processing of firearms are still underway (exact timelines need to be given, i.e., how many per week will be issued)
- Issuing of appointment certificates is still a major problem (the problem does not lie with SAPS as indicated in the last MANCO)
- Still busy with the PDP issue
- Real shift system to be implemented from 1 September.

Mr Brand

- Informed everyone that the Agenda would remain the same as last week and follow up on outstanding issues under each heading would then be discussed.
- Mentioned that Meas Kingrove and Logkar are specifically part of this meeting as they manage the Business Plan on behalf of the Department and needs to make sure that there is compliance with the Business Plan.
- Two issues that has been highlighted and that was not part of the report, was the issue of additional trainers at the Metro Police College (Dr. Rooberts was to take this up with the ED) the 2nd issue was the roll-out of the next cohort of Law Enforcement officials.
- The Business Plan dated 30 June, indicates the next cohort must be rolled out by 1 September 2021 (Dr. Rooberts indicated that he would also be taking this up with the ED).
- With the current people still in training, we are not sure if this would indeed be the case and if so, then there is going to be major problems regarding meeting the timelines in the Business Plan.

1. Update of the roll out of the second phase of LEAP deployments.

Chief Hamilton

- Referring to the report, although there is a figure of 289 officers armed, it's noted in the report that there are 3 areas (Kraaifontein, Hazare and Khayelitsha) outstanding and those figures would be updated today (18 August) by Chief Coleman.
- Therefore, the armed and unarmed figures would increase.
- It's an unfavourable situation but all these members (unarmed) are deployed but with SAPS.
- In terms of issuing of firearms, there are quite a number of applications currently at Metro Police waiting on signature by the Chief of Metro Police, the designated person in terms of firearm permits. (Deputy Chief Smith will follow up with Chief Le Roux in getting it signed off)
- There was a setback last week with issuing of firearms as there was another Covid positive case at Metro Police which meant a reduction in staff issuing permits.
- The issuing of firearms is an ongoing process and pressure will again today (18 August) be put on Metro Police to possible increase the number of firearm permits being issued daily.

- Regarding when the 10s members will be ready for deployment, the following letter was received from Metro Police College in terms of firearm training on the outstanding members:
"Last week 9-13 August 29 members have been trained. This week 16 - 20 August, 25 members are currently being trained. The balance of 62 members, which included the seven members that need to do remedial, will be completed by the 17th of September."
- It must also be noted that current practice is that members are not deployed until the statement of results is received indicating that the member is competent and can be issued with a firearm permit.
- Until such time that the results are received, those members continue with in-service training.

Mr Brand

- That is the kind of information that is necessary as feedback also needs to be given to the principals and we also need to ensure that people are being rostered out.
- Another point is the deficit of 47 members due to internal promotions so that needs to be added to the 250 that still needs to be rostered out.

Mr Logkay

- There needs to be a clear idea in terms of updating the report.
- Would like clarity on the following:
 - From phase 1, there are 49 members outstanding and this new phase 2A (out of 250 members which should have been completed and brought up the total to 750 members in October)
 - If there are 657 members ready out of the 750 (noting all the other issues), then there should roughly be a 90 shortfall based on the outstanding 49 and the phase 2A members that has to be added for the overall target that we are looking at for both phase 1 and phase 2A to be completed in August.
 - If Dr. Logkay could comment on what Chief Hamilton said about the training process and those delays.

Mr Brand

- During many discussions with Chief Hamilton in relation to the numbers, it was discovered that included in the total of 748, is a new deficit of 47 created due to LEOs that have since been promoted to senior positions in Law Enforcement.
- That gap now needs to be filled again and we are looking at roughly 297 recruits to relieve the deficit and then the 250.

Chief Hamilton

- The current figure for LEOs is standing on 723.
- It would have been on 750 but due to the consequential vacancies that was created in the department, created the shortfall.
- It needs to be added that the 657 indicated in the report, is only the operational staff which is deployed in the LEAP areas including the reaction unit.
- There are staff that's deployed to the control room and armoury, which will increase the operational figure.

Chief Ngala

- Suggested there be some sort of spreadsheet or documentation to track the numbers to prevent the confusion as these numbers would most probably be changing on a daily basis.

Mr Brand

- Agreed that there should be a reporting mechanism to indicate exactly what is happening.
- It is also important that the deployment numbers in the weekly stats that is received, show the correct numbers as this information becomes part of the weekly management report.
- It would also be expected that the more members would be deployed to the stations with the higher murder rates.
- The deployment figures need to be tracked on a weekly basis to see how they are changing.
- Added that according to the Business Plan, roll out of all the LEAP officers was supposed to be on 1 July.
- Dr Roberts then had an intervention with the training college to then roll out on 6 August but there was another delay and now it is 17 September that should be the final roll out.
- Now there is also the next cohort that must be appointment and contracted by 1 September.
- All this need to be tracked somehow in a report and in a business plan but unfortunately, we can't be involved in the drafting of the business plan because there is a business plan between the City and Provincial Government that specifies the timetables.

Mr Logie

- Serious back is being received for the inconsistency in terms of the numbers and this creates doubt in the minds of the Principals.
- Added that he has spoken with Dr Lockett and other colleagues based on the last meeting and informed them that the second progress report (written TPA report) is due to consolidate these numbers as well.
- This report is received on a 6 month basis and is not as robust as the weekly report but could be helpful in clarifying the numbers.
- Had an engagement with the Attorney General about a month back and looked at all the civil oversight reports as well as the weekly deployment reports and would then just request to look at the numbers of a particular month and when these inconsistencies are picked up then clarity first needs to be received from the City which is not a good reflection to the AG.

Mr Brand

- With Covid-19, there has been a lot of talk of one stage whether the funding of LEAP should continue because of other priorities and we fought hard to keep this project going so please bare that in mind.

2. Progress on the last group of LEAP officers to be deployed which are currently still subject to training

This point was discussed simultaneously with point one above.

3. Identification of possible problems with relationships with SAPS Station Commanders with coordination

Chief Hamilton indicated that the issues of Det had been addressed.

4. Progress with the appointment of additional trainers of the Metro Police Training Academy

Mr Brand

- Mentioned that this is part of the business plan and funding was given by Provincial Government for additional trainers.
- De Robert's indicated at the last meeting that the trainers have not yet been appointed.
- Remember we would want to fast track the training to prevent the same issues as currently experienced regarding officers not being ready for deployment.

Dr. Lockay

- Indicated the HR process is currently in progress.
- A meeting is set for 19 August to discuss the process further.
- The JDs have been drafted and approved by the ED and still with the HRD process that has to go through various levels of signature.

Mr Brand

- The person he accounts too, is questioning what happened to the money that was already paid over to the City, and this was quite a substantial amount that was already paid in October 2020.

Mr Logkar

- Added that 417million was paid to the City and the last payment of 100million on top up went through middle/end March (end of the Department's financial year).
- The City was alerted to use the funding on filling the trainer posts.
- Many meetings were held on operational Steercom level and there is underpending not only on training but also on a number of other areas.
- Last week it was reported that there is an underpending of 174million which is now going to be requested for rollover which not only relates to the training college but to various other elements.
- The City has been requested to prioritise the fast tracking of the training college post and to provide a possible timeline for this.

Dr. Lockay

- Added that regarding the additional funding for the additional staff, he had requested in their meeting to include role players such as Athia Daniels and the HR team and their management to constructively pave a path to move forward in this regard.

Mr Brand

- Requested that Dr Lockay work through Chief Ngeli to receive a separate report on this matter with specific timeframes as it is not in relation to the current deployment. (i.e., a signed report from the City that highlights the current positions, when the additional staff be finalised, and a type of action plan attached)

Mr Logkar

- Indicated that he had communications with Dr Lockay if both the comprehensive training update included in the training post and in the overall training report could be received because then it covers the areas of when the phase 2A will be completed (noting their remedial training on firearms that are

outstanding and the ongoing tactical training etc.) and also to receive the action plan as to when phase 2B of the additional 250 officers will be able to commence training from the college side (subject to getting the additional staff in terms of the projections in that action plan).

- The clause in the TFA which refers to the training, clause 4 in annexure B of the training report, initially allocated 21 million that obviously now we could not spend all of that funds, and by the end of March and May we already said there was about a 90% under spending on that training posts and training budget.
- These are the noncompliance already pointed out, and these are serious matters in terms of funding.
- We have been fighting for the funding to remain to LEAP but the challenges are that if the City continues to underspend on a consistent basis, then it will be difficult for Mr Brand and top management to motivate continued funding for the LEAP project.

Dr Lockay

- Regarding the recruitment of the facilitators, feels it prudent to have the actual role players involved when constructing that report, such as Althea Daniels and the HR support head of Metro Police who finalises the positions of the facilitators.
- From the college side, we indicate the needs of those facilitators and don't go through the recruitment process as that is an HR function.
- The appropriate person would be able to answer what the clear guidelines are on where we are and the way forward.
- Suggested that he completes the full updated report, which was submitted from Mr Logkar to himself and DC Smith, and together with that, he will also submit and annexure regarding the plans of the second rollout, which is actually to start on 6 September and planned to be completed by end of December. (includes all the training except 133)

Mr Brand

- Indicated that would be perfect but also added that the business plan (not sure if Dr Lockay has been informed) says the last rollout would be 1 November and can foresee that by October, with all the political pressure, questions are going to be asked why rollout is not taking place and if we say they still in training, the question would be then why was 1 November indicated?
- Hence it is important to sort out all these reporting issues in these weekly meetings.

5. Progress with the implementation of the flexi hour shift system

Mr Brand

- Mentioned that according to an email from Davie Kriel, the flexi hour shift system will be implemented from 1 September as he only still needs to place it on SAP. Is this correct?

Crief Hamilton

- Indicated that with his first engagement with Davie Kriel, it was noted that when a new shift needs to be implemented that is not on SAP, needs to go to the local labour forum to be discussed.

- The email from David Eriel this week, indicated that the shift can be implemented and hence forwarded the request to the HR business partner for clarity and will provide feedback once received.

Additional Remarks

Mr Brand

- Noted in the chat box that training would be completed by end December, so the 1000 LEAP officers would then be available 1 January 2022.
- Also noted that there would not be 250 in phase 2B but 297 as the 47top up must be added.

Mr Wingrove

- Agreed with the summary of the discussion and added that urgency needs to be added to resolve the issues.
- He mentioned that in relation to the new business plan, a signed copy of the business plan has not been received as yet and are currently in discussions with the City to finalise it.
- Referring to item 7 in the business plan, table 12 must please be revised by the City to rectify the dates and numbers as discussed today.

Mr Brand

- Summarized everything as follows:
 - Dr Lockay to submit report on the additional trainers
 - Have a separated report, as suggested by Chief Ngele, on rollout of the final phase
 - Chief Hamilton will provide feedback on the flexi hour shift system

Chief Hamilton indicated that his office would take ownership for the progress report of deployment, fingerprints, firearms etc., but requested that the training report be provided by the college.

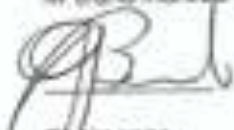
Dr Lockay agreed to take ownership of the training report, status of the current delivery as well as the new plans as mentioned above and requested Chief Ngele to involve the appropriate personnel to provide feedback on the appointment of new facilitators.

Mr Brand requested that all updated reports be sent to him by Friday 20 August, and everyone agreed.

Mr Logkar indicated that in the finance meeting it was mentioned that a new project manager was appointed, Mr A. Albrecht, and also to note that the SPA second report is also due on Friday 20 August.

Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 08h14


Chairman
25/08/2021



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 25 August 2021**

Time: **07h00 – 08h00**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Chief Le Roux
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logkar
Chief Ngqele
Chief Smith
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Regional Insp Renge
Principal Insp Arend
Dir B Lackay
Mr A Albertyn
Ms R Schoeman
Mr C Messner
Ms M Manual
Mr G Young
Mr B Booi
Ms A Daniels
Ms T Steyn-Dowle

Apologies

Dir Roberts

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Chief Le Roux requested that members of this meeting keep the momentum regarding previous discussions and feels it is important that the City representatives attend this meeting and stay committed to deliver to ensure the Province and the City work together.
It is important that key role players of the LEAP project be part of this meeting.

Mr Brand agreed and added that the business plan has been discussed in detail in the previous meeting and there are certain requirements in the business plan that needs updating, such as dates, and it's therefore important that the City identifies which role players need to be part of this meeting, the role players needed from the Province is Mr T Wingrove, Mr R Lockar and himself. Also, to note that this meeting is not about pointing fingers but for the success of this project.

Discussion

(J) Dr Lockar went through the **College Training Status Report**

- Below is a short summary of the report which includes the LEAP Phase 2A training status whereby a total of 297 members initially reported for training.
- It also includes the outstanding number of LEAP phase 1
- This is the status up until the 25th of August 2021.
- Friday 27 August will be the final outstanding training (handgun basic training) and then the only training for the next week would be for the remedials (17 members).
- This would then complete all agreed upon training.
- The only training that couldn't be done was 135 as that would require much more facilitator to complete this.

	Basic Handgun	Stop and Approach	Radin Procedure	Tonfa	Pepper Spray	Pocket Book	Docket and Statement	NRTA	Powers and Duties
Trained	270	297	297	297	294	297	297	296	296
Currently on training	25								
Not Trained	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1
Not yet Competent	17	0							

- In relation to the next 250 members to be trained, this training will start on 4 September 2021 and the full schedule is to be completed on 17 December 2021.
- This will be able to be tracked on a month-to-month basis.
- Training will take place over 10 venues with 125 people being split doing the peace officer training and simultaneously the other 125 will be doing the in-basket training.
- The 250 members should then be ready for deployment in January 2022.

Comments:

Mr Brand

- Requested that the number of trained officers correspond with the LEAP feedback that's provided.

- Indicated that feedback on the next phase of training only needs to be provided on a bi-weekly basis.
- Possibly to then also have this meeting bi-weekly instead of weekly.
- Besides the 250 that must be trained, what is the exact number caused by the deficit due to promotions, resignations, etc that must be added, to have the 1000 LEAP officers?
Dr Lackay
 - The 297 does include the previous deficit.
 - Law Enforcement needs to provide clarity on additional amounts, but it must also be noted that 250 is the maximum amount that can be accommodated at present.

Chief Hamilton

- LEAP is currently standing on 723 Law Enforcement officers due to promotions which took place so the September intake will need to be the 250 and an additional 27 members.
- Added that the consequential vacancies of 27 will be more as currently there are 20 members who have been permanently appointed but will only move once their replacements have been appointed, which means the additional members / top-up would be 47.

Chief La Roux

- Requested that Chief Smith, Chief Hamilton and Ms M Marval put the correct figures in place of the outstanding members to obtain a clearer understanding in the interest of moving forward. (separate the 250 from the other numbers)
- I.e., what was the tick box for phase 1 and what was the outstanding and the same with the next phase?
- Also requested that feedback on the current balance of status be provided by tomorrow (26 August).

Mr Brand

- Questioned (the Department) if the 1000 officers, includes the command staff?
- In any organisation such as Metro Police or SAPS, the number of officers would include the command staff.

Mr Wingrove

- Indicated that the Business Plan speaks of 1000 Learner Law Enforcement Officers (LLEO) i.e., the 1000 boots on the ground speaks to the LLEOs.
- In that case, it is clear that the 1000 LEAP officers are required which is separate from the command structure.
- Mr Brand also requested that the figures be sent no later than noon (12pm) tomorrow (26 August) as it is urgently needed so the Parliamentary question can be responded to.

Chief Smith

- Indicated that the numbers are fluctuating as LEAP feeds out of Law Enforcement and vice versa and promotions take place across these two.
- As mentioned, 20 members have been kept back in LEAP until their replacements are ready.
- The next 250 will start signing contracts from 1 September and prior to that all logistics, uniforms etc will be looked at and they will start college on 6 September.
-

Mr Wingrove

- Indicated that the Legislature was also interested in knowing how many officers have received firearm competency certificates and not how much has been trained overall.

Dr Lockay

- Mentioned that the report he spoke to, shows that 253 statement of results / competencies have been uploaded.
- 26 members are currently on training and once deemed competent, it will be uploaded immediately.
- The system is running smoothly, when members finish training on a Friday, by the following Wednesday results should be uploaded and ready for certification.
- This will also be part of the bi-weekly feedback.

2) Progress with the appointment of additional trainers of the Metro Police Training Academy

Ms R Schoeman

- A timeline document has been drafted and a rollout plan which covers all the processes that the City must go through in terms of creating and filling these positions.
- This has been made an urgent priority since late June when the matter became the responsibility of Metro Police.
- Everything is still currently on track and these positions should be ready for approval by the City Manager in the next week.
- The intention is to create 16 positions, namely, 8 basic facilitator training positions, 7 tactical training instructors and 1 supervisor for those tactical instructors.
- Once approved by City management, the positions will be advertised and it is the intention to advertise nationally because of the nature of the positions and specific skills that is required, to obtain the best candidates.
- Shortlisting, interviews, and assessments will then take place and hope to have the found the appropriate candidates by end November 2021 (this is cutting it fine).
- Approved candidates that do not need to give a month's notice, will start on 1 December 2021 and those who does need to give notice, will start on 1 January 2022.

Comments:

Mr Logkar

- In terms of the funding allocation for those posts, is allocated under the financial year of 2021 which is now included in the rollover amount which has been discussed in the finance meeting with Mr A Albertyn.
- The initial outset to the training college was about R21 million and the expenditure at 30 June was about R4.4 million.
- A comprehensive meeting was held with the CoCT finance and grant compliance and that can be consolidated internally between the City colleagues and that rollover of the adjustment funding.

Chief Le Roux

- Requested that whenever funding is discussed, to speak to the correct persons and not directly to the officials and to make sure the finance persons are on board.
- Also make sure everyone is aware what is the intention and purpose to prevent a situation where there are deadlines which could not be met, and the situation becomes awkward.

Mr Brand

- Proposed that Mr R Lagkar, when engaging the grant funding of the City, as because of the large rollover and in relation to the release of the crime stats, to look at whether it would be possible to include one or two more areas into the Business Plan and possibly fund that.
- But that would also depend on the training capacity.

Mr Lagkar

- Added that he has contacted Mr Alberfyn who has been appointed as the project manager together with Ms Mhale who weighs on the finance of Safety and Security, and they are an integral part of the finance and grant sub team of LEAP.
- They are consolidating across the Departments between Metro Police and Safety and Security, and hence will be dealing directly with them and the DoCS finance department, Mr Noble and Mr Pistor who are part of that sub team.
- They would then be continuously and consistently included to make sure the correct stakeholders are on board.
- In relation to the rollover, he mentioned that the consolidated rollover is R166 million and have asked Ms Mhale and Mr Mjole from the grant compliance office and Ms Brenner to explore with the City around the committed funding that was underspent, and they have indicated that a rollover request will be submitted, and these funds will be available in January 2022 but must first be approved by the Province.
- Once the detailed revised plan is received from the City, it will be sent to Provincial Treasury for approval and then to HoD of DoCS for consideration, and once approved, the funds will go into the City's adjustment budget and available to spend in January 2022.
- This will be after the deployment period of the next 250 officers in December and therefore ask the City to explore the additional 200 members from the under expenditure and committed funding in January and February 2022 for those additional areas being proposed.

Mr Brand indicated this concluded the discussion on training and thanked Dr Lockay and everyone from HE in the City for their commitment and for ensuring the project is ongoing.

3) Chief Hamilton went through the **LEAP Deployment Operational report**

- Indicated that the report is compiled as a comparison report where an indication is given on the progress operationality of LEAP and how the additional staff is absorbed and added into the LEAP operational areas, once training is completed.
- The comparison was done between week 9-15 August and week 16-23 August and only depicts the operational Law Enforcement officers as indicated in the Business Plan.
- Points covered was the number of officers deployed in the areas, armed vs unarmed officers, vehicles allocated, issuing of firearms, appointment certificates outstanding, PC - control room staff and flexi shift.
- Relating to the firearms, when indicating that a member is operationally ready, it does not mean that member has been issued with a firearm but that they have completed the firearm training and awaiting their permits.

Comments:

Chief Ngele

- Suggested that documents relating to the numbers in relation to training, deployment etc., first be circulated internally (in the City) before distributing it further to make sure everything correlates and in so doing prevent further confusion around the issues of numbers.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that the issuing of firearms and sending member unarmed into these areas, which are the most volatile areas in the Western Cape, has been a concern since the start of the LEAP project, alternatively this will need to be brought to the Premier and MEC's attention to request that only officers who are competent and have been issued firearms, be deployed.

Chief Ngqo

- The firearm issue is something that Dr Robberts is also concerned about and this has been raised repeatedly with internal members and should be careful of deploying member without firearms into these areas.
- Indicated that he knows the problems in getting the 37.1 from SAPS (record checking) and it's a process that takes time.

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that an email was sent from Dr Robberts before he went on leave, stating that members without firearms should be withdrawn from the areas but the staff are still deployed.
- In the first engagement with those meetings, clarity was requested whether staff will be deployed to those areas without firearms just to be deployed, which was implemented, and his reservations was made clear on that.
- Is of the opinion that it is very suicidal, and SAPS is vocal about it, and personally can't understand how staff is being deployed in these areas without firearms and feels Dr Robberts was very clear that staff and not just LEAP but all Law Enforcement officers, need to be withdrawn if they don't have a firearm.
- It will have repercussions everywhere, but a decision needs to be taken on it.
- The issuing of firearms is being addressed and a schedule was received from Metro Police in this regard and issuing of firearm permits will start again from today (25 August).
- Regarding the flexi shift system, information was received by Mr Barns office (head of the bargaining council), the matter must be addressed by the DLC and a date has been set for 26 August 2021

Mr Brand

- Stated that if any need is required regarding SAPS to please inform him and he will take it up with SAPS and it will even personally take appointment cards, that needs signing, directly to Major General Manzi, if needs be.
- He also mentioned that the issuing of firearm permits is an issue that should be addressed internally as it seems the delay in this regard is what is resulting in members not being able to obtain a firearm.
- In relation to the flexi shift system, it is important to receive information from one source, last week it was indicated that Mr Eitel said it could be implemented and this week Mr Barns is giving a different outcome, and this information is filtered down to the Principals and the incorrect information is then given to the Premier.
- Also indicated that important information such as this be submitted in writing, which can then be presented as a portfolio of evidence.

Chief Smith

- A lot of information has been received on this and also mentioned that before a shift is loaded onto the SAP system, and which has not been implemented previously by the City, it must be agreed among the labour union active in the City and the workers.
- It has been presented over to the local labour forum where the Chair Mr J Barns indicated that it must be sent to the DLC.

- Mr B Isaac has put it on the agenda for the D/C or the unions to have input and they would possibly have to take it back to the workers before giving a reply.
- Unfortunately, two D/C engagements have been postponed due to not all unions being present and hopefully it does take place tomorrow (26 August).

Mr Brand

- Requested that Chief Ngale reverts this matter to the ED, as it was previously indicated by Dr Roberts that the ED is personally driving this matter and that it would be implemented.
- Requested Chief Hamilton forward the current email from Mr Barns to himself and copy in all relevant persons
 - Chief Hamilton has sent an email regarding the request for clarity on the new Shift system.

Mr Logior

- Indicated that the implication of this could be that a request for overtime may be received again and would request some clarity from the City whether that should be considered in the current financial year's budget or in the adjustment rollover budget to prevent a situation as last year where a R50 million approval was requested in the middle of the year for overtime.
- In relation to the vehicles, there is already an underspending, so there are sufficient funds available if vehicles is an issue, but the City just needs to indicate if this would then be a priority in order to ensure operational efficiency for deployment. (the PDF issues being noted)
- There is also sufficient funding available for firearms and armories and again the City just needs to prioritise in order to resolve that issue.

Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 08h18


Chairperson
4/09/2021



LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: Wednesday, 1 September 2021

Time: 07h00 – 08h00

Venue: MS Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logior
Chief Ngqele
Chief Smith
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Regional Insp Fencel
Regional Insp Messner
Principal Insp Arend
Ms M Marud
Ms A Daniels
Ms T Steyn-Doville

Apologies

Dr Roberts
Mr A Albertin

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Discussion

- 1) feedback on the firearms training from last week (27 were to be completed by 27 August and 17 to do remedials this week)

Mr Brand questioned if the 27 has completed training and been deployed as well if the 17 are currently busy with remedials?

Chief Hamilton indicated that they have completed their training but have not yet been deployed and that remedials are set for 3 of the members that have failed.

Regional Insp Miesner indicated that one member started basic training this week due to be ill the previous week and 3 will be doing remedials this week. (these are from the 27 members). He also mentioned that the other remedial are members from previous training session which will be scheduled for this week or next.

Mr Brand requested R Miesner to follow up on this matter and send an email regarding what's happening around training in order to keep clear track of the numbers.

- 2) feedback on new member (230) contract which was indicated last week, would be signed by 7 September.

Ms Manual

- Confirmed there are 230 candidates currently being prepped for contract onboarding.
- There is a process in terms of the contract onboarding which also assists the Metro Police College in terms of the forms that need to be completed.
- This will take a few days because it's quite a large number and COVID regulations need to be complied too. Under normal circumstances, there would be one session with everyone present, but now must break it up over a few days.
- Currently engaging with director Bradley Lackay and John Hickerson and their team in terms of getting these candidates enrolled at the college.
- An initial discussion had with Dr Lackay, he indicated to allow for the completion of the current class, the next group would start 13 September. It could be sooner but there is quite a bit of administration involved in terms of onboarding members.

Mr Lackay requested clarity on whether all contracts have been signed and uploaded on SAP as appointees or must it still be done before the 13th?

Ms Manual

- Indicated that the process is still ongoing, and it takes a little bit longer because they are very mindful of the requirements for audit and the requirements for the college.
- Previously onboarding on law enforcement side was just a matter of issuing an employment contract because all the other documentations like their ID's and all the necessary paperwork was already there, but what is happening currently, is all relevant requirements as mentioned above are being included.
- The Payroll department is being engaged (also noting its month end) and they have allocated a team just to fast track and make sure that the contracts are uploaded.

Chief Hamilton mentioned that confirmation from the college indicates 9 members were on theory remedial yesterday (31 August) and this morning (1 September) the first 13 members have been scheduled for remedial practical.

Mr Brand requested Chief Hamilton to also send an updated mail in this regard.

3) Shortfall of LEAP officers

Mr Wingrove question if there are plans in place to make up for the 47-shortfall going forward, noting that the college can only accommodate a maximum of 250.

Mr Brand added that he also notes the comments last week about the college capacity and can't take more than 250, but the need to comply with the conditions of the business plan must also be noted.

Chief Smith

- Mentioned there are learner Law Enforcement contract officers who have been identified and they will move into that gap.
- Feedback will be given next week regarding the figures as these officers are available to move into the space but may need to do in basket training and if possible, the college can do with the other training being rolled out to the members currently on college.

Mr Brand

- Reiterated the request made last week by Chief Le Roux regarding feedback on the current balance of status which was to be by 26 August and mentioned that he hasn't seen the report of this nature and thinks the report should definitely include what was discussed thus far.

Chief Smith

- Agreed and added that the 47-shortfall cannot be fit into college now, but the learner Law Enforcement contract officers can be pushed into that space and it just need the figure of how many of them are available.

Mr Brand questioned if the documents relating to the numbers in terms of training, deployment, firearms, etc. are being circulated internally before circulating further, as was the request from Chief Ngele last week and Chief Ngele confirmed that this is taking place.

4) Feedback on the status of the new Shift System

Chief Hamilton indicated that the meeting with DLC will now only take place on 3 September and hence feedback can only be provided after the meeting.

5) Feedback / Process on Rollover Budget

Mr Logkar

- Mentioned that feedback is being waited from the grant office but has been informed that the rollover application has been submitted to Provincial Treasury by the City, but sure yet if it's for the full 166 million.
- Confirmation is also needed from the City is going to utilize the full amount that will include the funding for the training college as well as any additional areas that we want to consider in January, February 2022.

- The signed business plan is still outstanding, and feedback is needed on the current state of progress.
- The draft report for the TPA compliance, which was due, has been received from Chief Smith but has been sent back for additional input.
- The draft TPA has been sent to waiting services to its just to get an idea about when the final business plan signed from the City with the corrections and additions under budgets and so forth, as well as the additional areas identified, will be received.

Chief Smith

- Indicated that a meeting regarding the business plan will be held the next morning (2 September) with the ED and Chief Ngale and will be able to give feedback thereafter and will hopefully also hear if the full rollover amount was accepted.
- Mrs Kruger who was working with this, started leave, and will try and follow up on it.

6/ Update on Vehicles and Firearms / Armoury

Chief Smith mentioned that there are vehicles up for purchasing but waiting on the approval of the business plan and releasing of funds before putting in orders.

Mr Brand requested that the purchasing of the additional vehicles, and the available funding for firearms, be tracked and to possible do so in a report form in this meeting or possible to add this required information into Chief Hamilton's operational report under the relevant headings.

7/ LEAP Operational Report

I. Deployment

Chief Hamilton

- indicated that the supervisory column was brought into the deployment slide, to eradicate the confusion between the Western Cape government report and the progress report.
- It is also important to note is that Western Cape government report which Kelly submits runs from a Monday to Sunday and this progress report is from the 24 August.
- On this report it can be noted that there is an increase of 7 staff members, 1 back from maternity leave, and six members that completed the firearm training and appointment cards, which was absorbed into the LEAP areas.
- There were increases in the following areas, Kradfontein, Harare, and Bishop Lavis and these areas stable, Reaction unit (Gugulethu), Delft, Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Philippi, Mitchells Plain and Mfuleni.
- It is important to note that new staff are received from the College week on week and will be deployed to areas as per the Homicide data.
- In relation to the supervisory capacity, the inspectors are going to be redistributed to the areas that have the most staff but that will be done at the beginning of the month not to create any challenges in terms of the SAP reporting and shifts.
- A full breakdown of how the 723 learner Law Enforcement members are deployed will also be provided going forward.

II. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Hamilton

- Mentioned that there has been a significant increase in terms of the armed members across the board.

- The issuing of firearms is an ongoing process and firearm issuing has taken place since last week and throughout the weekend with the assistance of Metro Police.
- 40 firearms have been issued between 24th and 30th August.
- A consolidated number of staff armed and unarmed will be included in next weeks report.

Mr Brand indicated that improvement can be seen in some areas but requested that Chief Negele takes this topic offline as it is more of an operational matter, and it was so agreed.

II. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that 38 appointment cards are still outstanding from the office of the SIU (these are cards of LEAP officers which have been confirmed by the office of Mr Talmakles and Carmen Govender), which is currently being processed and they are awaiting the 13.2 checks.
- There are 44 SAP 69 reports outstanding for members who redone fingerprints on 21st August and once received, it will be sent together with the P5 certificate the SIU for processing.
(total of 82 members without appointment cards)
- Also, to note that there are 51 staff members with appointment cards but cannot be deployed due to a shortage of uniform in the stores, and that will also be added into the report going forward.

Closing remarks

Mr Logkar

- Added he sent a request to Chief Hamilton on the body of evidence report which deals with the actual list of database of names of the full 81 officers, which includes the 723 and the supervisors.
- That just needs to be verified for audit purposes and will not consolidate the quarter one and quarter two report because our reporting obviously is different to the City's reporting.

Chief Negele

- Request that reports being presented, be shared with everyone on this platform for all to be on the same page.
- Questioned if the college representatives are needed in this meeting as the Chiefs seem comfortable to speak on the training issues.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that Metro Police, specifically Dr Lackay, only needs to be part of this meeting bi-weekly to provide feedback on the training issues.
- There will only be one other report from Chief Hamilton, which is the consolidated report covering everything to prevent unnecessary confusion and Chief Smith will therefore add the requested information regarding the gap of the 47 members and vehicles into Chief Hamilton's report.
- After next Wednesday's meeting (8 September) the meetings will be bi-weekly to track progress.

Everyone was in agreement with this.

Chief Hamilton

- Informed the meeting that he had met with the two new LEAP analysts that was appointed and have advised them to make contact with Mr Brand as there would be a relationship between the LEAP analysts and that of WCS to ensure a good product that can assist in terms of analysing data, deployment and so forth.

Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 07h39


Chapman
08/09/2021



Western Cape
Government
Community Safety

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 8 September 2021**

Time: **07h00 – 08h00**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr B Laglar
Chief Smith
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Regional Insp Miesner
Principal Insp Arend
Mr G Young
Dr B Lockay
Ms M Manual
Ms A Daniels
Mr S Titus
Ms R Schoeman
Ms T Steyn-Dowie

Apologies

Dr Roberts
Mr A Alberlyn

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Discussion

Mr Brand made a request that when items, such as emails or updates are requested to be sent after the meeting, for members to please do so out of respect.

- 1) Feedback on the stream tuning from last week (27 were to be completed by 27 August and 17 to do remedials this week)
 - Feedback to be provided during Dr Lockay's summary

2) Shortfall of LEAP officers

Ms Manual

- Several candidates have been identified and what's current being done, is the vetting and verification in terms of requirements.
- These members have already been trained in terms of peace officer, therefore they the requirements and that they've got the status of an auxiliary Law Enforcement officer.
- Unfortunately, still busy with that list, and will give an update after the meeting by the end of Business Today in terms of our numbers and some details in terms of the training and development.
- The shortfall of 47 is the priority to fill but also for the meeting to note that there will be more gaps/shortfalls in the future as other vacancies are filled in the Law Enforcement environment.

Mr Brand added that if Ms Manual can't send the report by end of business that it be sent latest by Friday 10 September.

Mr Logkoff requested if possible, Ms Manual to give a monthly update on the consolidated numbers to keep track of the increasing shortfall that occurs month to month and it would be appreciated if the list of names and staff IDs can also be provided as evidence of that number.

3) Feedback on the status of the new Shift System

Chief Hamilton indicated that a new date has been identified to continue with the discussion with the trade unions, which is 13 September.

4) Feedback / Process on Bolover Budget

Chief Smith

- Indicated that the TPA is at the ED's office but that the ED is currently on leave.
- Chief Thomas is standing in for him and hopefully he would be signing it off.
- He is not part of any of those discussions himself and can only try and follow up on T / progress because it is keeping up expenditure, and he has been tapping into other funding sources to try and fund the LEAP officers with uniform etc. and it is quite difficult to get funding available at the time.

Mr Brand

- Requested that this matter be escalated to Chief Thomas (in absence of Dr. Roberts) because there is already under spending in terms of LEAP and the money is available and don't know why the City is not utilizing it.

Mr Wingrove

- Indicated the eagerness to transfer the first tranche of the 350 million, but the signed business plan is needed.
- The Department is currently in discussions with their own legal services and so far they are quite comfortable with the TPA, but the City's legal services still needs to be consulted.
- This could be a lengthy process and therefore the sooner the signed business plan is received, the better.

Mr Logkar

- Added that the City's compliance office and Provincial treasury gave a deadline to transfer the money by the 30th September and hence the business plan must be signed before then as the money must move out of the Department's coffers in terms of the agreement before 30 September.

Chief Smith indicated that Mr Albertyn and Chief Le Roux will try and escalate this matter from their side as well.

Mr Brand requested that Chief Smith respond to Mr Logkar's email and provide a response on the way forward by latest Wednesday 15 September.

3) Update on Vehicles and Firearms / Armour**Chief Smith**

- Indicated that this is also something that Mr Albertyn is busy looking into.
- Added that there were vehicles on order but was not sure on the type of vehicles as Hissen has stopped producing the double Cabs currently being used.
- Isuzu has these double Cabs available but will have to check if Fleet has a contract with them and will provide feedback by end of day.

Mr Brand reiterated that feedback of this point be included in Chief Hamilton's report as was the request at the last meeting as well as feedback of the shortfall of LEAP officers.

Chief Smith also indicated that the name list required by Mr Logkar would be sent by tomorrow (15 September).

4) College Training Status Report

Dr Lockay went through the report as below summary.

- Of the 297 only 296 completed NRTA and Powers & Duties as that one member is currently off with Covid.
- In basic handgun training, 285 members were deemed competent and uploaded 1 on the system with a statement of results.
- After 3 remedials and intensive coaching, 11 were found non-competent.
- Those members had been forwarded through to Law Enforcement for them to go through the incapacity process.

	Basic Handgun	Stop and Approach	Radio Procedures	Towels	Pepper Spray	Pocket Book	Docket and Statement	NETA	Powers and Duties
Trained	285	297	297	297	297	297	297	296	296
Not Trained	1 pregnant	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Not Yet Competent	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- In preparation for phase 2B, the next 250, everything is in order for them to start training on Monday 13 September.
- The full 230 members will be taken on, with 125 starting with peace officer and traffic warden training while the other 125 will be doing the in-basel training and then vice versa.
- Will be doing training from different venues to keep in line with Covid regulations.
- The scheduled plan is to be fully completed with remedials and uploading of all competent firearm training by the end of December.
- Status on this will be provided bi-weekly.

In relation to the incapacity process for the 11 non competent members, Chief Smith indicated that this process could lead to dismissal as they are not fulfilling their contracts. The alternatives are that unions will try and negotiate redeploying members somewhere else if it not possible, the process will follow the entire courts.

7) Appointment of additional trainees

Ms Schoeman

- Indicated that confirmation was received from their organizational management unit that corporate finance has signed off on the bigger report in the City that deals with creation of positions.
- This will now be going to the City manager, hopefully today, and have given the undertaking that as soon as his approval is received, the positions will be created on SAP immediately.
- In the meantime, the advertisements have been drafted and approved right up to the Ed level and therefore as soon approval is received, the adverts will be submitted to national media.
- Once the closing of the adverts and applications are received, it would be better to give an indication of what's to be dealt with going forward.
- So far everything is on track.

8) LEAP Operational Report

i) Deployment Operationality

Chief Hamilton

- There were steady increases in most of the areas and took place in the areas with the highest murder rates

I. Deployment Other

Chief Hamilton

- When combining the figures of staff deployed operationally together with staff deployed to other, such as to Armory and control room, as well as the 56 not deployed, then it can be noted there is a staff complement of 721.
- Last week it was indicated that there was 723 but two additional promotions took effect which took the figure to 721.
- Currently there are 29 consequential vacancies.
- Total: 250 + 29 + 721 that will give the 1000 members in the LEAP project.
- The 56 members not deployed are due to various reasons, such as no uniform, no appointment certificates, remedials etc.
- Also, to note that member without appointment certificates have been absorbed into the Armory and control room in order for them to be deployed.

II. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Hamilton

- There were increases in most of the areas from the previous week.
- Firearms are currently being issued on a weekly basis.
- The Metro Police schedule of issuing firearms for this week was also shared.
- In total 715 operational staff including command structures are deployed of which 430 are armed and 285 are unarmed.

Mr Brand

- The number of unarmed members is concerning, especially in the areas with the highest murder rates.

III. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that 95 appointment cards are still outstanding in total of which 51 is with the office of SSI and 44 SAP.
- 69 reports outstanding from members who redone fingerprints on 21/08/2021.

Mr Logkar mentioned that there was a Parliamentary question on the outstanding 95, which he has escalated to Chief Le Roux. Added that 16 of them are outstanding since last year, from phase 1 with a balance of 79 for phase 2.

Suggested that SSI be part of these meetings to provide more accurate feedback and for Chief Le Roux to provide the requested information for the Parliamentary question.

Chief Smith indicated that this is something that can be sorted out internally and feedback can be provided in the report under a SSI heading, on outstanding efts and clearances.

Chief Hamilton agreed with this and said he would request the information from Chief Ngweni and Mr Tolmakkie.

Closing Remarks

Mr Brad indicated that this meeting will now take place bi-weekly starting on 22 September.

Closure

Mr Brad thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 07h57



Chairperson

22/07/2021



Western Cape
Government

Community Safety

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 22 September 2021**

Time: **07h00 – 08h00**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Lager
Chief Smith
Chief Hamilton
Regional Insp Kenoe
Regional Insp Mesiner
Principal Insp Atend
Mr A Albertyn
Mr G Young
Dr B Lockay
Ms M Manual
Ms A Daniels
Mr S Thus
Ms E Schoeman
Ms N Stemmer
Mr T Steyn-Dawie

Apologies

Dr Roberts

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Discussion

Mr Brand mentioned that during the medium-term budget engagements there was discussions on the LEAP programme, who takes most of the budget, and a decision was taken that the LEAP programme will be reviewed for possible extension.

It is therefore very important that to ensure that the paperwork and business plan is in place. Indicated that the firearm issue is also still a big concern, and these are the things that will be reviewed and assessed.

1) Feedback on the Shortfall of LEAP officers

Ms Manual briefly shared her report with everyone as below:

LEAP LEO SHORTFALL

1000 Target number of LEOs

703 Present number of active / appointed LEOs

250 Phase 3 – 1 September 2021 appointment

47 Shortfall of LEOs

Presently, the Metro Police College is at maximum enrolment capacity at 250 members enrolled as part of LEAP phase 3. The shortfall therefore requires candidates that have completed training as Peace Officers.

The shortfall candidates sourced from the pool of PC/W (Peace Officer & Traffic Ward) trained members. These members were trained under the following projects:

No Candidates	Programme	Programme Manager
22	Metro Police Cadets	Garvin Young
45	Recreation & Parks - Facilities Protection Project	Willemien Du Plessis
4	Law Enforcement EPWP ALCO Project	Whitney Mouton
TOTAL=73		

- Also, to note that of the 250 new phase 3 appointments, some candidates opted not to continue, 3 tested positive for pregnancy and a few just never pitched and that number is being factored in.

Dir Lockay added that the 22 Cadets have completed all training except firearm training and will be slotted into the current firearm training in order to complete simultaneously with the new recruits. He requested that the names of the 73 members be forwarded to him to check which, if any, training is outstanding.

2) Feedback on the status of the new Shift System

First session was held with the Sub-DLC with the Unions on 13 September 2021 at 10:00 further engagement is scheduled with SAMWU for next week. Informal discussion was held with IMAU who have listed 22 concerns which need further attention and response before the next Sub meeting. DC Smith meet with SAMWU on 16/09/2021 at Kullalver to discuss the shift system.

3) Feedback / Process on Rollover Budget

Mr Razzoq

- Indicated that there was a telephonic discussion about some outstanding information on historic budgets and that is towards the completion of the business plan 2021-2022.
- Mr Albertyn is consolidating that information towards the end of this week and next week, and then should be able to get the signed business plan and is already engaging the ED around the details on that.
- Currently working towards getting the signed business plan by 30 September and will then do the transfer early in the next quarter.

Chief Smith

- Indicated that Mr Albertyn is busy with the business plan and will be sending it to the ED's office in the week and will hopefully have feedback by next week.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that this issue should be dealt with urgently or alternatively he would have to escalate it through the HoD as the signed business plan is needed.
- Added that it was again highlighted in a meeting that we are sitting with the 10 top murder stations in the province and there are two without deployments and therefore suggested that while the business plan is not yet signed, to include Philippi East and Samora Machel as part of the next rollout.

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that the business plan was submitted to the ED but unfortunately the ED did not approve the business plan in the state that it was, and he is currently in the process of updating the business plan and hoping to have everything sorted out before the end of business today (22 September) and then that business plan will then be presented to the ET once again.

Mr Brand

- Added that it is therefore important to then look at the issue of the stations identified in a business plan before Mr Albertyn presents the business plan and add the other stations, namely Samora Machel, Philippi East and Gugulethu (to free up reaction unit) and Atlantis is already part of the next 230 to be deployed.

Mr Albertyn indicated that he would have a discussion with Chief Smith after this meeting regarding the addition of the extra stations.

Chief Hamilton

- Questioned if there is any possibility of flexibility in deployment of members where according to data and evidence policing is showing a decrease in murders and deploying in areas with increased murder rates?

Mr Brand indicated his hesitancy in this regard and feels that at this stage it is better to try and maintain and firstly get the murders down in in these areas and hence proposing that the other stations be added.

Chief Smith

- Agreed with Mr Brand and added that it would not be wise to be utilising all the energy in stabilising an area and bring down crime and then move staff out of the area as violence will flare up again. There may be a possibility of reducing numbers within an area, but the presence must continue.

Mr Lagkar

- Mentioned that during the HoDs homicide presentation at the strategic session, there was one area (Nyanga) that showed an increase in murders. Delft, Khoyelitsha and Philippi East also showed no significant reductions in murders since Julie or when deployment started and therefore suggesting when doing our eleven areas (including Atlantis) and then in addition to that is the reaction unit which makes it 12 LEAP groups. Is the strategy around first topping up and ensuring significant successes in the current areas and consolidated over a longer term before considering removing/ reducing deployment from other from other areas.

Mr Brand also proposed that the Isakon officers should be linked up with the LEAP commanders in their specific areas as that is also where the social services and urban design comes into play.

Mr Wingrove added that he has sent Chief Hamilton a name list and contact details of the Isakon officers and will send the updated list later today.

Mr Brand

- Reiterated adding the extra stations to be deployed with the next 250 members for deployment to then be in all top 10 murder stations as per data. Chief Smith and Hamilton indicated that this would be possible.

Mr Wingrove

- Requested that once Mr Albertyn has completed the amendments in the business plan, to forward it to himself, Messrs Brand and Lagkar to look at and make sure everything is included.

Mr Lagkar

- Mentioned that there was a legal services meeting on the draft TPA and that they decided to separate the financial reporting from the performance reporting and therefore there will be 2 agreements that will be signed, one for the TPA transfer of the funds and the other one that will be called IGR protocol agreement, that will be for either for the Minister or the Mayor's signature at an executive level and that will deal with all the reporting mechanisms.
- That will also be presented in the next week or two while finishing up the business plan and would like to have both signed at the same time, so that will also need to be escalated to all the senior and executives, both in the City and in the in the in the Province.

Mr Wingrove indicated that at the security meeting it was mentioned that the Department of Health are experiencing some security issues in relation to their vaccine programme and requested to have a meeting in this regard.

Mr Brand

- Agreed a meeting needs to be had and added that he, together with Chief Hamilton & J Brig Tekule are currently assisting the Department of Health with their project called boots on the ground and receive a weekly schedule from Carl Temmers, but the schedules don't provide exact locations or contact numbers.
- They also requesting permanent deployment of sites but unfortunately that can't happen with SAPS or with LEAP deployments, but the idea is while they are in the area, to pop in at the sites to make sure everything is still under control.
- Alternatives need to be looked at from WIC security because if they are on site, they can be deployed permanently with the support of LEAP.
- Suggested that a meeting be set up asap and that Chief Hamilton and Brig Tekule be part of the meeting. (Mr Wingrove to set up meeting)

Chief Smith

- Indicated that the CoCT Law Enforcement and Melita police are escorting their health services while they are doing the vaccine rollout, as well as the public participation in the areas.
- Concerned that there may be duplicating and suggested if the problem areas could be identified and then to look at what the City is doing and what the Province is doing and possible try and work together in this regard, but communication would be important.

4) LEAP Operational Report**I. Deployment Operationally****Chief Hamilton**

- Deployments are done according to the homicide data received and all areas have been stable.
- Bishop Lavis decreased by one member who is pregnant and now doing admin duties.

II. Deployment Other**Chief Hamilton**

- Indicated that the 42 members (currently not deployed) would be deployed to areas of high crime as per data indication.

III. Armed vs Unarmed members**Chief Hamilton**

- Indicated the number of unarmed members is still a big concern.
- Firearms will be issued from next week again.
- The safe in Bishop Lavis is close to completion and 3 armories are in place with responsible and functional certificates received and will be storing all the additional firearms as it becomes available for the LEAP staff members.
- Armed members have increased by 14 since the previous week.

Mr Brand questioned the reason for unarmed members.

Chief Hamilton indicated that a consignment of magazine pouches is being waited on from the supplier and once received, the issues of firearms will continue.

Applications sent to Metro police are being signed off and a name list received on a weekly basis of members who can collect their firearms and to keep in mind that Metro issues only about 10 firearms a day.

iv. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that SAP #1 reports have been received of which 19 will be duplications.
- Therefore, besides the 38 indicated by SSI, there is an additional 19 clearance certificates in process.
- Total outstanding is currently 28 (must still be submitted to SSI) + 38 (currently at SSI in advanced stage) = 66

v) Appointment of additional trainees

Ms Schoeman

- Indicated that the positions were approved by the City manager and these vacancies will be advertised this coming weekend in both digital and print media, nationally.
- The closing date for these positions is the 18th October and will thereafter do the long listing and would be able to give an indication where things are, in a month's time.

vi) College Training Status Report

Dr Lockay went through the report as below

EPWP-IST (LEAP)	Planned	Basic Handgun	Stop and Approach	Radio Procedures	Tunfa	Pepper Spray	Pocket Book	Docket and Statement	NRTA	Powers and Duties
Members Planned	115	Planned								
Members at College	111	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
Competent		58	0	47	45	0	48	46	47	0
NYC		4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
On Training		0	17	0	0	0	47	0	46	0
Not Yet Trained		54	94	63	66	112	18	64	18	11
Tertiary Exams			0	1						
Absent								1		
None attendance	3									

Contract terminated	1									
POTW Chrysalis	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

- Indicated that the shortfall of members will be sourced from the cadets and other members.
- There is currently 234 members that started training on the 13th of September and this includes the 16 LEAP Inspectors.
- 122 of them are currently busy with peace officer and traffic warden training and 112 are currently busy doing PT.
- Of the 18 Members that attended the handgun training, 14 Members are fully competent. Bradley
- The competency level in terms of the peace officer and traffic warden training, will be seen at the end of the training (22 October)
- So far everything seems to be going well and on track.

Closing Remarks

Mr Brad indicated that Dr Lockett, Mr Schoeman and their team only needs to join and provide feedback at these meetings on a monthly basis going forward.

Closure

Mr Brad thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 08h10.


 Bradley
 2/10/2021



Western Cape
Government
Community Safety

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 6 October 2021**

Time: **07h00 – 08h00**

Venue: **MS Teams**

I. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h00.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logkar
Chief Smith
Chief Coleman
Reginal Inip Miesner
Mr O Boltman
Dr B Lockay
Ms M Manual
Ms A Daniels
Mr S Thua
Ms T Steyn-Dowle

Apologies

Dr Roberts, Chief Hamilton, Mr A Alberfyri

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Discussion

1) Feedback on the Shortfall of LEAP officers

Mr Marval

- Indicated that the 22 cadets are included in the number of the 73.
- Added they have been engaging with the college representatives in terms of getting them the details.
- The names have been confirmed as completing the peace officer and traffic warden training and are in the process of onboarding them.
- The first 25 candidates are going to be contracted this week and the following week, the balance as their checks is completed and then they will get started into the training program.

2) Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Chief Smith (Business Plan)

- Indicated that the business plan was with Dr Roberts, he has signed it off and it is now with the ED's office.
- Added that all relevant changes would have been made by Mr Albertyn.
- Indicated that the ED usually does sign off on a Thursday, so he would follow up and provide feedback by Friday morning (8 October) on the progress.

Mr Lagler (TPA)

- Indicated that the draft TPA is in the final stages but the signed business plan is needed, as previously discussed.
- Legal services have already been engaged on the protocol agreement to deal with more of the details on the reporting of the training registers, deployment registers, IDs, etc., and all the details will now be included in a separate IGR protocol between the City, and it will be signed at executive level between the Province and the City.
- This will improve the reporting and planning and there will be a follow up meeting today (8 October) with the City's legal services and DoIT's legal services at 9:00 a'clock.

3) Update on LEAP assistance to Department of Health (vaccine rollout)

Mr Brand

- Thanked LEAP for the quick response in this regard.
- Added that updated weekly list as requested, was not again been received and therefore don't know how to take this forward.
- Mentioned that the VUMA vaccination drive was successful.

Mr Wingrove

- Added that it is noted that the Department of Health is now talking directly with the liaison officers in the different ASUs of the Districts complaining about vandalised buildings, break-ins, and theft etc., and feels this is not protocol.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that it must guard against that A&T liaison officers become the middleman to responding to emails that should have been directed the various law enforcement agencies that should be dealing with safety.
- Proposed that Mr Wingrove inform Health that they need to escalate such complaints to the necessary forums.

4) College Training Status Report

Dr Lockay went through the report as below

IBT (LEAP)	Stop and Approach	Radio Procedures	Tents	Pepper Spray	Pocket Book	Docket and Statement	NHTA	Powers and Duties
Percent Trained	56%	83%	82%	55%	83%	83%	98%	42%
People on IBT	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
Trained	62	94	92	62	94	92	110	48
NYC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current on Training	25	17	18	48	17	18	0	45
Not Yet Trained	2	01	01	01	01	01	0	18

- Indicated that everything is perfectly on track.
- There is currently 223 members currently on training and they are split in two groups.
- 122 of them are currently busy with peace officer and traffic warden training and 111 are currently busy doing IBT.
- Training will be completed by 1 November where after the groups will swap.
- All training, including remedials, should be completed by 17 December.

Mr Brand praised Dr Lockay and his team for the excellent planning and progress, especially considering previous Covid-19 restrictions.

Mr Logikar

- Questioned where would the number stand of 1000 LEAPS officers after the training is completed, taking into consideration the consequential vacancies?

Dr Lockay

- The member to fill the consequential vacancies (+ 51) will come for training next year February and should bring the number up to roughly 948.

Chief Smith

- Indicated that there's a shortfall of 75 and it will be noted in the report that there are additional consequential vacancies, and this would most probably be ongoing.

Mr Brand requested that an estimated figure that will be ready for deployment after 17 December be provided at the next meeting.

Mr Logkar

- Proposed that planning be done with Chief Smith, Dr Lockay and Ms Manual regarding training roughly 100/150 members for consequential vacancies to keep up with the targets, noting the depletion rate due to various circumstances.

Mr Wingrove

- Agreed with Mr Logkar's proposal and added that if you consider the rollover request of 173million and the additional 350million, it should be able to accommodate the additional members as Mr Logkar is suggesting.

Mr Brand requested to get feedback if it would be possible to train more than the 1000 members by an additional 100/150.

B) Feedback / Process on Rollover Budget

Mr Wingrove

- As mentioned, there is a request for 173 million rollover from the City, and the allocation of this year is 350million which means there is 523 million from the Province side.
- There have been engagements with City over a period and the Department has indicated support of the rollover request to Provincial Treasury, but an expenditure plan is needed, (how the money will be spent).
- The CFO is putting on pressure to submit that information in terms of the last communication and that information is need by today (6 October)

Mr Razaq added that this it's very critical and if a response is not received today, the City would have to pay back the 173 million and advise how much of the 350 million must also be reduced.

Chief Smith indicated that a meeting in this regard would be taking place later the morning with the financial heads and they will take a decision on it.

#) LEAP Operational Report

i. Deployment Operationally

Chief Coleman

- Deployments remain stable besides the 7 members being appointed by traffic.

ii. Deployment Other

- Indicated that one of the 7 members appointed to traffic was from the control room hence the depletion of 1 member which leave a total of 14.
- Added the reason for the 42 members not deployed is the non-issuing of appointment certificates and without it, uniform can also not be issued.

Mr Brand mentioned that Chief Ngibe responded to a Parliamentary question indicating that it takes 2-3 weeks to issue appointment certificates and it has been almost a month that the

42 members remain static as unemployed. Also, to note that giving false information to Parliament is a criminal offence.

Chief Smith indicated that it has been escalated to the office of Chief Ngele and Chief Tomakiet and awaiting their assistance. As of yesterday (3 October) clearance is still outstanding and went for processing to SSI and SAPS 49 but will follow up again with Chief Ngele.

Insp. Miesner

- Added that members without appointment cards are currently being used in the armouries as well as the control room.
- Regarding the outstanding fingerprints, it's believed Chief Hamilton sent you a request to Mr Brand for assistance in relation to SAPS.

Mr Brand clarified this by adding that Chief Hamilton indicated that an unofficial contact is currently being used in assisting with the fingerprints and Mr Brand stated that he will provide assistance but only through official channels and therefore he would require an official request for assistance and he would officially approach the PC in this matter.

ii. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Coleman

- Indicated that 40 firearms have been issued to members over the last week. An issuing schedule has been attached to the report.
- Currently members from the 302 are being issued and this will continue over the next 2 weeks.
- An average of 8 members is issued a day due to the timeous process to issue a person (~45min).
- Metro police have been engaged to lengthen their hours for issuing in order to fast track the process.

iv. Appointment Cards Outstanding

- This point has been discussed under deployment (other) above

v. Flexi shift

Chief Smith

- Questioned if the members of this platform defiantly want the flexi system implemented or if they were happy with the current 24-hour shift system because the unions are not in favour to the flexi system.
- Added that this could become a lengthy process going back and forth with the unions and therefore possibly to reconsider.

Mr Brand

- Reminded everyone that this proposal actually came from the City as a meeting held in Kutsivier (June/July) when discussing the overtime issues.
- The 24-hour shift system was also proposed specifically to deal with the weekend deployments which is currently running at 50%.
- Indicated that it must also be noted that one cannot enforce something on an employer and that's the reason for engaging the unions, as was discussed from the beginning, and added that if the negotiations are at deadlock then Chief Smith should not feel pressured to implement it.

Comments

Mr Logoor questioned that if the 24-hour system continues then just to give an indication if there would be any cost adjustments involved, to prevent what happened previously when the City request and extra 50million for overtime which was not budgeted for.

Chief Smith indicated that with the 24hour system there is no overtime, just as shift allowance and the only time that overtime comes into play is when the permanent staff from the Inspectorate and up must come work.

Closing Remarks

Mr Brand added that he has a follow up meeting with Mr Wingrove and the research unit in relation to start looking at the impact of LEAP and more specifically at what happens to all the excellent freedom arrests. Then to ask SAPS who is the only legal body to investigate crime: what happened to all these cases and then to also to request the court watching brief of DoCS to track the progress and provide a report in a month.

Mr Wingrove indicated that the LETAs will be established in the remaining 6 areas of the Metro within the next 5-6weeks, starting with Koozfontein this coming week.

The proposed dates for each area will forwarded to the City so they can also indicate who needs to be invited to those specific workshops. The same process will occur simultaneously in the Districts, but they will not influence the City or LEAP.

This is the first step in establishing the ABIs in all the Metro areas.

Mr Brand added that Gen. Beaton has committed all his Station Commanders and will also personally be part of the programme at the workshop and hence Mr Brand feels that it would be good for a senior LEAP commander to also be part of the programme and to possibly do a presentation.

Close

Mr Brand proposed that this meeting time be shifted from 7:30 – 8:30 as most are now back at the office and this will allow for travel time.

Indicated that Dr Lackay and his team only needs to attend the first meeting in November again at the next meeting will only be to discuss operational issues.

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 08h06


 P. Brand
 20/10/2021



OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 20 October 2021**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logkat
Chief Coleman
Regional Insp Renzer
Mr A Albertyn
Ms M Mahud
Ms A Daniels
Mr S Tlou
Ms T Steyn-Dawie

Apologies

Dir Roberts, Chief Hamilton, Chief Smith

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.
The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

Discussion

1) Feedback on the Shortfall of LEAP officers

Mr Brand indicated that this will be discussed at the next meeting when Dr Lockay and his team is present.

2) Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Wingrove

- Indicated that a draft report had been received on which amendments were made and still awaiting the final report.
- Added that the City requested a reduction in the budget allocation for this year, so that also needs to be factored into the Business Plan.

Mr Brand requested that the Business Plan be sent to him to have a look at the amendments as well.

Mr Logkar

- Indicated that the TPA can only be finalised after the Business Plan has been signed off.

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that the requested changes been added and that he is in the process of submitting the Business Plan to the ED by end of business today (20 October) and will request the ED to sign it off as soon as possible with the information provided in terms of the revised budget.

Mr Logkar indicated that once Mr Albertyn submits the Business Plan to the ED, it might still take some time from his office and therefore the Department might possibly need to escalate it as we already running into November, and it's really a problem on the transfer payments and expenditure delays that we can proceed if we don't transfer the money as soon as possible.

Mr Wingrove requested that the ED please physically sign off the Business Plan or submit a cover letter indicating that he approves the Business Plan, and this is for legal services purposes.

3) Update on LEAP assistance to Department of Health (vaccine rollout)

Mr Brand indicated that this is ongoing and mentioned that he had written to the Department of Health again requesting that they submit their list timeously because can't expect to send a list on a Friday and have assistance the next day.

4) College Training Status Report

Dr Lockay and team will provide comprehensive feedback at the next meeting.

Ms Manual

- Indicated that she is engaging the college on the training requirements for the cadets that will replace the shortfall of members.
- Small groups will be joining up with the training during October of which some already has.

- There are presently 227 candidates at college, and it is being monitored closely as in some instance, such as pregnancy, a candidate needs to pull out.
- Added the full report will be provided at the next meeting.

3) Feedback / Process on Rollover Budget

Razzoq Logkar

- indicated that it was previously mentioned that with the rollover budget (now revised) and current allocation that an additional 150 candidates could be trained and questioned if this would still be the case that by June there would be 1150 members.

Mr Albertyn has given indication that Dr Lackay has confirmed that he can accommodate the extra and this (1150) has been added into the amended Business Plan.

4) LEAP Operational Report

L. Deployment Operationally

Chief Coleman

- Deployments remain stable and only slight changes are a member that returned from maternity leave and one that went on maternity leave.

E. Deployment Other

- indicated that this remained the same and added that Dr Roberts is vigorously dealing with the issue of the 42 members not deployed.
- Mentioned that the number of members working in the armoury, control room and admin support is needed to comply with the 24hr shift system.
- Added they currently have 3 armouries and in the process of possibly taking over another 3 armouries.

Mr Brand questioned if this has been covered for in the Business Plan because these members do not form part of the total number of boots on the ground and if not to possibly consider it.

Mr Logkar indicated that the business plan speaks to salaries for operational support and added that it should be part of the City's recruitment planning.

Mr Wingrove reiterated from the previous meeting the reason for training and additional 150 members to ensure that there are 1000 boots on the ground, despite any shortfalls that may arise.

Mr Brand indicated that the additional 150 members will only start training January/February 2022 and in the interim, the current forces on the ground needs to be looked at.

E. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Coleman

- indicated that the numbers have remained unchanged since the last update and this was due to logistical problems.
- The pouches were received as from the service provider but on inspection discovered lots of manufacturing faults and hence had to return the pouches which resulted in firearms not being able to be issued as per the schedule.

- This information has been escalated to Dr Roberts to inform him of the situation.

Mr Brand requested that he please be copied into the correspondence sent to Dr Roberts - to keep track on what the delay or follow up with the issuing of firearms will be.

iv. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Chief Coleman

- indicated that LEAP has a total of 89 Non-Appointees.
- 48 of the 89 was submitted to SAPS for clearance.
- 41 of the 89 still awaiting Peace Officer Certificates after receiving the SAP 69's (this falls in Metro Police domain).

Mr Brand reiterated has done various times in previous meetings, that he can assist by engaging the Provincial Commissioner but officially needs to be asked to do so and requested the dates the forms were submitted to SAPS for clearance so that follow up accordingly.

Chief Coleman mentioned that Dr Roberts has request a response from Chief Ngweni in relation to the Peace Officer Certificates and will follow up if / what the response was.

Mr Laglar indicated that this a long-standing issue from the City's side and proposed that the responsible persons join the next meeting to give a direct response on this forum.

Mr Brand agreed and indicated that he would follow up directly with Dr Roberts in this regard.

Additional Matters

Mr Brand requested that Chief Coleman assist him with obtaining the A1 statement (Philippi CAS 22/10/2021) regarding the firearm issue in Philippi in order for him to review it.

Mr Laglar raised the issue of the LEAP Dashboard capturing, that there is always a lot of pending information (e.g. car number) from the LEAP weekly reports, which results in the data not being able to be captured.

Added that he has escalated the issue raised by Chief Coleman on the shortage of data captures and computers for capturing, to Mr Albertyn.

Mr Albertyn requested that all correspondence relating to matters of concern, to please copy him in them.

Mr Brand indicated that if the LEAP weekly report is received with any pending information, that it will not be accepted and sent back for completion.

Mr Laglar indicated that DotP legal services has sent the TPA document to the City's legal services and are waiting on a response on the draft protocol agreement and request Mr Albertyn to follow up on this.

Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 08h20

Chief Coleman

3/11/2021



LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 3 November 2021**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Wingrove welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr T Wingrove (Chair)
Mr R Logkar
Chief Coleman
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smith
Reginal Inso-Renje
Reginal Inso-Messner
Mr A Alberhyn
Ms R Schoeman
Ms A Daniels
Dr Lackay
Ms T Steyn-Dowle

Apologies

Mr Brand

The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

2. Discussed

2.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that there has unfortunately been a substantial delay with the business plan.
- Added that an internal meeting was held last week with the CFO and budget committee around the additional 150 UICOs that was required and that is what's causing the delay.
- Mentioned that a meeting was then held with Mr Logkar to advise on the way forward and added that they had to resubmit a copy of their forecast because the additional UICOs which has not been approved via the City cause a ripple effect on the forecast which was submitted 2-3 weeks prior to Mr Logkar and team. Indications are the City will not support the training of the additional 150 UICOs officers.
- Indicated that they are awaiting an indication of approval for the rollover because that also had a direct effect on the budget plan and the financials that's added to the business plan.
- Added that an indication has been provided that the approval of the rollover will be available during the course of this week and once received, the budgetary requirements and financial forecast for the business plan can be finalised and submitted.
- Mentioned that Mr Logkar has sent some minor changes to the business plan which was affected and it's only the financials that needs to be updated and resubmitted to the ED.

Comments:

Mr Logkar

- Indicated that they have done the TPA but can't get the vetting certificate and proposed that he sends the draft TPA to Mr Albertyn but if possible, that Mr Albertyn send him the unsigned draft business plan as that will allow him to get the vetting TPA to Mr Albertyn so that both the business plan and TPA can be signed.
- Questioned if this would be possible as it could possibly expedite things as they become finalised towards the end of the week.

Mr Albertyn indicated that this would be in order and will try and send the draft business plan by end of business today (3 Nov).

He added that two scenarios regarding the budget forecast was sent through, one was with the approval of the rollover and the other was excluding the approved rollover and questioned if they should go with scenario one (reduction of +- 180million) or scenario two (utilise the full 330million).

Mr Logkar indicated that the Department has largely supported the rollover request and is in support of scenario one and mentioned it be put in the draft business plan as such.

2.2 College Training Status Report

Dr Lagkar provide feedback as below

EPWP-IBT (LEAP)	Planned	Basic Handgun	Pocket Book	Radio Procedure	Tools	Docket and Statement	Stop and Approach	Pepper Spray	NETA	Power and Duties
	115									
Members at College		112	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
Competent		112	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
NYC		07	00	0	0	0	0	0	00	0
On Training		00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Not Yet Trained		00	00	0	0	0	0	0	00	0
Results Pending										
Absent/ Sick										
No Show	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Contract Terminated	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3

- Planned for IBT was 115x learners of which 111x learners completed IBT training. 3x contracts was terminated and 1 person never showed up for training.
- Upon the confirmation of contract termination and non-attendance, only 111 learners participated in In-Basket Training phase.
- Basic Firearm training component was delivered between the Metro police College and the Firearm training Tender. Basic Handgun = 105 competent, 7 members not yet competent resulting in all the members currently on the training program being trained.
- Totals of trainees per interventions will vary from time to time in accordance with the Rot out plan.
- 118 members that have successfully completed the Peace Officer and Traffic Warden phase of which six members are Senior Inspectors have started on 2 November 2021 with the In-Basket Training.
- 105 members that successfully completed the In-basket and Handgun phase have started with the Peace Officer and Traffic Warden phase.
- The training plan is currently on back and as of 2 November 2021, there are 323 members currently participating in the LEAP training program.
- All training with remedios should be completed before 17 December 2021 as planned.

Mr Lagkar questioned if there is an improved and smoother process yet in place within Metro police regarding training and getting the appointment and vetting sorted in terms of members who are deemed competent, and contracts are already in place and if that process can be

expedited because that was one of the big delays regarding operations in the last phase of deployment.

Chief Hamilton

- Informed everyone that even if the members are all trained by December, it may not mean that they will be deployed by December because of other processes that need to follow and be completed such as the application of appointment cards, which is time consuming and considering it is festive season as well.
- Added that once member complete basic firearm training the statement of results needs to be handed over to Law Enforcement to proceed with the application process, etc., and this all needs to be factored in.

Chief Smith proposed that Deputy Chief Talmokkie be invited to the next meeting regarding the appointments and certifications as he oversees this process from the City's side and can provide the appropriate feedback.

Dr Lockay

- Indicated that there is a distinct difference between training and appointments certificates and added that they will ensure members have fully completed all the training, but all other processes must be followed by the line.
- Added in terms of the firearm training certificates, they run a three-day period and the statement of results can be collected 3 days after the training is completed and all that information is readily available.
- Agreed that Deputy Chief Talmokkie should be part of these discussions.

Chief Hamilton clarified that members cannot be issued with a firearm if they are not in possession of an appointment certificate.

Mr Lagkor

- Wanted clarity in terms of the 223 members currently finishing training plus the 96 members which means 321 members that will now not be operationally deployed because appointment cards have not been sorted even though they are competent and feels this needs to be prioritised.
- Proposed that a priority committee be established, internally in the City, to deal with these issues instead of waiting for these bigger meetings as the same issues will be emphasise .

Mr Wingrove proposed that this be taken up at the next meeting when Chief Talmokkie is present and that he would inform Mr Brand thereof, who could possibly discuss the proposal with Dr Roberts.

2.3 Appointment of additional trainees

Ms Schoeman provided feedback

- Indicated that the advertisements closed on 8 October received just over 700 applications for the three categories of positions.
- Confirmed that they have gone through the City's processes, right up to shortlisting and are in the process of doing assessments this week.
- Everything is still on track as per the project plan and still hope to appoint by end of November provided that after the assessments the appropriate candidates are identified.
- If all goes well external candidates would join by 1 January 2022 (providing time to give notice) and internal candidates by 1 December 2021.
- Further feedback will be provided later in November.

- Added that the posts are as follows: 1 senior tactical training instructor, 7 tactical training facilitators and 8 facilitators = 16 total positions.

2.4 LEAP Operational Report

i. Deployment Operationally

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that there were no significant changes since the last report in terms of deployment.
- Added that KwaZulu-Natal still has the most deployments due to the high murder rate and Philippi and Bishop Lavis with the least.
- There were no increases in new deployments.

ii. Deployment Other

- Indicated that of the 42 not deployed indicated on the graph, there is an outstanding balance of 91 appointment cards but of these members have been absorbed into the armoury and control room (deployed within the LEAP environments) and the 42 are currently at the base stations awaiting deployment.

Chief Hamilton indicated that there is currently 607 members operationally deployed within the 10 areas and that excludes the armoury, maternity, and the admin support in the control rooms.

iii. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that although there is still a large number of members without firearms, which is not an ideal situation, they have managed in all areas to arm most members.
- Added that the line supervisors are included in the stats and the decrease by one is due to a member going on maternity leave.
- There are 537 armed members in the operational LEAP A&T areas and 180 unarmed which is being dealt with and feedback will be provided on how the situation will be dealt with from the bottom up.

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that they have installed and approved additional handgun safes within the Brackenfell armoury.
- Added that it has been approved by the DfO and must be signed off by the Chief of Metro police.
- Mentioned that there are 80 applications at Metro police and once those two safes have been approved, they will start issuing those members.
- Informed the meeting that they had the DfO flash and liquor inspection at the Bishop Lavis facility where some red flags were raised because of the magnitude/magnitude/number of firearms that will be held at the Bishop Lavis armoury for LEAP and security measures that needs to be put in place.
- The capacity of that safe is currently 777 handguns and SAPS is very concerned about security measures especially with attacks on police stations specifically for firearms.

iv. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated LEAP has a total of 91 staff members without appointment cards as per the schedule forwarded to WCC.

- 86 clearance application is with SSU however as indicated amongst the 86 there is 7 duplicates.
- 2 applications (re-do fingerprints) are with law enforcement which we await SAP 69 copies.
- 1 member to finalise expungement.
- 2 Members to complete POTW training and only scheduled to do their training next year as per engagements with Dr Lockay.

Comments

Mr Wingrove indicated that at the Atlanta LETAT establishment it was mentioned that LEAP deployment in the area will occur in mid-December and questioned if this still on track to happen.

Mr Hamilton indicated that he hopes they can manage to obtain the appointment cards but depends on the process and how long it would take and added that he does not think December is a realistic timeline bearing in mind the ripple effect of issuing firearms being dependent of receiving appointment cards.

Added that deployment in December could be possible but highly unlikely in his opinion.

Mr Logkar mentioned that from both reports there are 223 members finishing training who will have no appointment cards plus the additional 91, which means 314 members don't have appointment cards and ultimately then can't be issued with firearms and there is already 180 members still unarmed bringing the total to 494 members that will be unarmed of a total of 1000 that will hopefully be deployed by end December.

Questioned if the shortfall is currently at 59 (the 718 deployed staff and the additional 223 LLEO's) on the target of 1000 is correct, because if so, these are the consequential vacancies that Dr Lockay must recruit instead of the previously planned 150 in February.

Dr Lockay confirmed that 223 members are in training but added that 6 of them are senior inspectors for LEAP and reiterated that a change over in training is taking place from IST to POTW and vice versa. Therefore, it could be possible that there will be more members found not competent in the handgun training which can result in a larger shortfall number in terms of competency.

3. Additional Matters

in relation to the business plan, Mr Wingrove indicated his concern because if it is already being sold that deployment to Atlanta might be a challenge and we have included Samara Mochel and Phillip East, then he is not sure how that will be dealt with.

He added that the Department has conceded that extra 150 LLEO's won't happen but feels that all efforts then need to be put in to achieved 1000 Law Enforcement officers as that was the commitment given by the Premier to the citizens of the Western Cape and added this is the same concern Mr Brand had at the last meeting.

Chief Hamilton indicated that in his professional view and which he has raised previously, he does not see how the inspectors and senior inspectors cannot be accounted for as boots on the ground as they work/deployed in the ASB areas because you can't have a situation of having 1000 officers running loose without a command structure in the field with them. Questioned how the 100 inspectors and senior inspectors are accounted for and feels that it is incorrect to say the 1000 boots on the ground only reflect to the LLEO's.

Mr Wingrove agreed with Chief Hamilton and indicated that the senior inspector was added in the quarterly report but he is of the opinion that the message that was conveyed at higher level was that 1000 would be physical LEO's/LEAP officers.

Mr Logkar added that the question that is being asked is what the money is buying in terms of the gazetted funding allocation.

Mentioned that as far as possible, they try to include the inspectors in the reporting because that is part of the business plan but in the overall perspective, the financial planning is to have 1000 LEOs obviously with each supervisory, administrative, training college, vehicles and whatever other support to staff.

Added that in the bigger picture, all these are accounted for in the business planning process but in terms of operational focus, it was said there will be 1000 extra boots on the ground in terms of Law Enforcement officers with the additional support/supervisory staff which is about 150 additional members factored in when doing the performance reporting.

In terms of financial planning, it does indicate that 1000 LEOs to be on the ground by end of December 2021 and added that there are operational shortfalls due to appointments into the armoured, consequential shortfall which we need to make up for hopefully before the end of the financial year in March 2022.

Mr Wingrove is of the opinion that if we know there won't be deployment to Samora Machel and Philippi East in the current financial year, that it should not be added into the business plan, unless we are comfortable that deployment will take place even in Jan/Feb 2022 should December not be possible or to make alternative arrangements at those stations such as was done in Gugulethu because deployment was also a commitment made with Atlantis.

Chief Hamilton questioned how the officers deployed in the other LEAP environments, such as the armoured and control rooms are accounted for and are they included into the 1000 boots on the ground?

Mr Wingrove indicated that these members will be recorded as long as they are trained and in possession of an appointment card.

Mr Logkar added that they are counted as part of the operational support and administrative budget as the deployed boots on the ground is different from the operational support budget allocations.

Mr Albertyn indicated that the 3 areas, Samora Machel, Philippi East and Atlantis was not part of the original business plan but has been added into the new business plan in September as requested at our meetings as well as the operational command structures for those 3 areas but is not sure if Chief Hamilton and Chief Smith has done any planning around that as yet.

Mr Wingrove indicated that the 3 additional areas be kept in the business plan for now until a collective decision is made at a higher level.

Mr Logkar informed everyone that a meeting will be held with Mr Albertyn and Dir Lockay later that day on a broader LEAP training and recruitment pool and discussing the peace officer training.

in relation to the dashboard capturing, indicated that Chief Hamilton is struggling a little bit on his side on getting all of the capturing and the reporting requirements up to date, and it's particularly for the weekly report, the dashboard capturing, follow up and case numbers, details on suspects arrested, details around confiscations, etc., and it is really a lot of lines of capturing, over 1500 lines of detail capturing per week which comes to them for verification.

Hence wants feedback on the progress of appointment of captures.

Mr Alberfyn indicated that he did some investigation and based on his findings, he was told that the data captures was discussed but that it was not approved and signed off by the ED due to a lack of information.

Suggested to add additional data captures for the next financial year as it's highly unlikely they will be appointed the current financial year but obviously with a motivation to the ED and submit the JDs for those positions and once approved it can be added as part of the structure.

Mr Lagkar asked Chief Hamilton if it would be possible to use some of the staff that is not deployed in the field to assist with the capturing just to fill the gap until the appointment process is completed.

Chief Hamilton indicated that this could be possible, but the challenge would be that these members will have to be trained in data capturing but will look into it as he needs to produce a quality service in regard to governance but will need the correct people in place.

Mr Wingrove proposed that Mr Lagkar and Chief Hamilton take this discussion offline and come up with a solution in this regard.

Mr Alberfyn requested that he please be included in the discussion between Mr Lagkar and Chief Hamilton.

4. Closure

Mr Wingrove thanked everybody for attending the meeting, and, closed at 06h28.

Chairperson



LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 24 November 2021**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **M5 Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logkar
Chief Coleman
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smith
Chief Ngole
Reginal Insp Renoit
Reginal Insp Messner
Mr A Alberfyn
Ms M Manuel
Dr Lockay
Ms T Steyn-Dowle

Apologies

Dr Roberts

The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

2. Discussion

2.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Brand informed the meeting the Minister Fritz and the HoD had to explain the underpinning to the Premier and Provincial Treasury.

He proposed that an offline session be held concerning the business plan, to look at all the deliverables and see what has been delivered and what not.

Questioned if the business plan has been signed off yet.

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that the draft business plan has been submitted to Mr Logkar for confirmation and approval by the legal department on Government's side and based on that the discussions had with Mr Logkar, the TPA is in process.
- Once confirmation is received from Mr Logkar and the legal team, it will be sent to the ED for signature.

Mr Logkar

- Confirmed that he had received the draft on Monday (22 Nov) and sent it immediately to legal services.
- Indicated that he has received feedback this morning (24 Nov) regarding 1 or 2 corrections and busy making corrections on the sub-breakdown of transfers.
- Added that the only thing that was added this morning was the transfer of 120 million on signing and then 120 million on the receipt of quarterly financial progress reports.
- Mentioned that maybe there should also be an engagement on the quarterly financial report updates on a monthly or bi-monthly basis.

Comments:

Mr Brand questioned when the business plan would be signed and added that only once we have the signed business plan can we actually start the process of ensuring that whatever is stipulated in the business plan is delivered.

Mr Albertyn indicated that the reason he has not yet submitted the business plan to the ED for signature is for the exact reason that amendments need to be made and if the ED had signed, then a new business plan with the amendments would have to be drafted and re-sent for signature. Added that once the changes have been made as mentioned by Mr Logkar, then he would send immediately to the ED for signature.

Mr Logkar added that they won't make changes on the business plan per se but will send the TPA pack with the draft business plan.

Indicated that he is awaiting the compliance certificate from legal services which should hopefully be the end of this week and once finalised, both the TPA and the business plan can then just be processed by Mr Albertyn with the ED as indicated.

Mr Brand proposed that a face-to-face meeting be held with the officials from the City together with officials of the Department to get the deliverables in place that as stipulated in the business plan.

Requested that between Mr Logkar and Mr Albertyn, they identify the key deliverables (equipment such as firearms, vehicles, etc.) so that a specific plan can be had as to when these deliverables will be met and hence not to sit with the same underpinning because Treasury is going to monitor us.

Added that we as operational colleagues and as colleagues that is responsible for the LEAP, ensure that we comply with this.

Mr Wingrove reiterated what was said by Mr Logkar and added that having the TPA and business plan signed off simultaneously will shorten the process and once signed by the ED and sent back, they will ensure that the internal signatories are received. Added that everything is on track and there are no real issues in either the TPA or business plan.

Mr Bond requested that he please be copied into the emails in this regard.

1.3 College Training Status Report

Or Locky

- Since September 13, 2021 to November 23, 2021, the following interventions were conducted as detailed below.
- 122 members were on Peace Officer training of which 118 members were deemed competent by 2 November 2021, of which, 1 member was charged with dishonesty and is currently being investigated, 1 member absconded, and the matter is currently being investigated by Ins. 1 member was NYC after remedial assessments and an incapacity is currently taking place and 1 member resigned.

(PWP-IST (LEAP)	Planned	Back Handgun	Pocket Book	Radio Procedure	Tariffs	Dissect and Statement	Stop and Approach	Pepper Spray	NETA	Tools and Duties
	113									
Members of College		112	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
Competent		100	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
NYC		01	00	0	0	0	0	0	00	0
On Training		00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	00
Not Yet Trained		00	00	0	0	0	0	0	00	0
Results Pending										
Absent/ Sick										
No Show	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Contract Terminated	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

- Planned for IST was 113x learners of which 111x learners completed IST training, 2x contracts was terminated and 1 person never showed up for training.

- Upon the confirmation of contract termination and non-attendance, only 111 learners participated in In-Basket Training phase.
- Basic firearm training component was delivered between the Metro police College and the Firearm training Tender. Basic Handgun = 108 competent, 7 members not yet competent resulting in all the members currently on the training program being trained.
- Totals of trainees per intervention will vary from time to time in accordance with the Roll out plan.
- 118 members that have successfully completed the Peace Officer and Traffic Warden phase of which six members are Senior Inspectors have started on 2 November 2021 with the In-Basket Training.
- 105 members that successfully completed the in-basket and Handgun phase have started with the Peace Officer and Traffic Warden phase.

LEAP Status report - 2021

EPWP-IST (LEAP)	Planned	Basic Handgun	Pocket Book	Radio Procedure	Tarifa	Docket and Statement	Stop and Approach	Pepper Spray	NRTA	Power and Duties
	118									
Members of College		118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
Competent		43	118	118	118	118	70	70	95	14
W/C		00	00	0	0	0	1	0	00	0
Currently on Training		21	0	0	0	0	28	26	23	46
Not Yet Trained		43	00	0	0	0	28	18	00	48
Handgun refresher		7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Business Purpose w/s		1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1

- The training plan is on track with the view to conclude the training schedule by 17 December 2021.
- As of 23 November 2021, there are 220 members currently participating in the LEAP training program.

Comments:

Mr Logoir wanted to confirmation that 234 has been recruited for the last phase(28) as the last report indicated 237 and if to date there are still 220 on training.

Dr Lokoy

- Indicated that there was 237 enrolled but one person opted not to attend and hence there is 236 attending.
- Added that there were also contracts that were terminated, one person absconded and then competency also impacts on that total.
- Mentioned that from the 220 members on training, there is already 3 members not yet competent in basic handgun training after their 3 attempts so holistically as things stand now, there will be 217 by the 17 December if all is found competent and hence to keep in mind that the number may possibly decrease further by another 2 or 3 by December.

Mr Wingrove indicated that the Department is busy with answering a Parliamentary question and wanted confirmation if the LEO's is still 714 + 217 = 931, in order to make adjustments in the answer before submitting.

Added in this regard, there is still a deficit of 69 boots on the ground from the 1000.

Mr Brand questioned if the deficit will still be filled by the Metro police cadets as previously agreed.

Ms Manuel indicated that the 26 members that reported to Finelands last week is separate from the college contingent and the list pertaining to the new staff relates to the members currently at college to be appointment onto LEAP and not the shortfall.

Mr Brand questioned how the gap will be filled to meet the 1000 member by 17 December to ensure the business plan is complied with.

Ms Manuel

- Indicated that they would be tapping into the Metro Police cadettes and their previous programs which is the facility protection officers to fill the shortfall and are busy going through a rigorous vetting process.
- Added that they have picked up that during the verification of candidates that were at the college, there were some who provided fraudulent matric certificates and their contracts had to be terminated.
- These cadets will be deployment ready depending on when they received their appointment certificates.

Chief Hamilton indicated that he can't give an exact date for deployment as it's dependent on the clearance process of SAPS.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that that this issue has been prolonged, and no answers are being reached.
- Added that in the interim he has met with SAPS regarding this issue because just as much as we need these deployments, SAPS do too, especially as we are heading into the festive season.
- Mentioned that SAPS has indicated that it's not necessary to request the Stations to provide 13.2 reports and the request from SAPS is that the moment you are ready with your application to send it as the 13.2 reports won't be required as part of the pack and Brig. Matumbu's office will get the 13.2 reports which means that this process could be finalized within the next week and even start processing the appointment cards of the 41 members at college that have been found competent in handgun training.

Dir Lockay added that to speed up the process, they have started to formulate the documentation for the 118 members that has completed their peace officer and traffic warden training, so they can start being processed already to prevent the delay in December.

Chief Hamilton indicated that from law enforcement side, they have received the COC certificates from Metro Police. Added that the SAP69 reports and COC certificates was handed over on Monday (22Nov) to SSIU for processing. Indicated that the PC's office providing the 13.2 reports will definitely speed up the process.

Chief Ngele also indicated that this will help tremendously as over 105 that has been sent to other stations in October, has still not been received back and hence this new process will cut back on delays.

Mr Logear indicated that they would need the names of the 217 that is currently on training for the database which in addition to the 69 shortfall (metro cadets) which gives a total of 286 that needs to complete training by 17 December. Requested confirmation on the database of the 118 names that are ready for appointment cards.

Mr Brand

- Requested Chief Ngele to inform him if any issues are experienced with this new process because by 17 December, we need all these members as 'boots on the ground' as that's what we promised the Premier and others and we can't afford to have this process fail us again.
- Thanked everyone for the initiatives that they have already undertaken.
- Indicated his only concern is the shortfall and that we will have to ensure that by the next meeting we can start providing the names as Mr Laglar has indicated.
- Requested Chief Ngele to send a name of a nominated person to attend these meetings on his behalf.

2.3 LEAP Operational Report

L. Deployment Operationality

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that there were no changes regarding deployment in any of the areas besides Nyanga which has decreased with one supervisor who is currently on light duty as per Dr's request and she is being utilised with the preparation and process of firearm applications.
- Overall deployment is still stable.

Mr Brand requested that future deployments follow the same suite as the rollout process of the appointment certificates and that we decide on this according to the business plan because if one looks at the homicide data, one will see that Delft needs to be beefed up etc. Indicated that an area that needs to be added is Gugulethu so that the reaction unit can be utilised as it was intended for.

Added that the way forward regarding the next cohort also be discussed in the smaller meeting which will be scheduled for Monday 29 November at 14:00 at Chief Smith's office.

Chief Smith indicated that areas such as Athlone is far from their bases and hence looking for accommodation for the staff to prevent less traveling and also to allow them to be quicker out in the area when needed. Therefore, requested that he be informed immediately of the areas that needs deployment in order to make the necessary accommodation arrangements if need be.

E. Deployment Other

- Indicated this is the same as last week.
- Informed the meeting that armory deployment, working method in terms of safety and compliance according to the SOP and firearm regulations act has been assessed, and it was identified that more staff is required to assist and hence will have to pull in an additional member to each shift.
- This means that unfortunately operational staff will be drawn in.
- Added that they have experienced a challenge in terms of when individual staff members go off sick or on leave etc., that overtime needs to be sourced to bring in people to ensure the safety aspect and that the SOP and regulations are adhered to, and this has been occurring frequently.
- For this reason, it is also important to rope in the additional staff members and will utilise the members not deployed who's currently awaiting appointment cards and will not withdraw from staff currently in the ABT areas.

Mr Brand questioned if these members (support staff) noting members in the armory must be firearm competent, have been covered for in the business plan.

Chief Smith indicated that it has not been catered for a number of 29 and only Bishop Lavis was part of the planning as an Armoury but with the rollout and more areas coming on board, it was found that Bishop Lavis would not suffice for all the areas which is problematic and something that needs to be looked at.

Chief Hamilton added that this is an important issue to raise as it would also not be practical for members working in Atlanta to book out firearms in Bishop Lavis or Mfuleni then go report in Atlanta, so in essence there would need to be an armoury in Atlanta as well which will require staff.

Mr Brand agreed with the concerns raised and indicated that there should actually be 50 additional members for this purpose. Added that either we agree that the 50 be taken of the 1000 leaving 950 for deployment of boot on the ground or come up with an alternative.

Mr Wingrove added that the business plan makes provision for operational admin support staff (67, pg 17 in new business plan), but it does not stipulate that they are LEOs and suppose to be permanent staff.

Mr Logkor agrees with Mr Wingrove and added that the Law Enforcement operational team must resolve the issue of operational support and added that it was always in the business plan on the planning side and not sure where the challenge lies (finance side/ ED to approve) but it must be resolved internally.

Indicated there is a budget for the permanent staff that Mr Wingrove was referring to and overtime has been included (~42 million and the City is also contributing to that) and hence from a planning side, there needs to be looked at how staff is deployed.

Mr Brand added that these are the issues that needs to be properly unpacked in the business plan because when the auditor audit the business plan and actual deployments, they will see there's 43 members that's not actually deployed but doing operational support and hence this needs to be clarified.

Requested that this be taken up again at the meeting on Monday (29 November) and requested Mr Marud to then also be part of this engagement as well as Mr Albertyn if possible.

E. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated there has been a drastic improvement in terms of the issuing of firearms.
- Added that their safe in Brackenfell has been approved last week by the Chief of Metro police.
- Mentioned that they have started issuing firearms as per the schedule in the report.

iv. Appointment Cards Outstanding (has been discussed above)

Chief Hamilton

- All applications for clearance certificates were handed over to SSU for processing.
- Outstanding from Law enforcement is 2 SAP #9 reports which were obtained by SSU and await the reports that are still outstanding.
- 112 SAP #1 reports and COC of staff who have completed POTW at the College and currently busy with in basket has been handed over to SSU on 22/11/2021 for submission and processing.

3. Additional Matters

Philippi

Mr Brand indicated the Philippi matter had been referred to him by Chief Hamilton and added that he had discussions with both Gen Seaton and Gen Dyanthi.

It was agreed that a bi-weekly meeting with SAPS station commanders and the LEAP commanders firstly to ensure there is operational coordination that takes place, secondly to explain the next phase in the rollout, how that will happen and that we rope in the station commanders from the beginning and then that these issues can be addressed on a much higher level because it seems that locally there isn't the same kind of commitment at some of the stations as we having a from the senior managers on both Law Enforcement and SAPS level.

All Chiefs were in agreement to have these engagements.

Mr Brand added that he will email the two Cluster Commanders (eventually Atorifi once deployed there) to set up these engagements and added that Chief Hamilton, Smith and Coleman as well as Messrs Wingrove and Logkar be part of it.

Media

Mr Brand mentioned that there have been some excellent media articles concerning the decrease in the homicides and that the Western Cape was the only Province which recorded a slight decrease.

Noted the comment specifically from the Nyanga chairperson of the CPF Marlin Madakaza, who said that part of this is the AST approach and then obviously the LEAP roll-out.

Added that the Premier also send him a WhatsApp congratulating us with the LEAP program.

Mr Brand thanked everyone and to please convey that to their colleagues that's actually on the ground, for the support and hard work.

Chief Hamilton requested that weekly report be amended to allow the assistance to the Department of Health regarding the safety of Ds at vaccination sites be brought into the deployment plan.

Mr Brand mentioned that this can be indicated at the bottom of deployments as it will be on a need-to-need basis.

Chief Hamilton informed the meeting that they have met with the two analysts who will be roped into the AST areas. They have sorted out on Tuesday and Thursday and currently busy with introductions at the police stations to get the relationships going.

4. Closure

Mr Brand indicated that the next meeting to be held on 8 December.

Thanked everybody for attending the meeting and closed at 06h41


 J. Brand
 Chief Constable



Western Cape
Government
Community Safety

LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 8 December 2021**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.

Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)

Mr T Wingrove

Mr R Logkar

Chief Hamilton

Chief Smith

Chief Ngala

Regional Insp Renze

Regional Insp Niessner

Insp Stemmet

Chief Tamakkes

Mr A Alberlyn

Ms M Manuel

Dr Lockay

Mr B Isaacs

Ms T Steyn-Dowie

Apologies

Dr Roberts

The notes of the previous meeting were adopted.

2. Discussion

2.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that the business plan had been vetted and signed off and sent to Mr Lagkor.
- Added the TPA had been vetted by their legal department and has been sent to the ED for signature yesterday afternoon (7 December) and will be forwarded once signed. Indicated that the delay was due to the main legal representative unfortunately having to go on sick leave.

Comments:

Mr Brand indicated now that the business plan is signed, we need to ensure that we comply with that which is stated therein.

Mr Wingrove added that once the signed TPA is received it will be sent to the HoD of DoCS to sign whereafter the first transfer can be done.

2.2 Appointment of additional trainees

Mr Isaacs indicated that they are busy with the NOA currently.

De Lackay mentioned that due to candidates still having to do drug tests as well and as they are outside of the Province, these positions may only be filled in February and not 1 January 2022 as previously indicated.

Mr Brand proposed this item to be discussed further at the next meeting with Mr Schoeman.

2.3 Feedback on the Operational Deployment and OPS Support Staff Meeting

Mr Wingrove indicated that the meeting took place on Monday 29 November and the following was decided regarding allocations.

- o Bishop Lavis to remain at 40
- o Philippi 40
- o Atlantis new allocation of 40
- o Mfuleni 80
- o Kraaifontein to remain at 79
- o Harare to remain at 75
- o Khayelitsha to remain at 75
- o Nyanga 72
- o Gugulethu 69
- o Mitchells Plain to remain at 59
- o Delft 80
- o Philippi East new allocation of 40
- o Somaria Machel new allocation of 40

Added that the reaction unit will also be topped up from 35 to 40 members.

These members will be LLEO's

Mr Brand added hence it is important to sort out the issue of the appointment certificates because then the additional 105 members can also be deployed which will beef up the numbers and also to fill the operational support staff as per indication in the business plan.

2.4 College Training Status Report

Dr Lackay

- Indicated that a lot of alterations have been made in order to complete training a week earlier which will now be on Friday 30 December.
- Added that the remedial dates have also been altered to accommodate Mr Tomokkie and his term regarding fingerprints and appointment certificates.
- Currently all member has completed all categories of training besides one person who was and is still off sick.
- 214 members are successful, but this number may change depending on the outcome of the 20members that are still on handgun training.

Other ID (SAR)	Planned	Basic Handgun	Pocket Book	Rifle Procedure	Tactics	Basket and Staircase	Stop and Approach	Pepper Spray	HTA	Power and Duties
	112	112	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
Members of College		112	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
Competent		105	112	112	112	112	111	111	111	111
HTA		27	22	0	0	0	0	0	22	0
On training		20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Not yet trained		20	22	0	0	0	0	0	22	0
Results Pending										
Absent/ Sick										
No Show	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Contract terminated	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

- Planned for HTA was **112x learners** of which **111x learners** completed HTA training. **3x** contracts was terminated and 7 person never showed up for training.
- Upon the confirmation of contract termination and non-attendance, only **111 learners** participated in in-basket training phase.
- Basic firearm training component was delivered between the Metro police College and the firearm training Tender. Basic Handgun = **105** competent, **7** members not yet competent resulting in all the **members** currently on the training program being trained.

- Totals of trainees per interventions will vary from time to time in accordance with the roll out plan.
- 118 members that have successfully completed the Peace Officer and Traffic Warden phase of which six members are Senior Inspectors have started on 2 November 2021 with the in-basket training.
- 105 members that successfully completed the in-basket and Handgun phase have started with the Peace Officer and Traffic Warden phase.

LEAP Status report - 2021

OPW-01 (LEAP)	Planned	Basic Handgun	Pocket Book	Radio Procedure	Tests	Docket and Statement	Stop and Approach	Pepper Spray	WPA	Peace and Order
	118									
Members of College		118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
Competent		91	118	118	118	118	118	118	117	117
NYC		27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Currently on training		20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not Yet trained		7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handgun refresher		4								
Back		7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- The training plan with the view to concluding the training schedule by 10 December 2021.
- As of 07 December 2021, we currently have 214 members that is successfully participating in the LEAP training program. On Friday the 10th we will have the final results of the POTW group and the 20 members that are on the Firearm Basic training.

Comments:

Mr Brand applauded Dr Lockay and his team for the excellent work done thus far especially now that we are ahead of schedule regarding the training.

Mr Wingrove added that this is excellent progress made and questioned if the number to possibly graduate on Friday will still be 210.

Dr Lockay indicated that the final figure will be provided after Friday once members have completed handgun training and remedials and he will email the final numbers by latest Monday 13 December.

Chief Hamilton questioned if an external service provider will again be used for those members who has failed. (24 external members that are not yet competent).

Dr Lockay indeed the case and indicated that the external provider will need to be paid again for these services if they need to come back, but he will arrange that if needs be.

Mr Brand proposed that the members be provided one last chance as the funds are available and if they fail then due course needs to follow.

Dr Lockay indicated that he would engage the service provider and hopefully they can still do the training within this month.

Mr Lagkar and Mr Wingrove agreed to the proposal.

2.4 LEAP Operational Report

L. Deployment Operationally

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that deployment remained the same in all areas.
- Added that Harare and Mfuleni increased with one inspector each and a senior inspector resigned in Khayelitsha.

E. Deployment Other

- Indicated that 11 additional LLEOs were deployed to armoury from the not deployed group, hence Armoury is now 40 and not deployed is 31.
- Maternity increased from 7 to 11.
- Admin Support decreased from 13 to 9 (4 x officers went on maternity).

Mr Brand indicated that staff for the armoury, control room and admin support is clear / stipulated in the business plan and if members have not yet been recruited or appointment yet for this purpose then it needs to be done with immediate effect because if not, we will sit with the same issue of underspent.

Chief Smith indicated that he had discussed this with Ms Marwal who is looking into it and hopes to have receive feedback on the permanent staff for this by end of the week.

Mr Aberfyn also added that Ms Marwal will be forwarding the relevant information to him and that will provide himself with an organogram of where all staff has been placed in the various areas and he will avail that information once he has received it.

Mr Lagkar

- Mentioned that there is roughly 150 members relating to admin and finance support and added that on pg. 12 of the business plan – positions created for admin and support is 50 of which 56 has already been appointed over the past 2 financial years, HR support staff is 15 of which 13 is filled, operational support staff is 47 of which 43 has been filled and the training college is 18 of which is filled and some in progress.
- Added that a detailed breakdown of the operational support staff is mentioned on pg. 28 of the business plan and that should be aligned with support that is required, (over 130 positions in addition to the 1000 LLEOs / booths on the ground).

Chief Hamilton indicated that an internal LEAP discussion with HR will take place in this regard to look at the way forward.

Mr Brand added that colleagues should note and staff working in the armoury must be firearm competent and therefore can't be a normal clerk appointed in that position/s).

iii. Armed vs Unarmed members

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that the last issuing of firearms took place on 24 November and 6 applications have been submitted to Metro Police for processing.
- Added that only once appointment cards are received can processing for firearms take place.
- Of the 719 officers deployed in the operational field, 125 of them are unarmed. (in possession of appointment cards)
- Mentioned that there are no issues with firearms and safes and the only delay is the issue of appointment certificates.
- Added that the unarmed figure increases if you add the staff working in the control room and armoury who does not have appointment cards and hence can't be issued with a firearm.
- Indicated that they are busy populating a data base for all LEAP officers (operational field and administrative field) showing how many is armed and how many not armed as well as reasons for members not being armed, e.g., remedials, no appointment card, etc.

Mr Brand questioned what the delay is regarding the 125 not being issued with firearms if they have appointment cards and there is no shortage of firearms and safes.

Chief Hamilton indicated that this is the reason for creating the data base to see what the reasons are and will be completed with the data base by EOB Thursday 9 December.

iv. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Mr Brand questioned if the 80 appointment cards that was still at Sea Point police station awaiting the T3.2 if the current cohort was part of that 80.

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that this was not the case and added that 118 of the current members on training has been received of which 6 was removed as they are senior inspectors, hence a total of 112 was submitted to SSIU.
- Mentioned that the 80 at Sea Point are from the previous batch.

Mr Brand

- Proposed that Dir Roberts sets an urgent meeting with SSIU as we have member to deploy but can't due to them not having appointment certificates.

- Added that the next step would be for Chief Smith and Chief Hamilton to get all applications together of members currently on training and submit to SSIU asap.

Dir Lackay mentioned that he would be sending Chief Hamilton the list of moderated results by latest tomorrow (8 December) once remedial c/s completed to assist in speeding up the process and the remaining results of the 20 doing handgun training will be sent on Friday (10 December).

Mr Brand summarised the following for Chief Ngele:

- o 112 applications of the current members on training are with SSIU
- o Confirmed with SAPS that 46 applications have been processed and they are currently with legal services to be vetted whereafter they will go to Gen. Manci to be signed off.
- o Have informed Chief Hamilton that 18 applications are ready for collection at Brig. Matumbu's office
- o Dir Lackay will inform Chief Hamilton by latest tomorrow (8 December) on the number of applications that will be sent through of the current members on training which will also be processed to SSIU.
- o 80 applications that are at Sea Point police station will be processed today (7 December) with the 13.2.
- o Roughly 164 applications will be ready on Monday (13 December) for collection and be signed by the ED for deployment.

Chief Ngele indicated that SAPS gave copies of the 112 applications and was resubmitted on Wednesday 1 December to the PC office. Added that Col Vosloo was not aware about the arrangement made that applications can be sent without the 13.2 but has since been resolved with Brig Matumbu and the 18 that is ready for collection will be collected this week.

V. New LEAP deployment progress:

- Of the candidates on the college (210) the number might decrease if staff fail BFT.
- Training will be concluded 15/12/2021
- Uniform fittings to be scheduled for Thursday, 09/12/2021, 10/12/2021 and Monday 13/12/2021.
- Bishop Lavis armoury to be fully completed by 10/12/2021.
- Facility in Atlantis currently being sourced through the City.

3. Additional Matters

Lentegeur Deployment

Chief Smith questioned if LEAP deployment at Lentegeur should be withdrawn as they are still currently split in the Mitchell's Plain area.

Mr Brand indicated that the deployment at Lentegeur was only for that month and if further deployment is wanted, then authorisation is needed from our principals but added he has no issue to have members deployed there for a "hit and run" operation.

as Lenegour is part of Mitchells Plain in terms of municipal boundaries but not a permanent deployment.

Chief Smith indicated that they would withdraw deployment from Lenegour and assist when required.

Business Plan - Resources

Mr Brand requested that Messrs Alberlyn, Logkar and Chief Smith to provide him with a complete breakdown of physical resources (status report) by Monday 13 December, these include things such as vehicles, firearms, additional personal to be appointed, etc. The report should indicate the amount stipulated in the business plan, amount currently and the amount outstanding.

Mr Alberlyn indicated that discussions in this regard has been taking place and there are challenges around the vehicles, but he will add all those details into the report.

Mr Brand indicated that if there is again an underspend in the LEAP project, that it could be written off completely by Treasury that they have indicated that one can only fund that which can be measured. For that reason, this operational meeting may move to a monthly meeting and then to have smaller meetings regarding tracking of the resources.

Mr Logkar also added that the one area of concern is the vehicles and mentioned that not all the vehicles in terms of the planning process was available and may have to procure at a higher cost and added this tender procurement issue must be resolved internally but further details will be provided in the report.

Mr Alberlyn indicated that from next year he will be providing a breakdown on expenditure (salaries etc.) that Chief Hamilton can include into his operational report.

LEAP Dashboard

Mr Brand

- indicated that the Department of Health has a very comprehensive dashboard that they have been using for Covid 19 period and the Safety Committee and office of the Premier was instructed to look at a Safety Dashboard that is readily available.
- Added that in DoCS there is currently a process of developing the dashboard and Mr Logkar is very much involved and working with the policy and research unit in this regard.
- Indicated that for this reason, the data already needs be captured on the side of LEAP and instead of sending an excel spreadsheet as currently being done, the information will be captured directly onto the dashboard.

Mr Logkar

- Added that the dashboard has been discussed in August and November and that he has again included it into the IGR protocol agreement and in the business plan pg. 64.

- Indicated that together with Mr Albertyn they will ensure from a higher level that a data committee (LEAP data & capturing committee) starts to meet which includes the analysts as well.
- Indicated that Ms Diesel is busy finalising the conceptual arrangement.
- Mentioned that the dashboard was developed in August from the weekly LEF 1 report and training was done training with Chief Hamilton and Insp Kruger and other colleagues and added that some amendments have been made from version 1 to the current version 7.
- Indicated that DoCS staff has been doing the capturing in the interim while the City was sorting out captures on their side and at a point where the City now needs to start capturing directly onto the dashboard so that we can slowly move away from the weekly reporting in a phased approach.

Mr Brand indicated that a smaller team meeting on the dashboard will take place on how to take it forward and in the interim he will engage internally with Mr Lagkor and Ms Diesel to see how to bring everything together.

4. Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting.

The final meeting for the year will be on Wednesday 15 December.

Meeting closed at 08h53


Chairperson
15/12/2021



LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: Wednesday, 15 December 2021

Time: 07h30 – 08h30

Venue: M5 Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logkar
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smith
Chief Coleman
Regional Insp Renze
Regional Insp Miesner
Chief Taimakket
Ms T Wilson
Mr A Albertyn
Ms R Schoeman
Ms M Manuel
Dir Lackay
Ms A Daniels
Ms T Steyn-Dawie

Apologies

None

2. Discussion

2.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Brand indicated that the Business Plan and TPA have been signed off.

Mr Wingrove added that the TPA has been signed off by the CoCT but is currently with the HoD of the Department to be signed off which will be today or tomorrow, and transfer of funds should still be able to be done during next week.

2.2 Appointment of additional trainers

Ms Schoeman

- Indicated that they are in the process of offering contracts to 11 candidates and because some of the candidates are from other Provinces (external) and hence there is a slight delay in their contracts.
- Added that if all goes well, candidates can still be employed from 1 January with the minority being employed from 1 February.
- Mentioned that there are 7 tactical training positions and only 3 suitable candidates have been identified and are currently in consultation with their corporate recruitment and selection to address this in the new year and added that the positions have been re-advertised and busy headhunting for those positions.

2.3 Update on External Service Provider re: 24 external members not yet competent

Chief Hamilton indicated that the process is currently in Law Enforcement domain and they are busy creating the purchase order before sending for external.

Mr Brand added that this will then remain outstanding till the next meeting.

2.4 LEAP Operations

L. Update on Operational Support Staff

Chief Smith indicated that Ms Manuel is currently busy with an audit in this regard and should be able to provide feedback at the next meeting.

Mr Brand added that this report was supposed to be submitted on Monday 13 December and requested that he, Messrs Wingrove and Logkar receives it before the next meeting in order for them to compare it with the Business Plan before the meeting.

E. Update on firearms not being issued to members with appointment cards

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that there is no shortage of firearms to be issued to members once they are found competent and are issued with appointment

cards and added that the report that he will submit this week will have no changes to the appointment certificates and Ms Wilson will provide feedback as to the amounts of legal services and the amounts not.

- Added that no firearms have been issued since the last report and are currently in the process of completing the applications.
- Mentioned that in the new report that he will submit today (15 Dec) it can be noted that the figure of unarmed of 125 has reduced to about 75 and will attach a list of reasons why members are unarmed. (some of the reasons being a misinterpretation of being unarmed as some members have been issued with a firearm but because of disciplinary hearings, discharging of firearm, etc. their firearms have been taken away and is in the main vault).

iii. Appointment Cards Outstanding

Ms Wilson

- Indicated that 118 were legal since last week and 57 of that will be collected today (15 Dec).
- Added that there is a mix of LEAP, volunteers, auxiliary and city health with legal and the delay is that LEAP is not being prioritised above the others.

Mr Brand mentioned that there are currently no applications with Provincial Vspol, and all applications are with legal services and added that all outstanding applications for LEAP will be completed by Friday (17 Dec).

Ms Wilson added that there is roughly 99 applications that was suppose to be submitted yesterday (14 Dec) but due to the fingerprints being older than 6 months, legal services will not accept it and added that she will be retaking those fingerprints today (15 Dec) and then take it for the 6P's before submitting to Provincial.

Mr Brand indicated that Ms Wilson do the fingerprints today (15 Dec) and he will arrange for it to be taken to Michells Plain SAPS for the 6P's to fast-track the process.

iv. Deployments

Mr Brand questioned when the new recruits that finished will be deployed.

Chief Smith indicated that they would start orientation soon and mentioned that transport is still a problem due to the vehicle shortage and added they will most probably work in the current LEAP areas before sending them into the areas that they are supposed to be deployed in, which will take place in the new year.

Mr Brand proposed that these members be deployed on foot patrol to malls, strip malls and beaches that are in the LEAP areas especially during the festive

season while waiting for appointment certificates and firearms to be issued. Added that they should not be deployed outside of the LEAP areas such as to Clifton Beach etc as this was the agreement from the start and if anyone has an issue with this, that they be directed directly to himself.

Chief Smith indicated that they would discuss this and forward Mr Brand a plan around this.

2.5 College Training Status Report

Dr Lackay

- Indicated that initially they started with a total of 236 members of which 15 members were found not yet competent in Basic Firearm Training Competency, 8 members resigned, 1 member was found not yet competent in Peace Officer and Traffic Warden, 1 member did not attend, and 3 members were withdrawn due to internal investigation.
- Added that in summary 210 remained in the program of which 208 members successfully completed the Peace Officers and In-basket training due to 2 members being diagnosed with Covid19, respectively in In-Basket and Peace Officer Traffic Warden. (these 2 members will complete training in the new year when they have recovered).

Mr Brand thanked Dr Lackay and his team on behalf of the WCG for all their hard work especially with all the restrictions in place around the training that they had to overcome and managed very well.

Comments:

Chief Smith mentioned that the ED has signed off yesterday on the cadets and FPOs to be appointed on condition that they obtain their driver's license within a certain period. Indicated that this will boost the numbers and will provide feedback on the final figures by Friday (17 Dec).

Mr Brand questioned how many LLEO's are now contracted.

Mr Logkar mentioned that the last total received for Q3 from Chief Smith for verification, excluding the 210, was 722 currently contracted and if the 210 get added then the total is 932.

Mr Brand added that there is a deficit of 68 that needs to be filled excluding the support staff.

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that he needs to double check on the figures because according to their hot-bodies of LEAP (including the consequential vacancies) is 713 and 54 members must be subtracted due to members becoming permanent which leaves a total of 659 LLEO's and 26 (EPWP) at the Millside Park and the additional 210 which brings the total to 895 and if permanent staff is included then it's 949.
- Added that he will cross reference the figures with Mr Manuel's office.

Mr Brand added that this will be the next step that this team drives, which is to fill the gap in the shortfall and added that the figures need to be verified and updated regularly.

Mr Brand questioned when the final numbers will be available regarding support staff, shortfalls, etc. as he feels that another round of recruitments will then need to be done. Chief Smith indicated that the City will start working on it today and have a meeting with Mr Lagkar next week.

Mr Brand requested that a full breakdown be provided to him before the next meeting (Wednesday 15 Dec).

2.6 Update on the Business Plan – Resources

Mr Lagkar indicated that he has submitted a draft report but that he has not yet had chance to meet with Mr Albertyn who was ill over the last week to discuss the matter further.

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that 24 double cabs have been made available for purchase through the vendor and added that it is not the NAVARA as previously purchased due to it being discontinued and will have to purchase the IZUZU which is more costly and hence can only afford to purchase 22. (this is in addition to the 113 Hilux double cabs).
- Added that they have 503 radios outstanding, and that order will be placed by Friday as well the firearms and shotguns will also be ordered by Friday as the requisitions have already been created and only the numbers have to be confirmed.
- In terms of the EPIC devices, he mentioned that he was informed that the Huawei devices is the preferred device and the vendor only has Samsung tab3 available which is apparently not suitable for the type of operation it needs to perform, and a decision needs to be made whether to wait for stock of the Huawei or to purchase the Samsung tab3's.

Chief Smith mentioned that the canopies will not be part of the IZUZU double cabs that will be purchased.

Mr Albertyn added that he will discuss with fleet management if they have a provider where they can purchase the canopies and added that due to restraint budget, they may only be able to do so if there is savings available elsewhere.

Mr Brand

- Added that they can't not have canopies especially if officers have to make arrests which can result in a high escape rate, which will not be accepted and requested Messrs Lagkar and Wingrove to look where the additional funding can be shifted to the vehicles to assist in this regard.
- Requested that Messrs Albertyn and Lagkar meet before the next meeting to confirm figures in this regard.

2.7 LEAP Dashboard

Mr Wingrove indicated that they will be engaging the City on the data capturing and will provide feedback at the next meeting.

Mr Brand proposed that a rather a smaller meeting be held next week Monday (20 Dec) in the regard together with Chiefs Smith, Coleman and Hamilton.

3. Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting.

The final meeting for the year will be on Wednesday 22 December.

Meeting closed at 08:27



Chaperson
25/12/2021



LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 23 December 2021**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **M5 Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed all to the meeting.

Attendees

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr T Wingrove
Mr R Logie
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smith
Chief Coleman
Reginal Insp Renge
Reginal Insp Messner
Mr S Titus
Mr A Albertyn
Ms T Nagla
Ms M Manuel
Mr L Willemse
Ms A Daniels
Mr K Maxwell
Ms T Steyn-Dowie

Apologies

None

2. Discussion

2.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Wingrove added that in relation to the TPA, the payment was prepared yesterday (21 Dec) but due to a Covid positive case in the finance department, it could not be processed, and the funds will be released during the course of next week.

2.2 Appointment of additional roles

Mr Brand indicated that Ms Schoeman will provide feedback on this at the next meeting in January 2022.

2.3 Update on External Service Provider i.e. 24 external members not yet competent

Chief Hamilton indicated that he was engaging the college and was informed that the purchase order needs to be created for the service provider and is currently in process but can only be finalised in the adjusted budget and hence looking at training to commence mid-January or early February 2022.

Added that 24 members are staff in the operational area and 2 are from the armoury.

2.4 LEAP Operations

i. Update on Deployed vs not Deployed

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that deployment remains the same in all areas and no additional staff has been deployed.
- Added that the 210 and 26 EPWP staff has been added to the total of not deployed which gives a total of 267 and mentioned that unfortunately one member of the 210 has sadly passed on yesterday (21 Dec) to natural causes which makes the 210 now 209.
- Mentioned that the officers not deployed are currently being divided up into the LEAP areas (as discussed in previous meeting) where they will be deployed under the supervision of existing inspectors, to malls and beaches in these LEAP areas and this will be finalised by Tuesday (28 Dec).

(the members not deployed are all awaiting appointment certificates and once they are received, of these members may even be deployed to the stations as they were already issued with uniform)

Mr Wingrove requested that Chief Hamilton add the deployments to the malls and beaches in his next operational report for noting.

E. Update on armed vs unarmed members

- Indicated that there were no changes with the armed and unarmed members.
- Currently 68 members are unarmed in the LEAP environment (operational staff) which includes supervisors, inspectors, and senior inspectors and 649 are armed.
- There are 605 LEO's of the 717 operational staff that is currently deployed.

Reason for 68 unarmed members:

- 24x Operational Area staff to be rescheduled for Basic Firearm Training (Adjustment budget)
- 7x Incapacities
- 7x No appointment cards (Supervisors: newly appointed)
- 1x Statement of Results lost – MPD request made
- 4x Refresher scheduled
- 19x Applications in process (Internally)
- 2x Waiting to be issued – MPD
- 4x Applications completed and submitted

(A total of 38 of the 68 unarmed members is not able to be issued because of dependencies out of the control of department which actually means that we have 30 members unarmed operationally).

In terms of the incapacities, these members may be shifted to the open vacancies within the LEAP environment but will be decided by the incapacity hearing team.

iii. Appointment Cards Outstanding

- Indicated that a confirmation email was received that appointment cards (14) have been signed off by the ED and collection was arranged for today (22 Dec) but due to a positive Covid case they were closed for decontaminating and only once they reopen can those appointment cards be collected.
- Subsequently another list of 31 was forwarded which include LEAP (not sure of total LEAP), which is also ready for collection.
- There is definitely movement in this regard.

Mr Willemse

- Indicated that he was in contact with Usanda from the PC's office who informed him that there was nothing available yet and was supposed to meet with Usanda yesterday but due to the untimely death of a colleague in the unit late Monday, it was postponed until after this meeting today at 9h30.
- Added that he would also be submitting 105 applications (99 of that is those received back from Mitchell's Plain LCRC) to Usanda today and will provide feedback to Mr Brand via WhatsApp on the amount received back if any.

2.5 College Training Status Report

Mr Brand indicated that all training has been concluded for this year and no further update is required for now.

Mr Lagkar

- Added for noting purposes that he had spoken with Dr Lackay and Mr Alberfyn regarding training, and it was requested that the Department assist them with additional venues if there's a further roll out for training and indicated there was a discussion around the MOU that Metro Police training college has with Chrysalis to use an allocated site at the Tokai venue.

2.4 Update on the Business Plan – Resources

Mr Alberfyn (HR resources)

- Indicated that a meeting in this regard was held yesterday (21 Dec) and added that some issues could not be resolved, and Ms Manual will address those minor queries in the meeting.
- Presented a breakdown of the LEAP post structures which was broken into:
 - Law Enforcement Area Based Operational Teams
 - Information Management Data Sharing and Reporting
 - Operational LE Support
 - Training and Development
 - Corporate Support – HR Support
 - Corporate Finance Support
- Added that there was a query regarding the why there is a split regarding the principal inspectors' posts seeing they are on the same grade.

Ms Manual mentioned that the previous project manager was very specific in how he clustered it and added that 10 principal inspector posts is directly linked to the thousand officers in terms of a command-and-control structure and the other 2 posts is linked to the management structure.

Mr Brand added that it still does not make sense to separate the same post on the same grade and indicated that it is overall about the numbers, i.e., how many posts have been created (in certain category) and how many of those post have been filled and therefore proposed that the same posts be combined as it would also prevent confusion.

Mr Lagkar questioned what the progress was on the 10 posts out of 12 created that was not yet filled in terms of the principal inspectors [Law Enforcement Area Based Operational Teams]

Ms Manual

- o Indicated that they have had difficulty in filling the principal inspector posts even prior to LEAP and the difficulty came about in the requirements in terms of the job description, which was that it needed a National Diploma and eight years supervisory experience.
- o Added that through several engagements with the management team and the executive directors, current and previous, it was agreed that the job descriptions

can be revised to widen the scope of candidates and increase the number of candidates that could be able to apply and be considered for the positions and mentioned that the change in the job description has yielded more candidates, which has been very positive.

- o Mentioned that in addition to the 10 vacancies at LEAP, they presently have a further 11 non-LEAP positions for Law Enforcement and hence there is a total of 21 vacancies.
- o Added that they have staggered the recruitment process in terms of candidates and there is a second phase of recruitment currently happening and added that those candidates have completed the technical assessment and will be scheduled for interviews early in the new year they and the recruitment process can be concluded before the end of January 2022.
- o Mentioned that there were factors that prevented them from continuing with the recruitment process and this was the verification requirement (substance/drug test and psychometric assessment) and these functionalities have commenced closer for the December break and will operate again from early January.
- o Added that they hope to recruit further candidates to appoint in these vacant positions.

Mr Brand indicated that Messrs Logkar, Albertyn and Ms Manual are then on the same page regarding recruitment and training which should take place concurrently and that a proper planning be done in this regard and that the team be updated on the planning at the next meeting.

Mr Albertyn indicated that he would have a discussion with Dir Lackay and Ms Manual regards to taking the training forward and added that for internal reporting purposes they will keep the split in the report but will combine the figures for reporting on the platform.

Mr Brand indicated that there are 949 (Temp) LEAP posts and 29 (Perm) which is a total of 978 posts filed but according the Chief Hamilton's operational report there is only 927 posts filed of the 1000.

Chief Hamilton

- o Indicated they were in discussions yesterday and awaiting clarity from Ms Manual on the permanent positions.
- o Added that the 949 are only LLEOs and the hot bodies with the LEAP environment currently, that includes the permanent positions, must still be added.

Mr Brand added that there is still a big discrepancy between 927 and 978 as that would eventually indicate the number of additional LLEOs that need to be recruited and fees. It is something that we really need to look at and is not sure why the figures do not correspond as these are physical persons that's filling the posts and they should be reflected on the on the staff establishment as well.

Mr Logkar

- o Added that this is also something he pointed out when he received the information and indicated that one of the important things they have pointed out is that the City has appointed permanent Law Enforcement officers.
- o Indicated that he has mentioned in yesterday's meeting that they are unable to verify the information if they don't have the data bases and added they have received the data base of the actual numbers late yesterday afternoon and will review the list now to see if the number is 949 which then is a large discrepancy but will be verified against actual IDs and names on the list.

Mr Albertyn

- Continued his report and added that the 16 facilitator posts are in process and will be filled by February / March 2022.
- Mentioned that some HR posts and one finance post have not yet been filled and Ms Manuel to provide update.

Ms Manuel

- o Indicated that the recruitment processes are at interview stage which is scheduled for January and added that in terms of resource priority, they made sure that the uniform positions and command positions were prioritized.
- o Added that the admin positions are at an advanced stage in the recruitment process and just a matter of interviews and verifications that has been scheduled for January.
- o Mentioned that regarding specialist clerk positions, the interviews have been concluded but cannot proceed with notice of appointment because they are dependent on the substance abuse test which as mentioned, is closed for the year and as soon as it opens in January, they will complete and conclude that recruitment process and recommend the candidates.
- o Regarding the handyman in finance post, the recruitment process is concluded but the recommended candidate has got a pending disciplinary process to be concluded and in terms of the feedback received from the team that manages the disciplinary process, it should be concluded very soon and if the candidate is cleared, then they can do the appointment and if not, then the alternative candidate can be appointed.

Mr Logkar questioned if Chief Smith and Mr Albertyn can provide feedback on the operational support as they were not able to complete this discussion in the two meetings held this week and because it was not part of this report, they were unable to track and resolve it (specifically the need for armoury staff so as not to use the deployment staff).

Ms Manuel indicated that in terms of the operations support, specifically the armoury, she would have to go through the schedule as she worked off the initial list she received (as attached to the TPA) which covers the operational support such as charge office, warrant section and court sections but will discuss this with Chief Hamilton.

Mr Brand indicated that he is not aware of a charge office that has been established for the officers and not sure what the purpose of these members would be in the charge

office, warrant and court section and wanted the Chiefs to provide clarity on this matter as a large number of members are allocated to this.

Chief Smith

- o Indicated that initially when doing the planning in 2019, they had nothing to work on besides that which was already in place in Law Enforcement and had no idea how this was going to evolve and hence should relook at the business plan and change the figures and designations regarding the charge office, warrant and court sections and reposition it to the armouries.
- o Added that initially they just planned to have two armouries (Bishop Lavis & Mfuleni) but with the way (EAP is evolving to more areas further out, it would be ridiculous to think that people from Atlantis for instance, must come all the way to Bishop Lavis or Mfuleni to book out firearms, the same with Kroonfontein, so this needs to be looked at as well.

I.e., these 3 sections (charge office, warrant, court) which as been planned for is not needed and these job descriptions and specifications should be realigned to the actual needs that has been identified.

Mr Logkar questioned what the timeline for resolving this matter would be as to get an indication of when these members currently assisting in the operational environment can be deployed into the area.

Mr Brand added that we do not have time on our side and that this issue needs to be resolved and an updated plan be given at the next meeting in January because as indicated by Chief Smith, the process of amending the business plan should also take place.

Mr Albertyn indicated that he will have meeting with the Chiefs and Ms Manual to look at what is in the business plan and how it links to the 63 members as well as other posts and will provide feedback at the next meeting.

Mr Albertyn (other resources – firearms, vehicles, etc.)

- Indicated that he is busy drafting a report in this regard and just needs to still sit down with training to determine what their requirements would be such as additional venues.
- A full report will be available by the end of this week.
- Added that everything else related to the business plan in terms of the procurement of vehicles, firearms, the Epic devices, and then also radios etc. are being resolved and a lot of those requirements are already in the tender phase, in terms of procurement.
- The firearms are being procured and the purchase order was released this week, in terms of the vehicles and Epic devices, all information as mentioned in the last meeting will be in the full report.

Mr Brand propose this also be discussed further at the next meeting.

Mr Logkar reminded the Chiefs and Mr Albertyn that a TPA report is due on 31 December 2021 with the same required information and to add the expenditure as at 31 December based on all other resources to have one consolidated report.

2.7 LEAP Dashboard

Mr Logkar indicated that a meeting was held yesterday with Mr Simelane from Policy & Research and waiting on Mr Vogel from CEI to finalise the changes as per Monday's meeting (20 Dec) and once that has been done, it will be forwarded to Chief Hamilton and a session will be had with them to start capturing from 1 December 2020.

3. Closure

Mr Brand thanked everybody for attending the meeting and wished everyone and their families a wonderful and safe festive season.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6 January 2022 and will be chaired by Mr Wingrove.

Meeting closed at 08h43


J Brand
6/01/2022



LEAP Deployments Phase 2 Notes

Date: Thursday, 4 January 2022

Time: 07h30 – 08h30

Venue: MS Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.

Mr Wingrove welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone well for the new year.

Attendees

Mr T Wingrove (Chair)
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Regional Insp Mlesner
Mr S Tlhu
Mr L Willemse
Ms A Daniels
Ms T Steyn-Dowle

Apologies

Mr J Brand

2. Discussion

2.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and IPA

Mr Wingrove indicated that both the Business Plan and IPA has been signed off by both the CoCT and the Department. He added that the first transfer payment has been approved and finance indicated that it will reflect in the CoCT's account either today or latest next Wednesday (12 Jan 2022).

2.2 Appointment of additional trainers

Ms Schoeman was not in the meeting to provide any further feedback.

Mr Wingrove proposed this item then stands over until the next meeting.

2.3 Update on External Service Provider re: 26 external members not yet competent

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that he has engaged with Ms Gale Kruger and the Metro Police college superintendent, Mr John Leonard and are preparing with the service provider who is from Johannesburg.
- Added that it is anticipated to have these members trained within this month of January, but a date has not yet been confirmed but they are busy with the logistics and creation of the purchase order.

Mr Wingrove requested an update be provided at the next meeting.

2.4 LEAP Operators

1. Update on Deployed vs not Deployed

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that deployment remains stable with slight changes made in Hanover Park.
- Mentioned that two additional principal inspectors have been appointed but that it will only reflect in next weeks report.
- To note - Kraaifontein: 1x S/Insp moved to Armoury duties (Admin)
 Nyanga: 1x LLEO moved from Hanover Park to Nyanga
 1x Insp returned to operational duties from Armoury duties.
 Hanover Park: 1x Insp moved from Hanover Park to Mitchell's Plain.
 Khayelitsha: 1x LLEO re-instated (was dismissed on disciplinary)
 Mitchell's Plain: 1x LLEO resigned on 31/12/2021 (took position at CoCT Fire) and HR has been informed to recruit to replace that member.
 1x LLEO returned from Maternity
- Added that all members without appointment cards have been deployed to the malls within the LEAP areas.
- Breakdown of LEAP Mall Deployment: (266)
 - 31x Existing not deployed LLEO's
 - 26x EPWP appointments
 - 209x LLEO's Phase 3 (decreased by 1x LLEO)

E. Update on armed vs unarmed members

- Indicated that operational staff, including the supervisory staff, which makes up 717, only 69 are unarmed.
- Of the 69 unarmed officers, their firearm management component in Kroonfontein has submitted applications and added that he will forward an updated during the course of today (7 Jan) of how many applications was sent to Metro police.
- Added that Metro police could not assist with issuing of firearms over the last week as they had a positive Covid case.

Reason for 69 unarmed members:

- 24x Operational Area staff to be rescheduled for Basic Firearm Training (Adjustment budget)
- 7x Incapacities
- 6x No appointment cards (Supervisors: newly appointed)
- 1x loss of Statement of Results - MFD request made
- 31x Other

- Mentioned that the number of unarmed will drastically be reduced over next week or two but will be specifically from the 31 other.

F. Appointment Cards Outstanding

- Indicated that of the 76 submitted, 43 clearances were for LEAP that has been received from SAPS last week and has been sent to the ED for signature.
- Added that once the 43 appointment cards are received, it will be issued to the members.
- Mentioned that the total outstanding from all 3phases, was 251 and if subtract the 43 then the new total is 208. (breakdown can be seen in the excel spreadsheet that was submitted 31 Dec. 2021)

Mr Willemse indicated that there were no changes as per 31 Dec. and mentioned that they are losing with the PC's office every 2nd day to follow up on the outstanding clearance certificates and if there are any updates, he will provide that information to Chief Hamilton.

2.5 College Training Status Report

Mr Wingrove mentioned that it was indicated in the last meeting that this is on track.

2.6 Update on the Business Plan – Resources

Messers Logkar and Albertyn were not available to provide feedback on this item.

Mr Wingrove indicated that that the changes, such as the resignation and additional members must be noted so that Mr Logkar can update the allocations in the resource report.

2.7 LEAP Dashboard

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that he has received the first phase and that it has been agreed that they will start with capturing of the fines on the dashboard.
- Added that his office has not received any new captures as yet or I mentioned that Ms Manual is on leave but that it was indicated at their last engagement that sourcing of captures was in process to assist with this task and in the meantime, he has identified staff who is currently assisting with the capturing of the fines on the dashboard for the month of December and once completed he would forward it to the Department.

3. AOB - LEAP "launch" date

Chief Hamilton questioned if a date for the event has been confirmed for logistical purposes as well as to get the member ready with drilling etc., so as to present a flawless and dignified presentation on the day.

Mr Wingrove mentioned that he was not aware of any confirmed date for this event and that he would follow up with Ms Coyia Murray and revert back to Chief Hamilton and his team.

4. Closure

Mr Wingrove indicated that it is important to keep track of the outstanding appointment cards and proposed that Chief Hamilton provides feedback on a.y progress in this regard as Mr Willemse did mention that he will be following up with the PC's office every 2nd day.

Mr Wingrove added that this meeting will revert back to a Wednesday morning and be scheduled bi-weekly starting 19 January 2022.

He thanked everybody for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 07h55.

Chairperson



LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: Thursday, 19 January 2022

Time: 07h30 – 08h30

Venue: MS Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.

Mr Brand welcomed everyone as well as Ms Dreyer who assisted with the notes in the absence of Ms Steyn-Dowle.

2. ATTENDEES

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Trevor Wingrove
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smit
Regional Insp Mitzner
Mr Albertyn
Mr L. Wilmsse
Mr L. Renge
Ms R Schoeman
Ms L Dreyer

3. APOLOGIES

None

4. DISCUSSION

4.1 Feedback / Process on Business Plan and TPA

Mr Wingrove - 1st payment was made to the City of Cape Town

4.2 Appointment of additional trainers

Ms Schoeman – 16 Additional trainers were needed:

3 Categories: 3nr Tactical Instructor; Tactical Instructors; Training Facilitators

**

Current situation

- 1 Snr Tactical Instructor: Vacant – Re-advertised
- 7 Tactical Instructors:
 - 1 Commenced duties
 - 1 About to sign the contract
 - 5 re-advertised
- 8 Facilitators:
 - 4 positions filled
 - 2 Pending
 - 2 Vacant

Mr Logkar requested that this breakdown be included in Dir. Lakay's report and Ms Schoeman agreed to provide the details to Dir Lakay.

4.3 Update on External Service Provider re: 26 external members not yet competent

Chief Hamilton – Training is envisaged to commence in February as soon as the purchase order is released. The paperwork was sent off today for signatures.

4.4 Appointment Cards

Mr Brand – 200 Appointment cards were issued by SAPS. 3 of these have been processed. Mr Willemse was requested to add an additional date column on the e-mail of Mr Brand's reply to Chief Hamilton and to add the dates of when the applications were submitted to SAPS.

4.5 Update on the Business Plan

Mr Logkar – Not yet been able to meet to clarify filled positions.

Feedback will be given in the next meeting.

Mr Brand requested that the breakdown be made available to him by latest Friday as there is a meeting on the 24th with Provincial Treasury on spending and reasons for underspent, vehicles and personnel.

Mr Albertyn – 28 Vehicles have been ordered last year and delivery of 8 were received. 20 Vehicles are expected in March and a detailed report will be provided by Friday.

4.6 LEAP Dashboard

Mr Lagkar – forwarded dashboard sheets to AC Hamilton and Insp Cruizer and they started capturing on fines and operations and completed fines up to January and this was forwarded to Amanda for review. Once these are uploaded a presentation will be done to Mr Brand and then to this meeting.

5. AOB – LEAP “launch” date

Confirmation has been received for 27 February.

Chief Hamilton – Internal stakeholders had a meeting and the 27th was provisionally made but need to postpone due to challenges L/O operational employment. The Mayor’s office will make contact with Kayla to explain the situation.

There are vehicle and fire-arm permit challenges, and service providers gave a delivery date of the uniforms for the 25th of February.

Chief Smit – An allocation for this even in the budget was not catered for and it is currently being looked as to ascertain whether there would be funds left over or available. Mr Brand indicated that this is not an operational event and would not have been included in the Business plan and that he would speak to Kayla for clarity on the budget for this event.

6. CHIEF HAMILTON – REPORT

Report tabled and attached to notes for circulation.

Items of concern – Members without Firearms
Appointment Cards for circulation

Closure

Mr Wingrove ended the meeting as Mr Brand had to leave for another engagement earlier.

He thanked everyone for attending and indicated that the next meeting date of 3 February 2022.

Meeting closed at 08h15am



C. Smit



Western Cape
Government

LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: Wednesday, 2 February 2022

Time: 07h30 – 08h30

Venue: MS Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.

Mr Brand welcomed everyone and indicated that Mr Trevor Wingrove has gone on retirement and that Mr Wayne Butler has taken on his position as Director in the interim.

ATTENDEES

Mr J Brand (Chair)

Mr W Butler

Mr R Logkar

Chief Hamilton

Chief Coleman

Regional Insp Miesner

Regional Insp Renge

Mr B Lockay

Mr L Willemse

Ms R Schoeman

Ms M Manuel

Mr S Titus

Mrs T Steyn-Dowie

APOLOGIES

Mr A Alberhyn and Chief Smith

The previous minutes was proposed by Mr Logkar and seconded by Chief Hamilton.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Appointment of additional trainers

Dr Lackay

- Of the 7 prospective facilitator candidates, 3 opted to take positions outside in the City, 4 are currently busy with induction and the additional members are being selected from the short list and will be writing assessments next week.
- Of the 7 positions for advance tactical instructor, 1 was appointed, awaiting on the criminal checks of 2 prospective candidates and vacant positions have been readvertised.
- 3 prospective candidates have been identified from the secondary advertisement for the position of 1 senior tactical advanced instructor and that short list is currently being signed off.
- Regarding the LLEO training, 30 members have started training 24th January, will complete 14th March and the additional 60 members will start training 14th March to be completed 22nd April which should complete the 1000 boots on the ground.

Mr Lagkar indicated that these 90 members will be used to fill the 55 consequential vacancies and the additional is for any top up that may occur should members take up permanent positions as in the past.

Ms Manuel concurred with this adding that the top up will not be a once off and hence planning for any future top up that may occur in this financial year, also noting that there are 134 vacant permanent positions in the City which will most likely be filled by the LEAP members.

Mr Brand requested that between Chief Hamilton, Mr Lagkar, Dr Lackay and Ms Manuel to provide him with the final numbers to in regard to the new trainees, trainers etc. by Friday (4 February) in order for him to add to the LEAP presentation that he needs to present to the acting MEC for Safety, on Monday.

2.2 Update on External Service Provider re: 26 external members not yet competent

Chief Hamilton mentioned that the adjustment budget was finalise and that he would follow up with finance as they indicated they would be ready in February. He will provide feedback via email to everyone later today (2 February).

2.3 Appointment Cards

Mr Wilentz

- Indicated that the PC's office sent back 72 candidates paperwork because it was expired in terms of the six-month clearance for the SAP 69.

- After Chief Hamilton went through the forms, it seems that only 24 was non-compliant which was re-printed on Monday morning (31 Jan) and will be submitted today after the meeting.
- No feedback in terms of collections of appointment cards was yet received from the PCs office.

Chief Hamilton added that currently there is 196 appointment cards outstanding of which 49 is with the ED's office and once that 49 is issued, there will be a total of 149 appointment cards outstanding.

Mr Brand mentioned that yesterday Brig Motumbu indicated that the remaining ones were processed by legal services and with the deputy PC for signature so it should hopefully be ready by Friday (4 Feb).

Mr Brand also questioned if fingerprints have been received back yet from LCRC.

Mr Willemse indicated that Cpt Burger informed him last Friday that they are having issues with system which they are busy trying to sort out.

Mr Brand added that there was a national issue with AFS system but that it is up and running again and indicated that if there are issues in obtaining LEAP members fingerprints to please inform him so that he can take it forward.

2.4 Update on the Business Plan

Mr Brand requested that stand over in the absence of Mr Albertyn but asked that Mr Logkar meet with Mr Albertyn outside this meeting to discuss the resources, particularly the physical resources.

Mr Brand indicated that there are funds available for overtime and that the City colleagues speak to Gail to obtain the correct amount available and do proper planning around spending the overtime funds.

2.5 LEAP Dashboard

Mr Logkar indicated that he had not had a chance to meet with Chief Hamilton as yet due to the budgetary consolidation and will need to get feedback around what they have gotten to date with the capturing before providing further updates.

Mr Brand requested that Mr Logkar and Chief Hamilton meet in this regard and provide feedback at the next meeting.

2.6 LEAP - launch date

Chief Hamilton indicated that the new proposed date is 27 March at Greenpoint track and that the only challenge currently is the funding for the event.

Mr Brand indicated that he had not received any communication on the new date and that he would follow up with Coylo in this regard in order to secure the date in the diary of the acting MEC.

2.7 LEAP Operations

I. Update on Deployed vs not Deployed

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that the members deployed in the shopping malls in the ASB areas has decreased as of these members who have now received their appointment cards and are in possession of uniform, have been redeployed into the ASB areas. (266 to 237)
- Hence there was an increase in most of the areas.
- Once rollout takes place to the additional areas, reshuffling of the deployments will also occur.

II. Update on armed vs unarmed members

- It was indicated that the number of armed members has increased from 716 to 747 and
- The number of unarmed members has also increased from 60 to 88 and this is due to the members (shopping malls) that has now been issued with appointment cards and deployed into the areas. These members are awaiting firearm permits of which the applications have been submitted.

III. Appointment Cards Outstanding Discussed above at 2.3

3. AOB

Mr Brand questioned when the rollout to the additional areas would take place and the possibility of having permanent deployment to Gugulethu and having the reaction unit freed up to do what they were intended to and possible redeploy then to Esiel River.

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that the challenge in terms of the rollout is resources in terms of vehicles which they are still waiting on and was informed that it should be received in February or March.
- Added that once the vehicles are received, deployment to the additional areas can take place.
- Mentioned that he met with the sub council manager of Atlantis on Monday morning to start preparation in terms of facilities and the safe for deployment into the area which can take place once resources are available.
- Regarding the reaction unit, will start looking into how to pull resources to permanently deploy to Gugulethu.

Mr Brand indicated that it could be a possibility to do this when the 44 appointment cards are received, and it would be great if this was done before SOPA on 17 February so that Premier can report on this as well.

Mr Logtor

- Wanted clarity regarding resources, specifically vehicles as 153 vehicles have already been issued to LEAP and wanted to know exactly what the amount was requested for operational requirements, and if this was different from what was accommodated in terms of the current plan, unless there are discrepancies in the plan.
- Added that 8 vehicles were delivered in December 2021 and another 20 will be delivered in February/March.
- Proposed that Ms Manuals updates on vacancies that are being filed be added into Chief Hamilton's report so that it can also be covered in the operational report for audit compliance as well.

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that there were vehicles procured for this financial year but because the MP300 (as per the business plan) was discontinued they had to procure Suzuki D max which is more expensive and hence will only be receiving 23 or 26 double cabs.
- Added that this number of vehicles is not even enough for the 266 members working at the shopping malls if you consider 4 per vehicle.
- Mentioned that vehicles get involved in accidents, vehicles being written off and never replaced, high mileages etc, should all be considered as well.

Mr Brand indicated that this is the exact reason why the business plan should indicate clearly what was ordered, what's outstanding so that the operational usage of the resources can be correctly interrogated.

Chief Hamilton

- Mentioned that Chief Smith has sanctioned the fleet staff to do and audit of all vehicles in LEAP and in Law Enforcement to determine the status of the LEAP vehicles.
- There are current talks regarding 'hot-seating' vehicles, but this could also result in shifts being without vehicles should something happen to those vehicles.
- Has spoken to the fleet manager to possibly withdraw vehicles from the armoury environment and those in possession by the senior inspector so that those vehicles can be operationally deployed.

Chief Coleman also added that some vehicles are used to transport members and hence not always available operationally and that is also a challenge they face.

Mr Brand comment that the funding provided is only for LEAP and not for the City's Law Enforcement and is concerned if this is not so.

Proposed that Chief Hamilton, Mr Logior and Mr Alberlyn meet to discuss this as a matter of urgency and to provide him with a full breakdown of how and where the vehicles are being utilized and reason why they are not being operationally utilized.

4. Close

Mr Brand thanked everyone for attending and indicated that the next meeting is on 15 February 2022.

Meeting closed at 08h25am


Chairperson
16/02/2022



LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 14 February 2022**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ATTENDEES

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr W Butler
Mr R Laggar
Chief Hamilton
Chief Coleman
Chief Smith
Regional Insp Miescher
Regional Insp Renge
Mr B Lockay
Mr L Willemse
Ms R Schoeman
Ms M Manuel
Mr A Albertyn
Ms A Daniels
Anton
Mrs T Steyn-Dowie

APOLOGIES

None
The previous minutes was approved.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Appointment of additional members

Mr Brand

- Indicated that the requested information was received from Dir Lockay, which indicated the 30 members that started training and will be completed on 14 March and another 60 members that will be recruited.
- Questioned if the LEAP support staff has been factored in through 5-6 recruitment.

Mr Albertyn (in terms of the additional pool)

- Indicated that 30 members are currently being trained and another 60 will be trained to form part of the pool.
- The problem faced (as always mentioned) is members moving onto better prospects/permanent post and hence consequential vacancies remains a huge challenge in trying to get the 1000 boots on the ground.
- Added there is no fast track in the replacement of the consequential vacancies which is dealt with on a week to week and month to month basis.
- Since inception of the program, there are 948 boots on the ground but if you look at the consequential vacancies more than 1000 members have already gone through the program.
- Added that this issue needs to be addressed as it will be a recurring problem unless there is enough EPWP worker available that can be recruited from.
- Mentioned if the 30 members are ready middle March, then there is still a shortfall of 12 and not sure if the additional 60 that will be trained is going to fill the pool to make up the remaining shortfall for the business plan to be compliant with the 1000 boots on the ground.

Mr Lagter

- Indicated that the challenge came in when doing the audit on operational support staff on who needs to be in the armouries and who should be deployed in the actual areas.
- Mentioned that boots on the ground are the actual number of members deployed in the priority areas vs some of the members being used as operational support which is already separately budgeted for.
- Progress on when this audit can be completed should be discussed.

Dir Lockay

- Added that the current 30 members on training will go directly to LEAP.
- Mentioned that they have increased the seating capacity for the next group that starts training on the 14 March, so it won't be 60 but 90 members coming through which means an additional 120 members will be available to fill the balance of 1000.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that last it was reported that there were 53 vacancies to be filled and about 5 months back the deficit in relation to the operational support staff was already identified which means we need more members to fill these gaps identified.
- Mentioned that if we continue to work in the same manner and don't do proper planning, then the issue of the LEAP vacancies will always be a problem and the 1000 LEO's on the ground never obtained.

Mr Logkar agreed and added that there are over 70+ members in support roles and not being deployed into the areas which means that an additional 70+ separate to the consequential vacancies must be filled. Hence an additional amount of 50+ members should be trained to accommodate the shortfall that arises.

Chief Hamilton indicated that there is currently 947 LEO's and as of this morning (16 Feb) 26 members have been appointed within the LEAP environment.

Ms Manual

- Mentioned that when speaking of and reporting on the shortfall it refers only to the 1000 LEO's and the operational support is tracked separately.
- Indicated that a reconciliation can be done to prevent any further confusion.
- Added that their focus has been to maintain the 1000 and to bring the number up as Mr Logkar alluded too.
- Hence their planning has been around making sure that should consequential vacancies arise, that there are members available to almost immediately fill the gaps.
- Indicated that the 26 members Chief Hamilton spoke about has been factored in.

Chief Hamilton mentioned that the officers deployed in the control rooms (16) and armoures (40) was not catered for and they are part of the 947 boots on the ground.

Chief Smith indicated that the CSC (charge office staff) which they don't work with, was supposed to go the armoures but the challenge is that the business plan at the time only catered for 2 armoures and there is currently 3 with a 4th being opened in Atlanta. Added that deployment to the armoures is 24/7 with a shift of 3 at a time which is problematic which needs to be sorted out soon.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that Premier, in his SOPA speech spoke of 1056 LEAP members as if they were all operational staff and this is not the case and hence, we need to ensure that whatever is in the business plan is done.
- Added that a reconciliation of the numbers, updating the business plan etc. needs to be done with urgency and propose to have a physical meeting with all relevant members.

All agreed, and it was decided to have this engagement on Friday 18 February.

2.2 Appointment of additional trainees

Dir Lockay

- Indicated that two people wrote their assessment 15 Feb for the senior technical post.
- Two positions for the tactical facilitator have already been filled. One started 1 January, the other to start 1 March and another member will start as his court case is done/withdrawn (as notified today 16 Feb) and projection is to start 1 April.
- The balance of 4 tactical facilitator positions is advertised and closes on 25 February.
- 4 facilitators have been appointed and busy drafting a motivation for one recommended candidate.
- The additional candidates wrote yesterday as well (15 Feb), five for the remaining 3 positions.
- Overall, everything is on track and still within the proposed schedule.

2.3 Update on External Service Provider re: 26 external members not yet competent

Chief Hamilton indicated that he is in the process of finalising a date with the service providers.

2.4 Appointment Cards

Mr Willemse indicated that he has collected 36 from the PC which is now with Verencia and whoever requires or wants updates on appointment cards can contact her.

Chief Hamilton

- Added that 42 appointment cards were received from Verencia and has been issued to the 42 members (15 Feb) of which 26 members are operationally ready in terms of training and uniform.
- 16 members will be issued with uniform as soon as it is available.
- This now allows for deployment of the reaction unit to the Etles River area as previously requested.
- Currently there is 115 appointment cards outstanding (all indicated on excel spreadsheet) and an additional batch of appointment cards is with the office of the ED to be signed off.

Mr Willemse mentioned that Cpt Burger informed him that 24 appointment cards are ready for collection and that will be submitted by end of today (16 Feb) to Brig Mafumbu's office. Hence 91 is still outstanding from SAPS. Added that 43 certificates will be collected from the PC office and take to Verencia today (16 Feb).

Mr Brand proposed that he will arrange a meeting with Brig Matumbu's office and the Chiefs to discuss this matter further.

2.5 Update on the Business Plan

Mr Brand indicated that point will also be discussed at Friday's meeting.

2.6 LEAP Dashboard

Mr Logkar

- Indicated that they met yesterday and followed up with Amanda and team who is coordinating the dashboard.
- Mentioned that Chief Hamilton indicated they are done capturing the fines for Dec/Jan and will do so on a week-to-week basis.
- The capturing of arrest sheets will be started to be captured.
- Will have an engagement with Chief Hamilton (17 Feb) to discuss any challenges.

2.7 LEAP - launch date

Mr Brand indicated Coyla confirmed the date is 27 March at Greenpoint track and that any further arrangements/funding issues should be directed to the Mayor's office and take it further from there.

Chief Hamilton indicated that training [marching & drilling] will commence from tomorrow [17 Feb] at Blue Downs Stadium and hence day shift members will be engaged in training for a maximum of 2hrs in preparation for the event.

2.8 LEAP Deployment

Chief Hamilton mentioned that the service provider of the uniform confirmed that delivery will be on 25 February.

Mr Brand proposed that deployment/allocations also be discussed at Friday's meeting.

Feedback in relation to the vehicles:

Mr Albertyn indicated that 28 vehicles have been ordered of which 8 has been received and an additional 22 has been order the beginning of the month so a total of 30 should have been received by end of this financial year.

Chief Hamilton indicated that he would follow up with the fleet manger in obtaining the report on the status of the vehicles.


Mr Brand proposed that this information is available for Friday's meeting as well.

Re, firearms, Mr Brand indicated that he is engaging the NFA to what's happening with the cases of confiscated firearms and will provide feedback.

3. Close

Mr Brand thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 08h33am


Chairman
22/03/2022



LEAP Deployments Phase 2

Notes

Date: Wednesday, 2 March 2022

Time: 07h30 – 08h30

Venue: MS Teams

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ATTENDEES

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr W Butler
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smith
Regional Insp Mestner
Mr B Lackay
Ms K Schoeman
Ms M Manuel
Mr A Alberfyn
Ms T Wilson
Mrs T Steyn-Dowle

APOLOGIES

Mr R Logoor & Mr L Willemse
The previous minutes was approved.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Appointment of additional members

Dir. Lackay

- Indicated that training is all on track (30 to finish on 14 March and the 90 to start on same day)

Chief Hamilton indicated that it won't be possible to deploy the 30 members soon after 14 March as they need their clearance certificates in order to obtain their appointment cards which is needed to apply for the firearm permit.

Dir Lackay indicated that to fast track the process, he would be signing off the certificates himself instead of sending them to the Mayor to do so. (sign once course completed)

Mr Brand requested if possible that fingerprints of those on training be taken in the interim to assist in speeding up the process.

(Update on additional support staff – Mr Brand indicated that he had not yet seen the final audit report.

Mr Albertyn

- Mentioned that he still needs to interrogate the information received from Ms Manual and meet with her again before sending the information to Chief Smith for confirmation and will then forward it to Mr Brand.
- Indicated that he will have to check and verify whether they are able to appoint additional staff to the armouries as well as check on saving in the budget if they can accommodate some or all members or move over to the new financial year (2022/23).

Mr Brand mentioned that it was agreed that the cut off for this information was 25 February as the transfer payments still needs to be done.

Mr Albertyn

- Indicated that they are on track in terms of what is still required (what expenditure is going to be) but unfortunately the reconciling exercise took longer than anticipated.
- Mentioned that he has received some information from Ms Manual last week and still needs to interrogate the newly sent information and then also meet with Ms Manual to confirm.

*Ms Manual and Mr Albertyn agreed to meet Thursday (3 March) to finalise the reconciliation.

Mr Brand requested Chief Smith to relook at his report against Ms Manual's information as he briefly noted that not all focus areas are included and the figures (e.g., LLEO's) differ or does not correspond.

2.2 Appointment of additional trainers

Dir Lackay

- Indicated that there is an additional member to the already four new facilitator appointees and waiting on criminal check feedback on the additional 3 members.

- Recruited 2 tactical trainer of which one has already assumed duty and waiting on another candidate to sign the contract,
- Regarding 5 additional senior tactical trainers, they have started reviewing the long list and awaiting feedback on the substance check on one candidate that was offered the opportunity.
- Progress is taking place weekly.

2.3 Update on External Service Provider re: 26 external members not yet completed

Chief Hamilton indicated that their basic firearm training is scheduled for 7 - 11 March.

2.4 Appointment Cards

Ms Wilson indicated that a batch was taken to legal on Monday (28 Feb) and that she had received the 24 retaken prints back and will be dropping them off at the PC's office today (2 March).

Suggested that she would go around to the training colleagues to take members fingerprints which will also ensure that they are not expired and by the time the Dir Lackay signs off the certificates, the clearances would also be done, and appointment cards can be issued.

Dir Lackay indicated that this can be accommodated if it is not when members are busy with examinations.

Chief Hamilton mentioned that SAPS needs to be engaged so that when fingerprints are submitted for clearance, that it is processed as quick as possible as previously it became expired between the time SAPS received them and when they actually started processing them.

Ms Wilson also indicated that she spoke to Col. Burger who indicated that their system is now up and running and the screening process should not take longer than a month as currently.

Mr Brand indicated that he be informed if any assistance is needed in this regard.

Chief Hamilton indicated that he would follow up with the 34 appointment cards that is still with office of the ED for signature and mentioned that 115 is still with SAPS.

2.5 LEAP Dashboard

Chief Hamilton indicated that the capturing was done until the end of February and are busy capturing last week's stats. The dashboard will then have the arrests, operations and fines as requested.

Mr Butler indicated that Mr Logkar suggested that Mr Simeane be invited to one of these meetings to provide feedback on the development and progress of the dashboard.

Mr Brand suggested that the dashboard issues not be discussed at these operational meetings to prevent the meeting becoming too bulky and to have a separate discussion with Mr Simeane on this matter.

2.6 LEAP - launch date

Chief Hamilton indicated that the date is still for 27 March.

Mr Brand indicated that he would speak to Cayla to hear who is sending out diary invitations in this regard.

2.7 LEAP Deployment

Mr Brand congratulated the team for having formally deployed the Reaction Unit to Esies River and for their arrest made.

L Update on Deployed vs Not Deployed

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that regarding the number allocations per area as discussed, the shortfalls are in the following areas:
 - ◆ Harare - 4
 - ◆ Gugulethu - 9
 - ◆ Delft - 1
 - ◆ Philippi - 5
 - ◆ Bishop Lavis - 6
 - ◆ Mitchells Plain - 1
- All other areas on par and the Reaction Unit is now 40 with 6 inspectors.
- The shortfall will be filled from the candidates that are currently in training, noting that this will only be once they have their appointment cards and uniform.
- Added that firearm applications are completed and will be submitted once appointment cards are received.
- Indicated the mall deployments has decreased from 237 to 205 and will continue to decrease gradually as they get slotted into the areas as they received their appointment cards and uniform.
- The operational staff has also decrease as they too have been slotted into the areas.
- EPWP staff not deployed as awaiting their clearances.
- As members receive their deployment cards and uniform, the next area to deploy too will be Atlantis then Philippi East and Samora Machel.

2. Update on Armed vs Unarmed

- The unarmed number has increased due to new deployments into the areas, but Metro Police are issuing firearms on a weekly basis.
- Chief Hamilton will engage the firearm management to discuss increasing the number of members being issued weekly.

3. Closure

Mr Brand thanked everyone for attending.
Meeting closed at 08h20am


Chairperson
25/03/2022



LEAP Deployments Operational Meeting

Notes

Date: **Wednesday, 23 March 2022**

Time: **07h30 – 08h30**

Venue: **MS Teams**

1. WELCOMING/APOLOGIES

All available members attended the meeting at 07h30.
Mr Brand welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ATTENDEES

Mr J Brand (Chair)
Mr R Lagkor
Dir Robberts
Chief Hamilton
Chief Smith
Regional Insp Miesner
Mr B Lockay
Ms R Schoeman
Ms M Manuel
Ms A Daniels
Mr L Willemse
Ms A Africa
Mrs T Steyn-Dawie

APOLOGIES

Mr W Butler, Mr A Albertyn & Chief Coleman
The previous minutes were adopted.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Appointment of additional members

Dir. Lockay indicated that the fingerprints have been taken of the members while they were on training as previously requested.

Update on additional support staff

Ms Manual

- Mentioned that the meeting with Mr Albertyn has not taken place but indicated that she has forward the required information to Mr Albertyn.
- Recapped the following – firstly it was to confirm who is currently doing what (e.g., there are clerical admin staff that is linked to HR but they are actually assisting Chief Hamilton doing data capturing and the report needs to reflect that, which has been provided.
 - Indicated that she has verified all the vacancies and all the positions that have been filled and it has been put forward to Mr Albertyn via a report with confirmation of names linked to a particular position.
 - Added that positions that could be recycled for the armoury had to be identified and this was also added in the report.
- Presented the LEAP recon excel spreadsheet indicating the various tabs from certain pages in the Business Plan to the armoury and LEAP recon which provides a breakdown of the operational staff.

Mr Brand questioned what functions these members have performed before being redirected to the armoury.

Chief Smith indicated that they were deployed in the LEAP areas also noting that LEAP did not have their own armouries and it was only planned around two armouries but currently looking at 4 and also at the number of staff that needs to cover all the shifts.

Mr Brand indicated that this is then the addendum that needs to be in the Business Plan as this is what was wanted but the Business Plan currently does not read as such.

Mr Logkar indicated that he will forward the email on the addendum discussion to Mr Brand and will probably need a letter from the City which he will discuss/follow up with Mr Albertyn on his return, as a matter of urgency before the TPA term expires.

2.2 College Training Status Report

Dr Lackay provided feedback as below:

In-Basket Training - LEAP	Planned	Basic Handgun	Pocketbook	Basic Procedures	Tools	Shield & Stunbaton	Shot Approach	Trigger Spring	NETA Qualifications	Peace & Traffic	Child Justice
	67										
Members @College	67	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
Trained & Competent		31	31	31	31	31					31
Trained & N/C		4									
Scheduled Training Not Yet Trained		12					67	67	67	67	
Remedial											
Remedial/Repaired	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

SUMMARY OF TRAINING STATUS:

- 29 learners attended Basic Firearm training, and 25 were found competent and 4x Not Yet Competent. 36 learners are scheduled to attend Basic Firearm training from 04-08 April 2022
- 38 learners attended Pocket book training; 38 learners attended Child Justice Training, and all were found competent in both training interventions.
- A total of 67 learners are scheduled for in-basket training in line with the training rollout plan
- Child Justice was presented to 38 of these members initially earmarked for SRO's, but has subsequently been absorbed into LEAP.
- The 1st phase of training will be concluded as scheduled on 14th of April 2022
- The 2nd phase of training was planned for 90 candidates, but only 68 candidates reported for training at Cape Town Stadium on 14 March 2022 for Peace Officer and Traffic Warden Training and will conclude on 26 April 2022 (due to 3 public holidays in April).
- Upon successful completion of POTW training, the successful candidates will then continue with in-basket training on the 28th of April 2022 and will conclude training on the 10th of June 2022.

Mr Brand questioned when the members that finished training on 14 March will be ready for deployment.

Dr Lackay

- Indicated that of those members still need to finish their NETA and 4 has remedials but there is 25 that has finished the peace officer & traffic warden training as well as the basic handgun training.
- Mentioned that if all goes well, (no remedials) there would be 67 members who have completed their training by 14 April.

Chief Hamilton added that they are awaiting the competency certificates from the college to prepare the submissions for clearance.

Mr Brand mentioned that if all 67 have completed training by 14 April, then we would have more than 1000 LLECs and congratulated everyone on the hard work thus far.

2.3 Appointment Cards

Mr Willemse mentioned that he was informed yesterday (22 March) that there are only 83 clearance certificates outstanding, and the applications are all with SAS legal.

Mr Brand indicated that he would follow up with SAPS legal at his meeting this afternoon (23 March).

Chief Hamilton

- Added that 35 signed appointment cards have been collected yesterday (22 March) which are being issued and according to his records, there are 101 outstanding.
- The 101 includes the EPWP staff which is actually then the SAP 69 that's outstanding and not the clearance.
- Re: EPWP staff, there are 80 clearances outstanding on their side and then there are 21 EPWP staff that obtained their fingerprints at Bishop Lavis.

Mr Brand questioned what the progress was with these 21 applications.

Mr Willemse indicated that they have received roughly 93 of the 69s from LCRC yesterday (22 March) and will consolidate it today (23 March) to find the exact figure of EPWP received and will forward that information to Mr Brand and Chief Hamilton.

Mr Brand mentioned that he will follow up with Brig Mafumbu on the 80 appointment certificates outstanding from SAPS and requested that the consolidated information (re: 21 members) be received by latest Friday 25 Marc .

2.4 LEAP Dashboard

Chief Hamilton stated that he has sent the latest information to Messrs Simelane and Logkar and that capturing occurs on a week-on-week basis.

2.5 LEAP - launch date

Mr Brand indicated that he was informed by Ms Murray that the LEAP launch has been postponed for now but thanked everyone for their contribution and assistance in consolidating the stats and data in this regard.

2.6 LEAP Deployment

4. Update on Deployed vs Not Deployed

Chief Hamilton

- Indicated that there has not been much movement in deployments in the areas due to two things - awaiting delivery of vehicles and
 - outstanding appointment cards
- Mentioned that the mall deployments have been stable over the past few weeks as they are awaiting appointment cards to be deployed into the areas but will relook at the figures and provide Mr Brand with a f 1 breakdown on the actual figures.
- The reaction unit consists of a total of 60 members, 16 per shift, with 5 being deployed to Manenberg and 10 members in Eiles River.
- Proposed that the reaction unit's members be increased, especially with all the flare ups taking place across the Metro which needs the assistance of LEAP.
- Requested that in the interim, while awaiting the delivery of the vehicles, if they can withdraw 5 members per area and 1 vehicle and deploy to Atlantis. *[proposal accepted by all]*

Discussion on Vehicles

Mr Brand questioned what the delay in the procurement of the vehicles was and what happened to the vehicles that was received earlier this year.

Chief Smith indicated that the vehicles have been procured but waiting on the supplier who will deliver by end June due to a bulk purchase.

Chief Hamilton mentioned that vehicles that has been written off and needed to be replaced by the new vehicles received, needs to be taken into consideration.

Mr Brand proposed that an external meeting in this regard needs to take place as soon as possible.

Mr Logkar indicated that he will arrange this meeting for next week Wednesday when Mr Albertyn is also back from leave.

Mr Brand requested that Chief Smith in the interim, consolidate the number of vehicles and how they are being utilised.

8. Update on Armed vs Unarmed

- Mentioned that Metro Police is issuing firearms on a weekly basis, sometimes every second day and thus the number of unarmed members has decreased from 116 to 109 over the last week.

3. Additional Matters

Feedback on engagement with Gen Mancini

- Regional Inspector Rengey/ alternate Regional Inspector will attend the planning meetings of the POCC, and these meetings will be on a Tuesday and not daily as previously indicated.
- An Inspector will be deployed to the POCC on a 24hr basis as representation of LEAP for communication and coordination purposes and this will commence from tomorrow morning (24 March).

Reaction Unit

Chief Smith questioned which data will they use to make the call to withdraw the reaction unit from an area (when stable) and move on to another area.

Mr Brand

- Indicated that we need to look at capacitating the reaction unit with the next batch of LEAP officers.
- Added that Chiefs Hamilton and Smith will need to liaise frequently with the LEAP Inspector in the POCC as they will have the information where assistance is required, to make operational decisions.

Mr Brand indicated that a request was received for a LEAP vehicle to be stationed at Blomvlei community hall in Hanover Park as a satellite station due to many shootings, vandalism of streetlights etc. and the hall facility can also be made available for use for this purpose.

Chief Hamilton

- Mentioned that they are currently using a facility in Hanover Park where they deploy from and are busy determining the distance between the two facilities.
- Added they receive the footprint from various facilities that they are utilising for office space which provides some sort of security and safety to that facility.
- Indicated this request will be explored but to also note, that at no stage can they station a vehicle (soft base) at a facility where there are shootings which puts the members at risk.

Chief Smith added there is a lot of ongoing issues occurring in that area and LEAP unfortunately cannot cover everything and other law enforcement partners such as SAPS and Metro Police needs to assist wherever possible.

Considerations

Chief Smith

- Requested the possibility of incorporating school resource officers as a sub-unit into LEAP because most of the schools are in the LEAP areas and they can be better utilised in that way. (to consider this before the start of the new financial year).

- Regarding the extortion of a contractor by a gangster just released from prison and requested Mr Brand to discuss this point at his meeting with SAJS

Mr Brand

- Requested that the information be forwarded to him, and he will escalate it to the extortion task team.
- Indicated the proposal of the school resource officers can be explored and felt it should be linked to LEAP but much more to the AIT areas.

Mr Logkar

- Suggested that the funding for this be discussed at the meeting he will be setting for next week to prevent duplication models and to look at how the deployments will work.
- Mentioned that funding for LEAP for the next 3 years has been secured and have started with the business plan process. (will review the amount for SROs) (this point also to be discussed at next week's external meeting).

4. Closure

Mr Brand thanked everyone for attending.
Meeting closed at 08h45am

Minutes need to be accepted at next
meeting.

Chairperson

*LEAP officers: recruitment, training and deployment***4. Mr M Kama asked the Acting Minister of Community Safety:**

- (1) (a) What oversight mechanisms does the Department have over the recruitment, training and deployment of LEAP officers and (b) how many reports does the Department get from the City annually;
- (2) (a) what is the total breakdown of the expenditure on the LEAP programme in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021 and (iv) 2022 to date and (b) what are the details of the (i) expenditure items and (ii) cost per unit?

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

4. (1) (a) The Department and the City of Cape Town (COCT) instituted regular meetings as well as a reporting mechanism to facilitate oversight of the LEAP programme. These engagements were formalised with the development of the LEAP Governance Framework which was developed and implemented as an oversight mechanism, in the following ways:

- Operational Steercom Meeting (COCT and DOCS).
- COCT submitting weekly and monthly operational reports.
- Quarterly reconciliation conducted by DOCS on the number of LEAP officers deployed.
- COCT complies a bi-annual Progress report.

- (b) The table below indicates the number of reports from the 2020/21 financial year, as that was the year in which LEAP was introduced to the APP.

Year	Number of Operational Meetings	Number of TPA Bi – annual Reports & Financial report	Amount of Monthly Civics reports	Number of Weekly Reports
2020/2021	5	3	12	50
2021/2022	19	1	8	52

- (a) (i) 2019/20 - R 134,234,585.14

Cost Item	Total Expenditure
Salary Related Costs	R69,627,793.01
Operational Costs	R15,428,213.48
Capital Costs	R49,178,578.65

(iii) 2020/21 - R 307,132,242.83

Cost Item	Total Expenditure
Salary Related Costs	R 241,166,718.55
Operational Costs	R 21,693,601.21
Capital Costs	R 44,271,923.07

(iv) 2021/22 (at 31 January 2022) - R138,403,245.63

Cost Item	Total Expenditure
Salary Related Costs	R104,507,744.64
Operational Costs	R 13,804,853.86
Capital Costs	R 20,090,647.13

(b) (i) See attached Annexure A

(ii) The estimated Learner Law Enforcement Officer (LLEO) unit cost, as contained in the approved Business Plan of the City of Cape Town, is R580 231 for year 1 and R434 715 for year 2 and 3. The reason for the difference is that in year 1 the LLEO received 3 months of focused training compared to shorter refresher training provided in subsequent years and secondly, the equipment cost in year 1 is significantly higher than subsequent years (equipment includes: uniforms, firearms, radios, EPIC devices, vehicles etc.).

The actual unit costs per LLEO per year was requested from the City of Cape Town and once received, it will be submitted.

PP - 2021_2022(1)2 Jan-2022

No.	Budget Item	Est Type	TOTAL BUDGET (PP PL 40)	BUDGET 2021 ALLOCATION (PP 2021 & Approved Reserve 2021 Accounts)	BUDGET 2022 BUSINESS PLAN COCT allocation	TOTAL SPENT 2021 Jan 2022	2021 Total Spent	2022 Total Spent
1	Operational L200 & Area Based Staff	COCT	44,993,224.47	32,139,332.97	48,471,409.94	19,399,125.52	19,399,125.52	0.00
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
2	Command & Control & Corporate HR	COCT	44,203,027.00	34,207,738.00	34,209,049.00	2,827,019.22	0.00	2,827,019.22
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
3	Training Investment	COCT	10,122,864.44	11,201,725.52	42,271,960.00	6,474,215.44	6,474,215.44	0.00
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
4	Uniforms & Equipment Costs	COCT	14,226,412.00	0.00	14,226,412.00	241,266.21	241,266.21	0.00
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
5	Vehicles & Transport Costs	COCT	44,203,264.00	10,369,660.00	32,014,659.00	14,209,477.00	4,224,264.22	8,984,722.24
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
6	MOT Facilities & Furniture	COCT	28,222,144.70	282,264.42	28,281,676.70	6,862,176.27	1,214,222.34	4,207,246.76
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
7	IT, Data Storage & Media	COCT	12,227,219.00	4,660,760.00	11,622,130.00	2,889,622.27	0.00	2,889,622.27
		COCT						
		COCT						
		Total						
Total			214,444,806.00	158,142,521.90	212,767,626.68	106,955,622.81	122,512,244.26	21,897,686.87

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	
	No	Budget Item	Line Item Description as per Business Plan	Exp Type	TOTAL BUDGET	BUDGET PER BUSINESS PLAN - WCG	BUDGET PER BUSINESS PLAN - COCT (1400)		TOTAL SPENT	WCG Total Spent	COCT Total Spent	
1	1	Operational LEO & Area Based Staff	Oper - Salaries LEOs	Oper	294,308,822.00	200,790,604.00	93,508,424.00		196,500,128.99	196,500,128.99	0.00	
2		Overtime LEOs	Oper									
3		Oper Support Operators	Oper									
4	2	Command & Control & Corporate HR	Salaries - Command & Control	Oper	128,802,274.00	128,802,274.00	0.00		54,548,589.99	54,548,589.99	0.00	
5				Overtime - Permanent Staff								Oper
6				Salaries - COCT								Oper
7				Salaries - (PAP)								Oper
8				Salaries - HR temp -Certs								Oper
9				Salaries - HR temp up - Admin -04								Oper
10	3	Training department	Salaries - Training College	Oper	21,158,404.00	21,158,404.00	0.00		4,406,364.52	4,406,364.52	0.00	
11				Oper - Training LEOs & Refresher								Oper
12				Oper - Training - Refreshments								Oper
13	4	Uniform & Equipment Cost	Oper - Uniforms + Clothing	Oper	28,812,992.00	18,428,423.00	11,183,370.00		1,325,982.99	1,244,886.99	1,280,696.00	
14				Capex- Firearms								Capex
15				Oper - Stationery & Printing								Oper
16				Oper - Material & Consumables								Oper
17	5	Vehicles & Transport Costs	Capex- Vehicles Purchases	Capex	66,891,604.00	18,811,282.00	43,790,362.00		40,826,100.19	7,037,632.67	33,790,467.52	
18				Oper - Vehicles (Fuel & Insurance)								Oper
19				Oper Facilities								Oper
20	6	NIST Facilities & Furniture	Capex- Refurbishment of Facilities	Capex	20,116,492.00	8,000,000.00	14,116,492.00		3,443,822.91	719,882.67	1,772,169.30	
21				Oper- Repairs & Maintenance								Oper
22				Capex- Furniture								Capex
23	7	IT, Data Sharing & Radio	Capex- IT	Capex	12,198,647.00	0.00	12,198,647.00		11,887,983.71	0.00	11,887,983.71	
24				Capex- Devices								Capex
25				Capex- Radio								Capex
26	TOTAL				512,216,716.00	407,690,006.00	148,716,716.00		487,182,242.99	298,647,246.77	148,884,996.52	

FR - 2022-2023

	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k
	No	Budget Item	Line Item Description as per Business Plan	Exp Type	TOTAL BUDGET	BUDGET PER BUSINESS PLAN - WCG	BUDGET PER BUSINESS PLAN - COCT		TOTAL SPENT	WCG Total Spent	COCT Total Spent
1											
2	1	Operational LEAD & Area Based Staff	Open - Salaries (LEAD)	Open	19,340,287.00	19,340,287.00	0.00		19,390,529.72	19,390,529.72	0.00
3			Overseas CLICs	Open							
4			Open - Support Operations	Open							
5	2	Command & Control & Corporate HR	Salaries - Command & Control	Open	6,664,857.00	6,664,857.00	0.00		11,237,294.25	11,237,294.25	0.00
6			Overseas - Permanent Staff	Open							
7			Salaries - COCT	Open							
8			Salaries - IT/HR	Open							
9			Salaries - HR temp - Clerks	Open							
10			Salaries - HR temp sp - Admin (M&I)	Open							
11			Salaries - Training College	Open							
12	3	Training department	Open - Training LEADs & Refresher	Open	11,271,158.00	11,271,158.00	0.00		1,776,488.00	1,776,488.00	0.00
13			Open - Training - Refresher	Open							
14			Open - Learning - Clothing	Open							
15	4	Software & Equipment Cost	Open - Licenses	Open	11,864,821.00	11,864,821.00	0.00		6,876,794.32	6,738,042.32	1,138,752.00
16			Open - Stationery & Printing	Open							
17			Open - Material & Consumables	Open							
18	5	Vehicles & Transport Costs	Open - Vehicle Purchase	Open	47,874,962.00	23,871,877.00	23,893,085.00		46,766,007.33	16,852,497.76	29,913,509.58
19			Open - Vehicle (Fuel & Insurance)	Open							
20			Open - Facilities	Open							
21	6	M&I Facilities & Furniture	Open - Replacement of Facilities	Open	7,876,766.00	0.00	7,876,766.00		412,477.32	412,477.32	0.00
22			Open - Repairs & Maintenance	Open							
23			Open - Furniture	Open							
24	7	IT, Data Sharing & Radio	Open - IT	Open	6,665,641.00	0.00	6,665,641.00		1,570,980.41	0.00	1,570,980.41
25			Open - Services	Open							
26			Open - Radio	Open							
27	TOTAL				188,778,893.00	130,000,000.00	58,778,893.00		134,134,045.14	66,407,242.95	67,726,792.19

*Mass murders***5. Mr M Kama asked the Acting Minister of Community Safety:**

In light of the mass murders reported in various communities across the province:

(a) What is the number of mass murders that took place in the province per month in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2021, (b) what was the motive for the killings, (c) in which areas did the incidents take place, (d)(i) what is the number of fatalities per incident and (ii) what is the breakdown by (aa) age, (bb) race and (cc) gender, (e)(i) what measures have been put in place to respond to these murders and (ii) how does the Safety Plan address these and (f) what are the (i) successes and (ii) failures of the Safety Plan from its inception to date?

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

The reply of the South African Police Service (SAPS):

5. (a) (i) - (iii)

2019/2020	
April	1
June	1
July	1
August	1
November	1
December	1
January	2
February	1
March	2
Total	11
2020/2021	
May	1
June	1
July	2
August	1
September	4
November	1
January	2
March	2
Total	14
2021/2022	
May	2
September	2
November	1
Total	5

(b)

Gang related	7
Possible hits	3
Retaliation/ Revenge	10
Taxi related	3
Elimination of witness/complainant	1
Argument	1
Extortion	1
Not yet determined	4

(c)

Khayelitsha	7
Delft	3
Gugulethu	3
Mfuleni	3
Nyanga	3
Philippi East	2
Wellington	2
Harare	1
Mbekweni	1
Milnerton	1
Mitchells Plain	1

(d) (i)(ii)(aa) (ii)(bb) (ii)(cc)

Incident	Total victims	Age	Race	Gender
1	3	25, 26, 25	3 x Coloured	2 x male 1 x female
2	3	18, 17, 18	3 x African	3 x male
3	3	18, 17, 25	3 x African	3 x male
4	3	30, 32, 32	3 x African	3 x male
5	4	24, 32, 30, unknown	4 x Coloured	3 x male 1 x female
6	3	38, 2 x unknown	3 x African	3 x male
7	4	27, 34, 28, 28	4 x African	4 x male
8	4	19, 20, 21, 23	4 x African	4 x male
9	4	31, 32, 32, 34	2 x African, 2 x Coloured	4 x male
10	7	21, 22, 21, 31, 31, 24, 23	7 x African	6 x male 1 x female
11	3	30, 2 x unknown	3 x African	2 x male 1 x female
12	5	38, 4, 20, 1, 19	5 x Coloured	5 x male
13	3	36, 3, 26	3 x African	2 x male 1 x female
14	5	20, 24, 22, 22, 22	5 x African	5 x male
15	3	45, 23, 17	3 x African	1 x male 2 x female
16	3	32, 38, 32	3 x African	2 x male 1 x female
17	5	31, 30, 25, 31	5 x African	5 x male
18	4	11, 18, 30, 69	4 x African	4 x male
19	3	17, 35, 1 x unknown	3 x Coloured	3 x male
20	6	26, 26, 25, 30, 25, 23	6 x African	6 x male

21	7	40, 26, 40, 25, 25, 32, 40	7 x African	5 x male 2 x female
22	3	16, 45, 16	3 x Coloured	3 x male
23	6	33, 36, 29, 25, 29, 35	6 x African	6 x male
24	3	32, 25, 23	3 x African	2 x male 1 x female
25	4	21, 20, 25, 21	4 x African	3 x male 1 x female
26	4	56, 42, 27, 18	4 x African	3 x male 1 x female
27	4	39, 25, 13, 28	4 x Coloured	2 x male 2 x female
28	4	30, 30, 30, 30	4 x African	4 x male
29	4	27, 29, 2 x unknown	4 x African	4 x male
30	3	31, 33, 31	3 x African	3 x male

- (e) (i) Integrated, intelligence driven operations are conducted in hotspot areas, aligned to an operational plan. A focused targeted approach is implemented at problematic stations as well as stations with high gang violence.
- (ii) High visibility patrols, increased VCP's and stop and search operations are conducted to target firearms, drugs liquor and dangerous weapons.
- (f) (i) In comparison to the previous financial year, there are increases in arrests for murder, illegal possession of firearms as well as drugs.
- (ii) There is limited access to some of the problematic areas due to the poor infrastructure. This hampers patrol vehicles from conducting high visibility patrols.

THE ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY TO REPLY:

5. (e) (i) In partnership with the City of Cape Town (CoCT), the Department launched the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) which aimed to deploy 1 000 law enforcement officers by the end of 2021 in the crime hotspots for enhanced law enforcement capacity and to support the SAPS. The areas where these mass murders occurred all form part of the said deployments.
- (ii) The objective of the Western Cape Safety Plan is to halve the murder rate in the province over the next ten years via integrated law enforcement, social cohesion and urban design interventions. These interventions are based on data and evidence and is designed at addressing the challenge of violence holistically.
- (f) (i) To date a total of 1 102 LEAP officers have been appointed in terms of the LEAP.

The decrease in the murder rate in the Western Cape for the last two quarters is the biggest indicator of success.

The LEAP officers confiscated 161 firearms, searched 415 434 persons, confiscated 918 dangerous weapons, confiscated 18 987 liters of alcohol and conducted 4 546 joint operations with SAPS.

- (ii) All the interventions mentioned in paragraph 5(e)(ii) have been implemented to a certain extent, some more advanced than others. It is therefore difficult to identify any failures of the Western Cape Safety Plan up to date.

Premier: advisors

6. Mr C M Dugmore asked the Premier:

- (1) What is the (a) number of advisors that he has in his office, (b) what are their qualifications, (c) what are their salaries and (d) what is the total cost of the advisers;
- (2) whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, has started in the role of being an adviser to the Premier; if so, what is he going to advise him on;
- (3) whether a series of social-media posts by this person that contradicts his government's standpoint on many issues, including the Russia–Ukraine conflict, have been brought to his attention; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what engagements have they had regarding the conflict?

The PREMIER:

6. (1) (a) Two.
 - (b) Bachelor of Arts: Political Science; National Certificate in Marketing
Bachelor of Arts (Hons): International Relations; Master of Science:
Politics and Communication
 - (c) R 1 544 415 per annum; R 1 269 951 per annum
 - (d) The combined annual salaries equate to: R 2 814 366 per annum
- (2) The person referred to has not yet been appointed in the role of Special Advisor.
- (3) (a) I am aware of the person in question's social media post regarding Russia's illegal invasion of the Ukraine.

My position on the conflict has not changed, I continue to believe that this unprovoked, illegal war, which threatens world peace and the very foundation of the liberal international order and once again urge President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Naledi Pandor to meet with Ukraine's Ambassador to South Africa as soon as possible to hear firsthand the horror of President Putin's war.

(b) None.

International relations policy

7. Ms P Z Lekker asked the Premier:

- (1) Whether his government has a policy on international relations; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what guides his government on international relations;
- (2) under which powers and legislation did he take the decisions to declare the provincial government's support for Ukraine and to ban the Russia's Consul General from participating in any provincial government's functions;
- (3) whether his government has a position with regard to the continued atrocities of the Israeli government against the Palestinian people; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether his government has supported the Palestinian people in any way in (i) 2014, (ii) 2015, (iii) 2016, (iv) 2017, (v) 2018, (vi) 2019, (vii) 2020, (viii) 2021 and (ix) 2022 to date?

The PREMIER:

7. (1) (a) Yes, the policy on the International Relations Strategy (IRS) of the Western Cape Government (WCG) was adopted in 2013 and is currently being revised / updated, to bring it in line with the WCG's strategic priorities, as set out in the 2019 – 2024 Provincial Strategic Plan.
 - (b) The strategic priorities, as set out in the 2019 – 2024 Provincial Strategic Plan, guide the WCG's approach to international relations.
- (2) The Provincial Cabinet took the decision to condemn Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, and the consequent suffering of the Ukrainian people. This unprovoked, illegal war, which threatens world peace and the very foundation of the liberal international order, cannot be met by neutrality and silence. The WCG is clear that it cannot, and will not, remain neutral in the face of such a cruel attack on the democratic values that we all hold dear.
- (3) I condemn all acts of violence and support a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine in line with the UN's 1967 resolution.
- (4) No.

Centre for e-Innovation: Programme Manager – Social Media

8. Mr C M Dugmore asked the Premier:

With regard to the advertised post for in the Centre for e-Innovation for a Programme Manager: Social Media, which is in the shortlisting stage:

- (1) (a) When was this position advertised, (b) what are all the requirements for the position and (c) on which platforms was it advertised;
- (2) what is the (a) number of all the applications that were received for this position and (b) detailed list of all the applicants and their qualifications;
- (3) (a) what is the latest update regarding the shortlisting, (b) when will it be concluded and (c) what are the details of (i) all the candidates who have been shortlisted and (ii) their qualifications?

The PREMIER:

8. (1) (a) The position of Programme Manager: Social Media was advertised on 23 July 2021 and had a closing date of 16 August 2021.
 - (b) The requirements for the position were as follows: An appropriate 3-year tertiary qualification (minimum a National Diploma or higher); A minimum 3 years relevant management level experience and a valid Code B driving licence.
 - (c) The post was advertised in:
 - WCG Vacancy Bulletin;
 - Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) Vacancy Bulletin;
 - WCG Careers portal on WCG website;
 - Cape Times (Career Times); and
 - Biz Community Website.
- (2) (a) The advertisement attracted 416 applications.
 - (b) In terms of the Protection of Personal information Act, personal information of job applicants cannot be made available without their consent. Names of applicants have accordingly been de-identified from the attached list (Annexure A).
- (3) (a) The recruitment process has been finalised, which included the shortlisting process. The successful candidate assumed duty on the 11th of January 2022.

- (b) The nomination for appointment was approved on 22 December 2021.
- (c) (i)(ii) The details of shortlisted candidates are tabled below. In terms of POPIA personal details have been de-identified:

Candidate	Race/ Gender	Qualification
A	WF	Bachelor of Commerce Degree
B	WM	BA in Industrial & Organisational Psychology
C	CF	Advanced Diploma Digital Marketing
D	CM	National Diploma in Marketing Management
E	AF	BA in Media Studies

25March20221609 attachment

Applicant no.	Gender	Race	Details of qualifications	Experience	Driving license
1	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
2	Male	White	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
3	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
4	Female	White	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
5	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
6	Male	White	In process of completing his 3 year tertiary qualification	3 years or more experience	Code B
7	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
8	Female	Black	In process of completing his 3 year tertiary qualification	3 years or more experience	Code B
9	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
10	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
11	Male	Black	In process of completing his 3 year tertiary qualification	3 years or more experience	Code B
12	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
13	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
14	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
15	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
16	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
17	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
18	Female	White	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
19	Male	Black	Accredited course, > 2 years	3 years or more experience	Code B
20	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
21	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	No driving license
22	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
23	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
24	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
25	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
26	Female	Coloured	In process of completing his 3 year tertiary qualification	3 years or more experience	Code B
27	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
28	Male	Black	Accredited course, > 2 years	3 years or more experience	Code B
29	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
30	Male	Coloured	Grade 11, with short course	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
31	Male	Black	Grade 11, with short course	3 years or more experience	Code B
32	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B
33	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
34	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
35	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
36	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
37	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
38	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
39	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
40	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
41	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
42	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	No driving license
43	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	Less than 3 year experience	Made an appointment for driving license
44	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
45	Female	Indian	In process of completing his 3 year tertiary qualification	3 years or more experience	Code B
46	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B

67	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
68	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	No entry criteria
69	Male	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	2 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
70	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
71	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
72	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
73	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses		3 years or more experience	Code B
74	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
75	Female	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
76	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
77	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
78	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Learned skills
79	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
80	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
81	Male	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Made an application for entry criteria
82	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Learned skills
83	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Learned skills
84	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Learned skills
85	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Learned skills
86	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
87	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
88	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
89	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
90	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
91	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Learned skills
92	Female	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
93	Female	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
94	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
95	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
96	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
97	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
98	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	No entry criteria
99	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
100	Male	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
101	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
102	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
103	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
104	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
105	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
106	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
107	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
108	Female	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses		3 year or more experience	Code B
109	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
110	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
111	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9-degree or higher	Less than 3 year experience	Code B
112	Female	White	Accredited course, 1-2 years		3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B

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114	Female	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
115	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Specialty license
116	Male	White	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
117	Male	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
118	Male	White	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
119	Female	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
120	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 2 years		less than 1 year experience	Made an appointment for driving license
121	Female	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
122	Female	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	No driving license
123	Female	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
124	Male	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
125	Male	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Specialty license
126	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
127	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with short course		2 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
128	Male	Coloured	Accredited course, + 2 years		2 years or more experience	Code B
129	Male	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
130	Male	Black	Grade 12 with short course		2 years or more experience	Code B
131	Male	Black	Accredited course, + 2 years		1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	No driving license
132	Male	Black	In process of completing the 2 year tertiary qualification		2 years or more experience	Code B
133	Female	Black	Grade 12 with short course		1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Specialty license
134	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
135	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
136	Female	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
137	Female	White	Accredited course, + 2 years		2 years or more experience	Code B
138	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
139	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
140	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
141	Female	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Specialty license
142	Female	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
143	Female	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
144	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
145	Male	Black	In process of completing the 2 year tertiary qualification		2 years or more experience	Code B
146	Female	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
147	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Made an appointment for driving license
148	Male	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
149	Male	White	In process of completing the 2 year tertiary qualification		1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
150	Male	Black	Grade 12 with short course		1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
151	Female	White	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
152	Female	White	Grade 12 with short course		1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
153	Male	White	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
154	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
155	Male	White	Accredited course, + 2 years		2 years or more experience	Code B
156	Male	Black	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Code B
157	Female	White	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
158	Female	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	2 years or more experience	Specialty license
159	Female	Coloured	2 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/3 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B

2024/03/25/2022 attachment

188	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
189	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
190	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
191	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Location: Inshore
192	Male	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification		3 years or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
193	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 years or more experience	Code B
194	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
195	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
196	Male	Coloured	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification		3 years or more experience	Code B
197	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
198	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
199	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
200	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
201	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
202	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
203	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for strong female
204	Male	Black	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 years or more experience	Code B
205	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
206	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
207	Female	Indian	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
208	Male	Indian	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
209	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
210	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Made an appointment for strong female
211	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
212	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
213	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
214	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
215	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
216	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
217	Male	Coloured	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
218	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
219	Female	Black	Grade 12 with dual courses		3 years or more experience	Location: Inshore
220	Female	Indian	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
221	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 years or more experience	Code B
222	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
223	Female	Black	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Location: Inshore
224	Male	Black	Accredited course, + 2 years		3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
225	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
226	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	No strong female
227	Female	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
228	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
229	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
230	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
231	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
232	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B-degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
233	Female	Coloured	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification		3 years or more experience	Code B
234	Male	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification		less than 1 year experience	Code B

120	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
121	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
122	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
123	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	No driving licence
124	Female	Coloured	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification	No management level experience, need training	Code B
125	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Code B
126	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
127	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
128	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B
129	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
130	Male	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Driving licence
131	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
132	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
133	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Code B
134	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
135	Female	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
136	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
137	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
138	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Code B
139	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	No driving licence
140	Female	Coloured	Accredited course + 2 years	1 year or more experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
141	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
142	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B
143	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
144	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Driving licence
145	Male	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification	1 year or more experience	Code B
146	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
147	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	No driving licence
148	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
149	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Code B
150	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	No driving licence
151	Female	Coloured	Accredited course + 2 years	1 year or more experience	Code B
152	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
153	Male	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification	1 year or more experience	Code B
154	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B
155	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
156	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Driving licence
157	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	No driving licence
158	Male	Black	Accredited course + 2 years	1 year or more experience	Code B
159	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more experience	Code B
160	Female	Coloured	Accredited course + 2 years	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
161	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Made an appointment for driving licence
162	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B
163	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses	1 year or more experience	Code B
164	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	1 year or more, less than 2 years experience	Code B

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101	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
102	Male	Indian	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
103	Female	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
104	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
105	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
107	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
108	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
109	Female	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses		5 years or more experience	Leadership
110	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
111	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
112	Male	White	Grade 12 with short courses		5 years or more experience	Code B
113	Male	White	Accredited course, + 1 year		5 years or more experience	Code B
114	Female	Black	Accredited course, + 1 year		5 years or more experience	Leadership
115	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
116	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
117	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
118	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
119	Female	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses		1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
120	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
121	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
122	Male	Black	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification		5 years or more experience	Code B
123	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
124	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
125	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
126	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 1 year		5 years or more experience	Code B
127	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
128	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
129	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
130	Female	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
131	Female	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses		less than 1 year experience	No strong leader
132	Female	Coloured	In process of completing my 1 year tertiary qualification		less than 1 year experience	Wants an opportunity for strong leader
133	Male	Indian	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
134	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
135	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
136	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
137	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
138	Female	White	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
139	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Leadership
140	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Leadership
141	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
142	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Leadership
143	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
144	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma/B degree or higher	5 years or more experience	Code B
145	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 1 year		No management level experience, need training	Code B
146	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with short courses		1 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B

APPENDIX 2018 continued

329	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
330	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
331	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
332	Female	Indian	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
333	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
334	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
335	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Learning leave
336	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B
337	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B
338	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	2 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Learning leave
339	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
340	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
341	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
342	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
343	Male	White	Grade 12 with short course	3 years or more experience	Code B
344	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	No driving license
345	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
346	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
347	Male	Black	In process of completing the 1 year tertiary qualification	3 years or more experience	Learning leave
348	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
349	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
350	Male	Coloured	Accredited course, 1 1/2 years	3 years or more experience	Code B
351	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
352	Female	White	Accredited course, 1 1/2 years	3 years or more experience	Learning leave
353	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
354	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
355	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
356	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
357	Male	White	Accredited course, 1 1/2 years	3 years or more experience	Code B
358	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
359	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
360	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	2 year or more, less than 5 years experience	Made an appointment for driving license
361	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
362	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
363	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Code B
364	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more, less than 5 years experience	Code B
365	Female	White	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	No driving license
366	Male	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
367	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more, less than 5 years experience	No driving license
368	Male	White	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
369	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
370	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
371	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving license
372	Male	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	less than 1 year experience	Made an appointment for driving license
373	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	Code B
374	Female	Black	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	3 years or more experience	No driving license
375	Female	Coloured	1 year tertiary qualification (National Diploma/B degree or higher)	No management level experience, need training	Code B

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175	Female	Unemployed	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
177	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Labour's Science
178	Female	White	None			No driving licence
179	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
180	Male	Black	Accredited course, + 1 year		less than 1 year experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
181	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
182	Male	Black	In process of completing my 3 year tertiary qualification		3 years or more experience	Code B
183	Male	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
184	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
185	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Labour's Science
186	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
187	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
188	Male	Coloured	Accredited course, + 1 year		No management level experience, need training	Made an appointment for driving licence
189	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
190	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
191	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
192	Male	White	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
193	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
194	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with extra courses		2 years or more experience	Code B
195	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	2 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
196	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
197	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Labour's Science
198	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
199	Female	Coloured	Grade 12 with extra courses		3 years or more experience	Code B
200	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
201	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
202	Male	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
203	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
204	Female	Coloured	Accredited course, + 1 year		No management level experience, need training	Code B
205	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
206	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	less than 1 year experience	Code B
207	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B
208	Male	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
209	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Labour's Science
210	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
211	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
212	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Labour's Science
213	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	No management level experience, need training	Code B
214	Female	Black	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Code B
215	Female	Coloured	3 year tertiary qualification	National Diploma 9 degree or higher	3 years or more experience	Made an appointment for driving licence
216	Male	Coloured	Grade 12 with extra courses		1 year or more, less than 3 years experience	Code B

*Typhoid fever cases***9. Ms R Windvogel asked the Minister of Health:**

- (1) (a) What are the causes of typhoid fever, (b) what is its prevalence in the province, (c) what is the breakdown of reported cases per municipality in (i) 2021 and (ii) 2022 to date;
- (2) whether there are any reported deaths from typhoid fever in the province between 2021 and 2022 to date, if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) what is the breakdown per municipality?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

9. (1) (a) Enteric fever includes typhoid fever (an infection caused by the bacteria *Salmonella Typhi*) and paratyphoid fever (bacterial infections caused by *Salmonella Paratyphi A*, *B* or rarely, *C*). Paratyphoid fever is clinically indistinguishable from typhoid fever and the diagnosis and clinical management is identical. Enteric fever in South Africa is most commonly caused by *Salmonella Typhi*.

Salmonella Typhi only infects humans. Bacteria are shed in the faeces (stool) of an infected person. Infection occurs through the faecal-oral route (ingesting food or water that has been contaminated with faeces (poop) of an infected person). Enteric fever occurs predominantly in association with poor sanitation and lack of safe drinking water (in both urban and rural settings). There are two main patterns of transmission:

- Short cycle: contamination of food and water in the immediate household or work environment etc., by carriers who are shedding bacteria, when hygiene and sanitation are inadequate
 - Long cycle: contamination of the broader environment, such as pollution of water supplies by sewage, inadequate treatment of water, or the use of raw human faeces or untreated sewage as a crop fertilizer. Large outbreaks of enteric fever are often associated with contamination of a drinking water source.
- (b) We report the number of new laboratory confirmed cases of enteric fever. Reported cases significantly underrepresent the true number of cases; laboratory -confirmed disease depends on awareness of illness by healthcare workers, diagnostic practice (which samples collected for testing, and tests ordered), accessibility of laboratory testing.

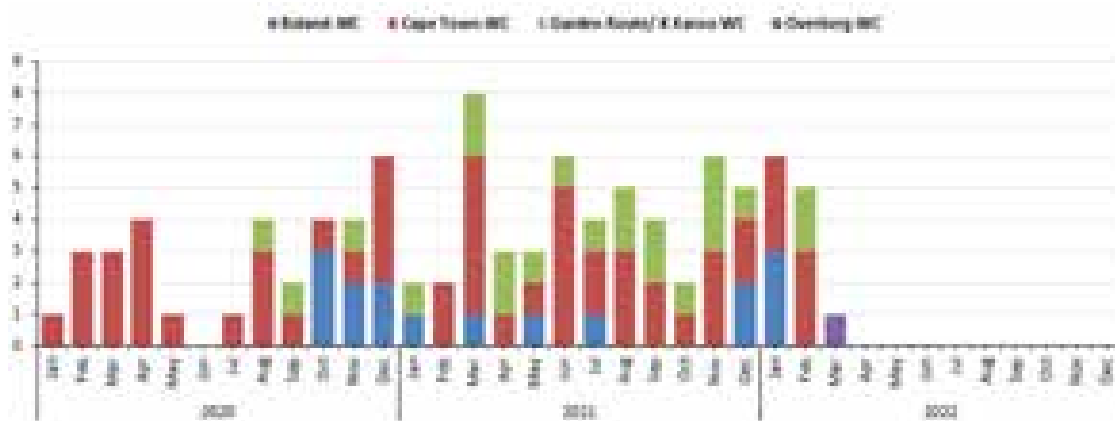
South Africa is endemic for enteric fever caused by *S. Typhi* (endemic: the constant presence of a disease in a population within a geographic area), although prevalence of disease is lower than most other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

After the Delmas outbreak in 2005, the number of enteric fever cases in South Africa has remained stable with less than 150 cases per year (an average of 97 cases per year).

- (c) **Table 1:** Number of new cases of laboratory-confirmed enteric fever per month, Western Cape, 1 January 2021-28 March 2022

Year	Month	Total number of lab-confirmed cases	Districts					
			Cape Town	Central Karoo	Cape Winelands	Garden Route	Overberg	West Coast
2021	Jan	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
	Feb	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar	8	5	0	1	2	0	0
	Apr	3	1	0	0	2	0	0
	May	3	1	0	1	1	0	0
	Jun	6	5	0	0	1	0	0
	Jul	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
	Aug	5	3	0	0	2	0	0
	Sep	4	2	0	0	2	0	0
	Oct	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
	Nov	6	3	0	0	3	0	0
	Dec	5	2	0	2	1	0	0
2022	Jan	6	3	0	3	0	0	0
	Feb	5	3	0	0	2	0	0
	Mar	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total		62	33	0	9	19	1	0

Figure1: Number of laboratory confirmed enteric fever cases per district and month, Western Cape, 1 January 2020 – 28 March 2022, Western Cape



- (a) One death with laboratory confirmed enteric fever, a 51 year old, male from Kuilsriver (Kalkfontein), Cape Town, passed away at Karl Bremer hospital on 17/02/2021. Presented with fever fatigue, myalgia, respiratory symptoms, loss of appetite, confusion on the 16th of February 2021. Complications.

One death with laboratory confirmed enteric fever, a 15 year old, male from George (Thembaletu), passed away at George Hospital on 13/03/2021. The case presented with fever, vomiting, abdominal cramps, headache, diarrhoea, epigastric pain and tender abdomen. Complications include salmonella typhi sepsis.

One death with laboratory confirmed enteric fever, a 51 year old, male from Worcester (Zwelenthemba), passed away at Tygerberg Hospital on 27 December 2021. He presented with gastro-intestinal bleeding, confusion, abdominal cramps and respiratory symptoms to Worcester Hospital. Complications included renal failure and sepsis. Other problems listed were suspected pulmonary tuberculosis, leg DVT (deep vein thrombosis) amongst others.

- (b) The 3 deceased resided in Cape Winelands, Garden Route and Cape Town Districts.

Companies moving to the province

10. Mr G Bosman asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

With reference to the Western Cape Government's plans to assist companies that wish to move to the province:

- (1) Which programmes or units in his Department are responsible for assisting these companies;
- (2) whether the provincial government has assisted in these types of matters before; if so, (i) what challenges can be expected and (ii) what plans are in place to address these;
- (3) whether any companies have approached the provincial government in the last year seeking such support; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

10. (1) As the Official Destination Marketing Organisation of the Western Cape, the Investment Promotion Unit of Wesgro, actively markets the Western Cape as a destination of choice as part of investment recruitment. This entails encouraging local businesses located outside of the Western Cape to expand into the region. The Western Cape's competitiveness in various areas is demonstrated as part of this investment recruitment focus to show how investing in the Province can provide the business with enhanced operational efficiency and/or reduced costs.

- (2) Through ongoing investment promotion activities, Wesgro is approached from time to time to assist companies which wish to set up or expand into the Western Cape.

Some challenges experienced include local companies seeking funding for the expansions due to the cost of setting up operations and concerns around the impact of moving operations, including the impact of such potential moves on the local economies from which the businesses move.

- (3) In the past year, two companies have been in contact and engaged with Wesgro, one company from Gauteng and one company from Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Waste management

11. Mr A P van der Westhuizen asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

With reference to waste management in the province:

- (1) Whether there are any local governments in the Western Cape that are facing challenges in the short, medium or longer term with the handling of solid waste; if so, which local governments are deemed to be in need of guidance or support;
- (2) whether there is a national standard for the effective management of solid waste; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) how do local governments in the province compare with those in other provinces in regard to solid waste management and (b) what action or steps can local governments take in order to curb the illegal dumping of waste?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

11. (1) Many of the Municipalities within the Western Cape suffer similar waste management challenges, such as the lack of funds to allocate to waste management, human resource challenges, rapidly decreasing landfill airspace and the continued absence of operational regional waste disposal facilities. While the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning (“the Department”) provides waste management guidance and support to all the Municipalities, the following Municipalities in particular need guidance and support:
 - The Central Karoo District (i.e. Central Karoo District, Beaufort West, Prince Albert and Laingsburg Municipalities): The District is sparsely populated with long distances between towns, which makes waste management difficult and expensive, and which makes regional waste management challenging.

Compliance and performance in respect of the legislated waste management requirements in the District are therefore particularly challenging.

- Laingsburg Municipality: The waste disposal facility has reached the current permitted height restriction. An airspace determination report together with a motivation for a height extension variation application are currently being explored. However, the required funds for the topographical survey and resultant application process are reportedly unavailable. The Department is currently considering whether the Department will be able to assist with the topographical survey.
- Kannaland Municipality: The Municipality's efforts in waste management are hindered by limited funding and a shortage of the required personnel. The Municipality has consolidated the disposal of all their municipal waste to one facility at Ladismith. The most critical need in the short-term is sourcing and collecting sufficient suitable daily cover material as the facility is in a rocky area. The decommissioning of three of the now disused waste facilities is less urgent, however, assistance with even a temporary closure or capping and the establishment of drop-off facilities could greatly improve the waste management situation in the Municipality.
- Oudtshoorn Municipality: Landfill airspace is not a major problem in the Municipality, but a constant challenge is the mismanagement of the Waste Disposal Facilities. The Grootkop facility has a significant number of unauthorised individuals on the facility that need to be addressed.
- Langeberg Municipality: There is currently no remaining landfill airspace available. The Municipality was depending on the anticipated establishment of the regional facility. However, the Municipality is in discussions with the Department on possible interim measures and for short- to medium-term measures to increase the operational lifespan of the Ashton facility.
- Witzenberg Municipality: The Wolseley Waste Disposal Facility has been abandoned by the Municipality without the required decommissioning process and it poses a serious risk to the surrounding community. Internal and external audit reports have not been received by the Department and no action plans on Departmental audits conducted have been forthcoming in recent years. The Municipality has shown little to no tangible improvement at its waste disposal facilities, except for Tulbagh facility. Security and buffer zone encroachment are ongoing issues that lead to incidences, and windblown litter blocks drainage infrastructure.

- Cederberg Municipality: The Municipality has a lack of infrastructure, machinery, and the required human resources. While waste collection in the Municipality is not an issue, the management of the waste facilities is an ongoing challenge as the facilities are currently non-compliant. The most concerning issue is a lack of finances that prevents implementation of improvement measures at these facilities. The Municipality is relying heavily on the completion of the regional facility to be located in Matzikama Municipality.
 - Matzikama Municipality: There are eleven waste disposal facilities in the Municipality. The Municipality is struggling with lack of infrastructure, machinery, and adequate human resources. The Municipality is also struggling with compliance due to a reported lack of finances. The regional facility is to be located in Matzikama Municipality.
 - The following municipalities are currently doing well in terms of waste management, but need urgent access to operational regional waste disposal facilities:
 - Mossel Bay Municipality
 - Knysna Municipality
 - Bitou Municipality
 - Drakenstein Municipality
 - Stellenbosch Municipality
 - The regional waste disposal facilities planned across the Province is the medium to long-term solution to waste disposal, in conjunction with waste separation (at source) and waste diversion, together with waste management education.
- (2) In terms of the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008 (Act No. 59 of 2008) (“NEMWA”), the National Minister can set National Norms and Standards for certain aspects of waste management. National Norms and Standards have been set for Domestic Waste Collection; Assessment of waste for landfill disposal; Disposal of waste to landfill; Remediation of contaminated land and soil quality; Storage of waste; Extraction, flaring or recovery of landfill gas; Scrapping or recovery of motor vehicles; Sorting, shredding, grinding, crushing, screening or baling of general waste and Organic waste composting amongst others (copies of the National Norms and Standards on the Department’s website at: <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp/about-us/meet-chief-directorates/environmental-quality/waste-management>).

The Norm and Standard that has been developed in respect of landfill site lining (“*Containment Barrier Design*”) is, however, a cause for serious concern. This Norm and Standard assumes the worst-case scenario (that there are no natural containment barriers present) and therefore requires a minimum engineering design that are not based on the actual specific risk to be managed in terms of the specific case.

This results in a requirement for prohibitively expensive landfill site linings, which are causing delays in the expansion of existing landfill sites as well as the establishment of new landfill sites, but is also taking already limited resources away from necessary waste management measures. While the mining sector have been granted exemption from having to comply with this Norm and Standard, the Western Cape Government together with the Municipalities have not yet been able to obtain a similar exemption.

- (3) (a) In respect of how the Municipalities in the Western Cape compare to the Municipalities in the other provinces in regard to solid waste management:

In terms of service delivery:

According to the General Household Survey (2020) the top three performing Metropolitan Municipalities in South Africa, with regard to their status of waste services, are Ekurhuleni (93%) and Nelson Mandela Bay (91%), followed by the City of Cape Town (87%).

In terms of the Provincial Status of Waste Services:

The General Household Survey (2020) found that the Western Cape Province is performing the best with 89%, Gauteng Province in second position 85%, and North West Province in third position with 81%. The lowest scoring province, in terms of the status of waste services, is Limpopo Province with (46%). The average status of waste services in South Africa is 72%. The Municipalities in the Western Cape Province are performing better than the national average.

In terms of Municipalities with Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs):

The Western Cape Province has the highest number Municipalities that have Integrated Waste Management Plans ("IWMPs") with 30 of the 30 municipalities (100%) having IWMPs, followed closely by Free State Province (20 of out 23 (86.95%)), Mpumalanga Province (17 out of 20 (85%)); with the Eastern Cape the lowest (only 2 out of the 40 (5%)).

In terms of Waste Management Facilities:

The Western Cape Province has the highest number of licensed Waste Disposal Facilities in the South Africa, namely 154 facilities. This is followed by the Eastern Cape Province, which has 103 facilities and the Northern Cape Province which has 92 Facilities.

In terms of Municipal Landfill Sites Compliance:

The Western Cape Province has done more compliance audits at Waste Disposal Facilities than any other province in South Africa. Between 2017/2018 and quarter 1 of 2020/2021, a total of 91 inspections were conducted. The next highest is Mpumalanga, with 42 inspections during the same period, followed by Limpopo and Eastern Cape with 35 and 34 inspections respectively.

From these inspections, 27 of the 91(29.67%) facilities in the Western Cape were deemed to be compliant (compliance score of more than 75%), with 20 (21.97%) partially complaint (compliance score between 50% and 74%) and 44 (48.35%) deemed non-complaint (compliance score of less than 49%).

In comparison with the rest of the provinces, during the same period, in the Mpumalanga Province, 7 out of the 42 (17%) facilities were complaint, 11 (26%) were partially complaint and 24 (57%) were non-complaint; in the Limpopo Province, 4 out of the 34 (12%) facilities were compliant, 4 (12%) were partially compliant and 26 (76%) non-complaint; while in the Free State Province and in the Northern Cape Province no facilities (0%) were deemed to be compliant.

- (3) (b) Illegal dumping of waste has become an increasing concern over the last few years in the Western Cape Province, with municipalities struggling to find solutions on mitigating or preventing it from occurring. This has become even a greater issue since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020. The Department, in consultation with the Municipalities, has developed a *Strategy to Reduce Illegal Disposal for the Western Cape Province* which were informed by the inputs received from Municipalities on the current situation in each Municipality, financial implications and possible solutions.

A wide spectrum of possible mitigation measures or solutions were identified, keeping in mind that what works in one Municipality, might not work in another Municipality.

Municipalities have opted to increase the collection days, provide more containers or skips in communities, provide more bins and increase the issuing of fines. While certain Municipalities opted for these mitigation measures, others were focusing on identifying illegal dumping hotspots. This allows Municipalities to establish whether the hotspot is temporary, or whether a formal facility such as a mini drop-off must be established.

In some instances, municipalities make use of technology to assist in reporting of illegal dumping. One such platform is that of the Drakenstein Municipality, with the introduction of the "SeeClickFix" platform which allows the public to report illegal dumping.

Incentives need to be implemented to encourage individuals to dispose of waste at waste disposal facilities, instead of public open spaces. Some Municipalities implement methods which allow the public to dispose of construction and demolition waste free of charge, if the load is below 1 tonne. Clean/uncontaminated builder's rubble is discounted at other Municipalities, and some Municipalities have introduced a cost reduction of 50% for disposal at the waste disposal facility irrespective of the quantity disposed of.

Community involvement is key when it comes to optimal implementation of waste management solutions and the prevention of illegal dumping. In many Municipalities the communities assist in clean-up events.

Department of Education: online registration system

12. Ms D M Baartman asked the Minister of Education:

With regard to her Department's online registration system:

- (1) What monetary investments have gone into the development and upgrading of the online registration system over the past five financial years;
- (2) in relation to its operational capacity, (a) how many applicants can the website accommodate at any given time and (b) how has this improved over the past five calendar years;
- (3) how many people have applied online in the calendar years of (a) 2017, (b) 2018, (c) 2019, (d) 2020, (e) 2021, and (f) 2022 to date;
- (4) what plans are in place to make the online registration more accessible to applicants without sufficient resources?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

12. (1) No monetary investments were made. The system has been developed 'in-house' by the Centre for E-Innovation (CEI) in the Department of the Premier.
- (2) (a) There are no restrictions on the number of users.
- (b) The system has improved year on year. In order to strengthen the system and the user experience, the CEI has increased the random-access memory (RAM), added additional virtual central processing units (vCPUs) to manage the application activity, and made other technical adjustments. However, because the system runs on CEMIS (which is managed by the CEI), it will always be subjected to the capacity, rules and regulations of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA).

- (3) The system was piloted in 2017 and 2018. The recordkeeping of applications was not done, as the pilot's focus was on clearing all possible application challenges and making the system and the application process as user-friendly as possible.

2017 for 2018: piloting the experiment with 300 schools

2018 for 2019: piloting with 500 participating schools

2019 for 2020 = 165 398 registered users

2020 for 2021 = 158 851 registered users

2021 2022 = 162 860 registered users

2022 2023 = 87 947 current cycle registered users

- (4) The WCED does understand that some parents/caregivers are restricted in terms of accessibility to equipment. That is why the WCED has arranged for parents to apply via our district offices, or the pop-up stalls arranged by the WCED at shopping malls and schools. Some schools have communicated to parents that they will be opening their labs for parents to apply. The pop-up stalls will assist parents directly to apply using our IT equipment, and paper-based applications will be made available if queues get too long, which will be captured online by our staff.

As of 6 April 2022, 96 304 unique learner applications have been captured via the system, and 10 716 through schools, districts offices and pop-up stalls.

HIV and Aids cases

13. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked the Minister of Health:

With respect to HIV and Aids cases in each district in the Western Cape since the 2017/18 financial year:

- (a) How many positive cases have there been in (i) 2017/18, (ii) 2018/19, (iii) 2019/20, (iv) 2020/21 and (v) 2021/22, (b) how many clients are making use of antiretroviral treatment (ART), (c) how many clients have confirmed viral suppression every year, (d) how many condoms have been collected at local clinics every year and (e) what (i) campaigns and (ii) initiatives are confirmed for this year in order to improve awareness in this regard?

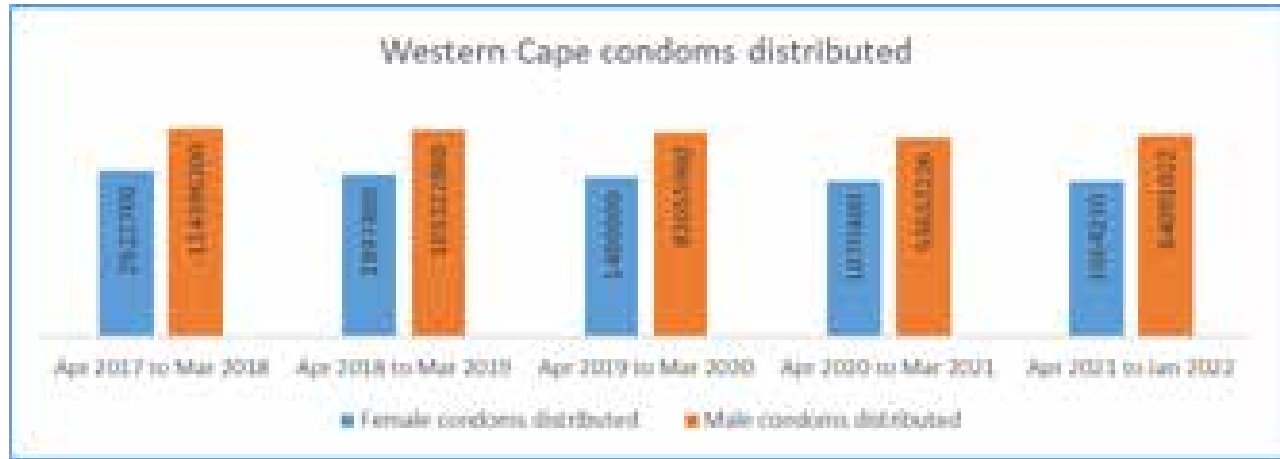
The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

13.

		Apr 2017 to Mar 2018	Apr 2018 to Mar 2019	Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	Apr 2021 to Jan 2022
a	HIV test positive	47397	49132	41833	25387	23301
b	Started on ART	45491	41354	39196	27032	24230
c	HIV viral loads	92.2	92.5	91.8	91.6	91.8

	March 2018	March 2019	March 2020	March 2021	January 2022
Remaining on ART	3571	3592	3184	2454	2454

d)



Period	Female condoms distributed	Male condoms distributed	Total Condoms Distributed
Apr 2017 to Mar 2018	2622700	114396200	117018900
Apr 2018 to Mar 2019	1897400	103322800	105220200
Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	1480900	82055960	83536860
Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	1070400	53632226	54702626
Apr 2021 to Jan 2022	1064230	64091022	65155252

e) (i) and (ii)

1. For STI's

- a. STI/Condom week commemorated in February with the MEC at UWC to promote services provided, linking to HIV prevention
- b. Substructures, districts and Health promoters held various activations to promote healthy sexual and reproductive health choices. This including promoting condom use
- c. Messaging will be amplified during Youth Month targeted at youth

2. For HIV/AIDS

- a. Linkages to STI/Condom month made and best practices gleaned
- b. Key message has been distributed to Health Promoters providing insight to purpose, planning, objectives and outcomes aligning to the National and provincial approach

- c. HIV testing and VMMC planned to be included in the Men's health initiative in November leading up to the 16 Days of activism for no violence where the department follows 365 days of no violence approach
- d. World Aids day is commemorated on 1 December and the proposed plan is to mobilize health promoters, community health workers and strengthen partnerships to maximize impact on testing, and treatment. Furthermore, to raise awareness on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Emphasizing the need to test, to vaccinate and to adhere to treatment following a collective approach with communities in response to HIV, TB and COVID-19 to further reduce stigma and discrimination
- e. Commemoration and activation of the 16 days of activism for no violence linking to the wellness and safety as key priorities to the provincial strategy plan and WC recovery plan

Tuberculosis cases

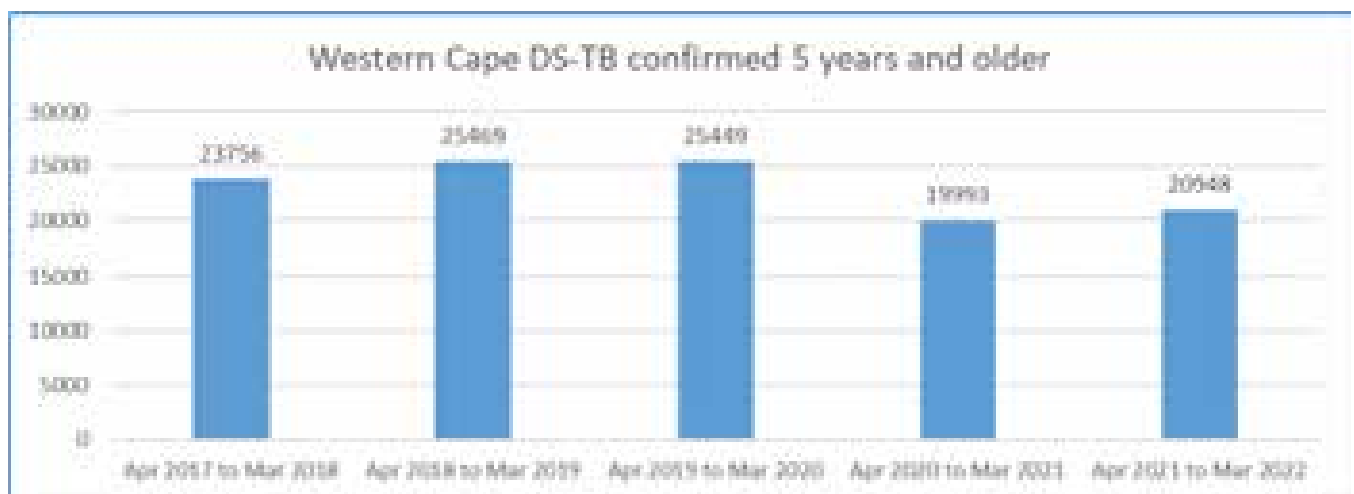
14. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked the Minister of Health:

With respect to tuberculosis (TB) cases in each district in the Western Cape since the 2017/18 financial year:

(a) How many positive cases have there been in (i) 2017/18, (ii) 2018/19, (iii) 2019/20, (iv) 2020/21 and (v) 2021/22, (b) how many clients have successfully recovered from TB, (c) how many TB-related deaths have there been in (i) 2017/18, (ii) 2018/19, (iii) 2019/20, (iv) 2020/21 and (v) 2021/22 and (d) what (i) campaigns and (ii) initiatives are confirmed for this year in order to improve awareness in this regard?

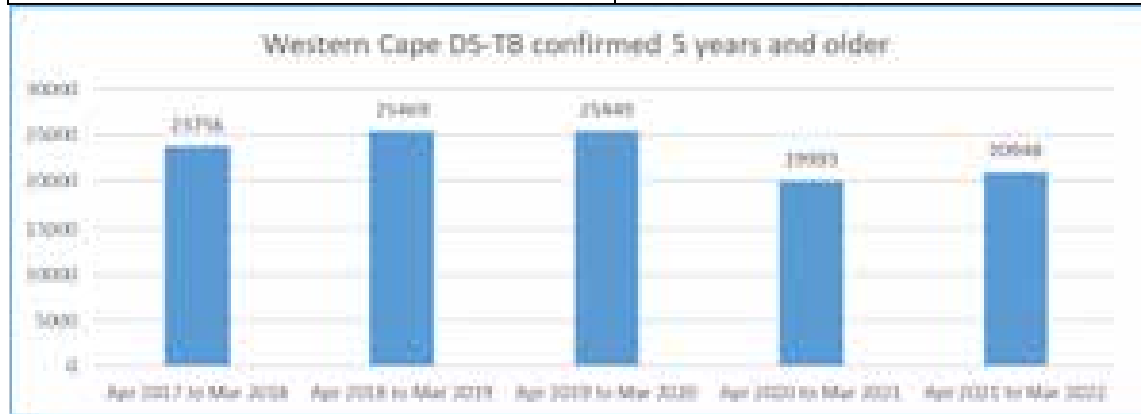
The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

14. (a) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) (v)



(b)

Western Cape DS-TB burden	
Period	DS-TB confirmed 5 years and older
Apr 2017 to Mar 2018	23756
Apr 2018 to Mar 2019	25469
Apr 2019 to Mar 2020	25449
Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	19993
Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	20948



Western Cape DS-TB burden	
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Apr 2017 to Mar 2018	23756
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Apr 2020 to Mar 2021	19993
Apr 2021 to Mar 2022	20948

(d)

Key provincial activities

Activity	Progress
1. Public-facing TB Dashboard	<p>The WC Public TB Dashboard had the following aims during development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform citizens about Tuberculosis on a timely basis and granular level across the WC 2. Build trust by being completely transparent 3. Ensure safety of patient data 4. Ensure public accountability of the status of the TB epidemic <p>The dashboard has been running successfully since the official launch in September 2021, having had achieved all four aims as set out above. The dashboard gets updated monthly and publishes are timestamped as new data becomes available.</p>

Activity	Progress
	<p>All data is available to a subdistrict level and can be filtered and sliced as required. Safety of patient data has been paramount throughout development and the team has ensured that no identifiable characteristics can be garnered from it, whilst still ensuring its relative utility. Lastly, the health department is a large organization, and the dashboard has allowed for both public and internal provincial health accountability.</p> <p>Many clinicians within our hospitals have engaged with and can follow the impact of TB within their working context. It is a slow process to turn the tide, to improve targeted testing and to tackle the inherent challenges that come with TB but taking the first step in making the issue visible and clear, we believe, is a step in the right direction.</p> <p>The dashboard can be accessed at: Provincial TB Dashboard Western Cape Government</p>
<p>2. Communication campaign including WTB Day activities 2022 (TB Dashboard, Symposium and Delft</p>	<p>A fully fledged public communication campaign to highlight the need for enhanced TB testing as for COVID-19 - propose a Test & Treat (TPT and active TB disease treatment) Campaign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include personal stories, including those of survivors • Focus on personal responsibility for prevention – being part of the solution • Promote positive messaging – collective responsibility, TB can be beaten, etc. <p>Key Message: Getting back on track and doing more</p>
<p>3. USAID Support</p>	<p>USAID has expressed its intent to fund support for TB-specific interventions through an investment of US\$ 550 000 over a two-year period.</p> <p>The Provincial TB Emergency Response Plan was used as the guiding document to establish priority interventions for the funding. A TB task team (comprising of provincial, district and municipal health representatives) was formed to determine recommendations for the funded support. A subsequent workshop was held in September to showcase best practices and models relating to contact tracing and TB screening and testing implemented by NPO partners across the Province. The workshop was attended by representatives of the listed organizations, USAID, WCG and City Health representatives</p> <p>The following recommendations were made for support through the TB G2G funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conduct a Province-wide workshop of the TB Emergency Response Plan with districts and partners. 2. To introduce innovations such as folder prompts for TB screening and TPT initiation. 3. To optimize the use of the public-facing TB dashboard and to demonstrate the functionalities of the dashboard so that it can be used as a tool for data visualization. 4. To develop guidance on the launch of the TB screening app and its functionalities. To develop guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - processes to follow when clients screen positive through the app - access to app screening data to ensure optimal follow up and linkage to care 5. To develop guidelines for health care workers conducting

Activity	Progress
	<p>community-based TB screening.</p> <p>6. To develop guidelines for healthcare workers on screening of household contacts and linking of clients to care for further interventions such as provision of TPT.</p> <p>Progress and Way Forward TB G2G funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provincial Support team for TB has been identified 2. Discussions underway on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Integrating TB within the late life course b. Milestones and activities for the TBG2G defined and awaiting final approval c. Workplan developed and awaiting approval
<p>3. Implementation of Urine LAM</p>	<p>Training for healthcare workers on the implementation of Urine LAM Testing has commenced. The training curriculum covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The impact of HIV on the clinical course of TB. o Challenges related to diagnosis of TB in people living with HIV (PLHIV). o LAM and LAM test. o WHO recommendations on LF-LAM. o Revised criteria on the use of LF-LAM in South Africa. o Requirements for the test and test procedure. o Results and interpretation. o Acting on the results. o Monitoring and evaluation. o Advantages and limitations of the test. o Roles and responsibilities. o Quality control and storage requirements. <p>The Circular H 191 of 2021 on Urine LAM testing went out at the end of November 2021 for implementation on 1 December 2021.</p>
<p>TB Preventative Therapy (TPT)</p>	<p>3HP is a shorter treatment regimen (3 months) and consists of combination of Rifapentine and INH as opposed to INH only which needs to be administered over a period of 12-month period which has had a poor completion rate. There is insufficient stock to implement in the whole country, so the Metro has been identified as the high burden district to implement the new regimen.</p> <p>The Implementation of 3HP has been tabled at Opexco for approval and was presented on 8th March. Managers requested an additional time to review the submission. A final decision will be provided by the end of March. This was communicated to the NDOH.</p>
<p>Targeted universal TB Testing for high-risk groups (PLHIV, TB contacts, people with previous TB – less than 2 years)</p>	<p>TBHC has indicated that GF will fund all GeneXpert tests in the Cape Metro once TUTT is implemented, even though TUTT implementation will be restricted to TBHC- supported sites. SPC will be meeting with NDOH on 7 April to clarify the details of the policy framework of the TUTT intervention, and the funding mechanism for GXP testing.</p>
<p>Digital CXR</p>	<p>DCXR has been piloted by TBHIV Care at 3 sites on the province (Metro). The districts still to decide on additional pilot sites for further rolled out. TBHC has recently introduced a mobile DCXR truck, which will target TB case finding in GIS-identified TB Hotspots.</p>
<p>Self- screening APP</p>	<p>The self-screening app has been incorporated into the TB Dashboard.</p>

Activity	Progress
Telehealth	As part of the response plan, the department is also planning on launching a TB telehealth initiative that will improve linkage to care of patients newly diagnosed with TB.
Joint Screening and testing for COVID and TB	Joint screening and testing has been incorporated into PACK which is implemented across the Western Cape
Enhanced Advocacy for psychosocial and nutritional support for people living with TB	<p><i>Psychosocial Support</i> TBHIV Care supports with adherence counselling, treatment readiness counselling, psychosocial and psychological support as well as socio economic support (referral for disability grants, ID documents, substance use interventions)</p> <p><i>Nutritional Support</i> Clients infected with TB is one of the identified nutritionally at-risk groups included on the Nutrition Therapeutic Programme for a minimum period of 6 months. These clients are identified using anthropometric assessments in the evaluation process and offered nutrition supplements to help improve treatment adherence and success, delay progression of the disease and to help improve their nutritional status. Clients requiring additional support are referred to a Dietitian for further nutritional management towards improved outcomes.</p>
World TB Day	<p>Global and National Theme for WTB Day 2022: This year the Global WTB Day Theme is: Invest to End TB. Save Lives. The National WTB Day Theme is: Invest in action to END TB now! Get Screened. End Sigma. Save lives.</p> <p>WTB Day events 2022: Several World Tuberculosis (TB) Day events are commemorated across the Western Cape by the Department of Health, its partners and civil society. At the provincial event, the Western Cape Minister of Health Dr Nomafrench Mbombo officially launched the first mobile Digital Chest X-ray van at Delft CHC which will be used to target high TB burden areas.</p>

“Help me buy a house”

15. Ms L M Maseko asked the Minister of Human Settlements:

With regard to the “Help me buy a house” subprogramme in the Finance-linked Individual Subsidy Programme (FLISP):

- (a) What are the criteria for those who would like apply for the programme,
- (b) can a copy of the business plan for the relevant programme be made available and
- (c) how much funding has been allocated to this programme in the 2022/23 financial year?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:

15. (a) Only applicants that meet ALL of the following criteria are eligible for this subsidy:
- The applicant is a South African Citizen (≥ 18 years).
 - The applicant is legally competent to contract and of a sound mind.
 - The applicant or spouse has not previously received a housing subsidy from any sphere, arm or entity of government.
 - The applicant or spouse has not previously owned a house.
 - The gross monthly income of the applicant's household must be within the range as may be determined and updated by the Minister of Human Settlements from time to time.
- (b)(c) There is no business plan for the programme and applicants are assisted on a first come first served basis. An amount of R130 million has been set aside for the new financial year which equates to approximately 1478 subsidies. Notwithstanding the funding reserved, my department has also entered into an agreement with the National Implementing Agent, namely National Housing Finance Corporation (NHFC) for additional funding. The additional amount availed during the 2021/2022 financial year equated to R70 million of which R46 million was spent for the period 01 October 2021 to 31 March 2021.

Negotiations to extend the agreement and amount to be availed for the 2022/2023 financial year is currently being negotiated.

Title Deeds

16. Ms L M Maseko asked the Minister of Human Settlements:

- (1) (a) Whether his Department has any plans and/or strategies that seek to hand over title deeds as beneficiaries receive their units; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what measures, if any, has the Department taken to reduce the title deeds backlog, including any assistance provided to the Title Deeds Office?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:

16. (1) (a) While measures are being put in place to gain control of the Title Deeds backlog, my department is also amending its internal business processes so that a new backlog is not created. The intention is to adjust the project funding application templates for the Project Feasibility, Project Initiation and Project Implementation Readiness Reports, where relevant, in the 2022/23 financial year.

This will ensure that Municipalities are obliged to put measures in place prior to project implementation, which specifically addresses the earlier prioritization and issuing of title deeds to intended beneficiaries as part of project development milestones.

- (2) My department has developed an action plan that addresses the following aspects as it relates to the existing title deeds backlog:
- a) Centralization of the title deed backlog project institutionally;
 - b) In-sourcing of additional capacity and expertise, through the Housing Development Agency, in order to expedite the eradication of the backlog;
 - c) Appointment of Professional Resource Teams for secondment to Municipalities for hands-on support, in order to assist with unlocking blockages, inter alia Conveyancing and Town Planning registrations;
 - d) The establishment a data management unit within the Directorate Land and Asset Management to ensure that up to date information is available on a data management system. This will include cleaning up existing data, recorded on various systems;
 - e) The engagement of the existing policy framework to facilitate the finalization of contested title deeds;

The Deeds Office was severely affected during COVID-19 lockdown levels but has in the past few months returned to normal operations. The Deeds Office is represented at the Title Deeds Provincial Steering Committee and provides an opportunity for Municipalities to raise concerns where they experience challenges at the Deeds Office.

Housing App

17. Ms L M Maseko asked the Minister of Human Settlements:

With regard to the use of the Western Cape Government's application ("app"):

- (a) Which municipalities are currently making use of the app, (b) what concerns and/or reasons have municipalities given, if any, for not currently making use of the app and (c) how many beneficiaries are on the Housing Demand Database in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS:

17. (a) All municipalities will receive notifications if any person within its area of jurisdiction registers a new application or request an update to their existing application via the "App".

The department is still ironing out some issues with the City of Cape Town regarding the usage of the “App” and their existing database and the Western Cape Housing Demand Database(WCHDDB).

- (b) The department has recently finalized the update of the interface between the “App” and the WCHDDB and will be embarking on a training and communication drive during the first quarter of 2022/2023 financial year.
- (c) The number of persons awaiting housing on the WCHDDB currently stands at 560 000 as at 28 February 2022.

Questions and replies as received from departments

QUESTIONS

For written reply:

Mobile classrooms

1. Mr M K Sayed asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) (a)(i) What is the number of mobile classrooms that have been procured and (ii) how much was spent in (aa) 2014, (bb) 2015, (cc) 2016, (dd) 2017, (ee) 2018, (ff) 2019, (gg) 2020, (hh) 2021 and (ii) 2022 to date and (b) what is the cost per mobile classroom;
- (2) (a) what are the details of all companies that her Department procured mobile classrooms from in the same period as in (1), (b) what is the number of mobile classrooms that her Department has bought and owns and (c) how many mobile classrooms were rented from private owners during this period?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

1. (1)

	(a)(i)	(a)(ii) R'000	(b)
2014-2017*	781	R 245 920	Cost varies depending on the scope and circumstances.
2018/19	238	R 95 200	
2019/20	170	R 76 500	
2020/21	73	R36 500	
2021/22	347	R173 500	

* Data not available per individual year.

- (2) (a) DTPW is the implementing agent and this detail can be obtained from them
– the WCED does not procure directly.
- (b) 1 609
- (c) None. However, some schools may have made private arrangements.

*SIU: corruption cases at Cederberg and Matzikama municipalities***2. Ms L J Botha asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

(1) What progress has been made by the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) with corruption cases at the (a) Cederberg and (b) Matzikama municipalities;

(2) whether his Department has received updated status reports or finalised reports from the SIU with regard to these municipalities; if so, what are the contents of these reports?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING:

2. (1) In both instances, these investigations were undertaken by the SIU and I have been advised by the latter that they have been concluded. The investigation report(s) have been issued with findings and recommendations to the respective mayors for further action.
- (2) My Department has received a verbal status update from the SIU but as of 1 April 2022 were not in possession of a copy of the SIU report(s). A copy of the report(s) has since been requested and upon receipt my Department will liaise with the Municipality and monitor the implementation of any recommendations. Given the above, I am not in a position to discuss the content of the reports until my Department has had the opportunity to assess the content and findings.

*Khayelitsha District hospital and the exponential population growth***3. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked the Minister of Health:**

With respect to the Khayelitsha District Hospital and the area as a whole:

(a) What has the exponential population growth in the area been over the past five financial years, (b) how has the population growth affected the Hospital's healthcare services and (c) what have been the interventions from her Department to address the challenges in this regard?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

3. (a) Population totals

Subdistrict	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Khayelitsha	428 598	433 509	438 170	442 685	447 112	451 633

- (b) Khayelitsha District Hospital mainly sees patients from Khayelitsha, Mfuleni and neighbouring areas. In 2016, a decision to alleviate pressure in Eerste River Hospital was made and this Hospital remains under severe pressure due the continued increase in patient intake. As part of this process some of the Mfuleni patients were moved from Eerste River Hospital to Khayelitsha District Hospital.

Khayelitsha District Hospital was originally designed as a 300 bed hospital but due to population growth, additional space had to be created to accommodate more patients. The hospital remains under severe pressure due the continued increase in patient intake, including mental health patients. The Covid-19 pandemic worsened socio-economic factors by impacting negatively on mental health. Our hospital is under a lot of pressure due to mental health services amongst other pressures such as communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence, injuries, women and children's health. There is a high demand of services with limited resources resulting in more pressure on health care services. Alcohol and substance abuse also contribute to an increase in the number of patients requiring mental health services. The mental health pressure is not unique to Khayelitsha Hospital and is a known challenge for all hospitals across the province and country.

- (c) As a health department we have done in depth analysis and evaluation of the challenges and efficiencies to be gained at KDH. The end result will be to look at the current expenditure in the area of agency staff expenditure and overtime payment and recommend improvements in those areas linked to employment of permanent staff to ease clinical pressure points at KDH. Currently the health system is experiencing mental health pressures at all levels and the department is putting plans in place to relieve pressures at district hospital level by strengthening specialised referral systems and community and PHC mental health services. This would include collaboration with other partners delivering mental health services including social development. All of these processes were communicated to the members of the committee when they visited the hospital. These improvement plans are ongoing.

Community healthcare workers

4. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked the Minister of Health:

- (a) How many community healthcare workers are there in the province, (b) what is their employment status and (c) on what sphere of government is their employment status dependent?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

4. (a) The department is currently funding 3 981 CHWs of with 2 563 are employed in the Metro and 1 418 in Rural through conditional grants.

- (b) They are employed year-to-year via the contracted NPOs.
- (c) All CHWs are employed via NPOs. The Department has an annual process where a service level agreement is signed with NPOs and held accountable according to the contract.

Schools: upgrades

5. Mr R D Mackenzie asked the Minister of Education:

- (a) What is the nature and scope of the upgrades or maintenance currently taking place at the (i) Lentegour High School, (ii) Cornflower Primary School and (iii) Caravelle Primary School, (b) what is the monetary value of these upgrades or maintenance, (c) when will the upgrades or maintenance be completed, (d) who has been contracted to complete the work being done and (e) what percentage of local labour is being used to complete the work?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

5.

	Lentegour High School	Cornflower Primary School	Caravelle Primary School
(a)	This school is included in MOD (Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and growth programme) Sub-Programme for the 2022/23 financial year, planned and implemented in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. The major components included in the scope of work are the provision of a combination cricket and rugby field, fencing, a clubhouse and parking.	This school is included in MOD (Mass participation; Opportunity and access; Development and growth programme) Sub-Programme for the 2022/23 financial year planned and implemented in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. The major components included the scope of work are provision of a combination sports hall, combination sporting code artificial turf field, fencing and parking.	This school is included in the planned Preventative Maintenance Sub-Programme in the 2022/23 financial year. The major components included in the scope of work is replacement of the roof, electrical work towards compliance, refurbishment of the ablutions and remedial work to structural defects.
(b)	The current estimated project value is R45 million.	The current estimated project value is R50 million.	The current cost is not yet established.

- (c)-(e) The DTPW is the assigned implementing agent from which details with respect to timelines, appointed contractors etc. should be obtained.

*Taxi industry-related murders***6. Mr R D Mackenzie asked the Acting Minister of Community Safety:**

Following the shooting of a 25-year-old taxi driver in Langa, Cape Town, in February this year:

Whether there have been any taxi industry-related murders since the beginning of March 2021; if so, (a) how many people have been arrested, (b) how many people have been charged and (c) how many people have been prosecuted?

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

The reply of the South African Police Service (SAPS):

6. (a) 14
(b) 14
(c) 14

*Gang violence: flare-up***7. Mr R D Mackenzie asked the Acting Minister of Community Safety:**

With regard to the recent flare-up in gang violence in Khayelitsha, Manenberg, Mitchells Plain and Lentegeur:

(a) What is the vacancy rate at each of these police stations, (b) what is the average case rate for detectives at each of these police stations and (c) what preventative measures does SAPS have in place to deal with gang violence flare-ups in these communities?

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

The reply of the South African Police Service (SAPS):

7. (a) Khayelitsha - 20%
Lentegeur - 9%
Manenberg - 10%
Mitchells Plain - 11%

The vacancies at these prioritised stations were recently reviewed and positively adjusted which influenced the vacancy rate due to the allocation of additional human resources. The vacancies will be filled by the SAPS internal processes.

- (b) Khayelitsha: - 106 case dockets on hand per average.
Manenberg: - 92 case dockets on hand per average.
Mitchells Plain - 100 case dockets on hand per average.
Lentegeur: - 113 case dockets on hand per average.

- (c) The Western Cape SAPS has an Anti-Gangsterism Strategy Implementation Plan in place which is executed by the Anti-Gang Unit. Crime Intelligence monitor daily gang activities.

A Gang Desk has been implemented for the community to report gang activities. A Provincial Extortion Task Team as well as the Provincial Task Team: Operation Restore has been established to be proactive in these communities to curb gang violence and gang activities.

PnP Market Stores Project

8. Ms N D Nkondlo asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

With regard to the PnP Market Stores Project in collaboration with his Department:

- (1) Whether his Department has exited the collaboration; if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the current status update of the project; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) (a)(i) how many store owners are still in operation under this project versus those that terminated their participation and (ii) what are the reasons for the termination, (b) how much was the funding from his Department to each market store participating in the project from its inception to date, (c) what are the (i) names of the stores, (ii) amounts of funding and (iii) purposes of the funds and (d)(i) when and (ii) to whom were the funds disbursed?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

8. (1) The collaboration between the Department and Pick n Pay on the Market Stores Project has concluded and no funds were transferred to the organisation during the 2021/2022 financial year, as Pick n Pay had placed the project on hold. However there is ongoing cooperation regarding existing Market Stores and the Department is in the process of conducting a public call for proposals with prospective retailers linked to the Township Retail Support programme.
- (2) The Market Store Project was placed on hold by Pick n Pay during the 2021/2022 financial year since they are in the process of developing a new model that is more efficient. No new store openings are planned for 2022 in the Western Cape.
- (3) (i) Eight stores were opened since the commencement of the collaboration between the Department and Pick n Pay. Six of these stores continue to trade in partnership with Pick n Pay. Two stores had their agreements terminated (see table below).
 - (ii) Table 1: Reason(s) for the termination of the two Market Stores

STORE	AREA	REASONS FOR TERMINATION
1. Nozinga's Market	Gugulethu	The performance of the store could not sustain the cash flow due to management challenges. The shortage of cash flow resulted in the store not being able to timeously settle invoices with Pick n Pay and other suppliers, which resulted in supply being stopped to the store. The owner went outside the Pick n Pay supply chain and could also not settle these invoices. A decision was made by the owner to close the store as it ran out of stock.
2. Luzukile Market	Delft	<p>The agreement between Pick n Pay and the Luzukile Market store has been terminated. The following reasons for the termination of the agreement was cited by Pick n Pay:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • non-submission of management accounts; • non- payment of suppliers; and • non-payment of current and previous statements. <p>Pick n Pay issued breach of contract letters after numerous calls, emails, messages, and virtual meetings with the store owners regarding the above-mentioned challenges which resulted in no improvements in the situation or adherences to the recommendations made by the Pick n Pay Market Store team.</p>

Table 2: Funding allocation to Market Stores

c.i) STORE NAME	i) AMOUNT INVESTED	ii) PURPOSE OF FUNDING	d. i) WHEN FUNDING WAS PAID	ii) TO WHOM FUNDING WAS DISBURSED
Nozinga's Market	R249 999,60	Air con, ventilation, and refrigeration.	Jan 2018	Funding was disbursed to the National Empowerment Fund (NEF). The NEF made payment of R249 999,60 to Optimal Air CC.
Ndwamba's Market	R362 957,83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - StoreWorks – supply of fruit and veg stands and crates - Recold (Pty) Ltd – refrigeration insulation - Pro Active – Supply and installation of condensing units - Alcor Technologies Security System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mar 2018 -Jan 2019 	<p>Funding was disbursed to the National Empowerment Fund (NEF). The NEF made payments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R71 609,32 to StoreWorks - R49 390,68 to Recold (Pty) Ltd - R162 127,43 to Pro Active - R79 830,40 to Alcor Technologies.
Something Nice Market	R499 341,26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ubuntu Contractors – building renovations - Faradays Electrical – rewiring - Staff payments to supplement costs - MacAdams for equipment - Freddy Hirsch for equipment - ERSBio for staff system - Computer upgrade - Additional staff uniforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sep 2018 -Oct 2018 -Mar 2019 	<p>Funding was disbursed to Something Nice Market. Something Nice Market made payments of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R189 964, 00 to Ubuntu Contractors - R155 247,00 to Faradays Electrical - R29 789,00 for staff payment - R34 710,35 to MacAdams - R26 642,05 to Freddy Hirsch

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - R22 747,86 to ERSbio - R19 886,00 for computer upgrade - R20 355,00 to Jonsson Workwear
Mbekweni Market	R500 000,00	Electricity upgrade	Jul 2019	Funding was disbursed to Pick n Pay. Pick n Pay made payment in the amount of R500 000, 00 to Drakenstein Municipality towards an electricity upgrade. The electricity upgrade in total amounted to R646 519, 69.
Nabe Market	R500 000,00	Building renovations	Feb 2020	Funding was disbursed to Pick n Pay. Pick n Pay made payment in the amount of R500 000, 00 to Koolcon Turn-Key Solutions.
Thembi's Market	R500 000,00	Building renovations	Feb 2020	Funding was disbursed to Pick n Pay. Pick n Pay made payment in the amount of R500 000, 00 to METERSq.
Luzukile Market	R500 000,00	Building renovations	Mar 2021	Funding was disbursed to Pick n Pay. Pick n Pay made payment in the amount of R500 000, 00 to Koolcon Turn-Key Solutions.
Wabo's Market	R500 000,00	Building renovations	Mar 2021	Funding was disbursed to Pick n Pay. Pick n Pay made payment in the amount of R500 000, 00 to METERSq.
	R3 612 298,69			

Western Cape Growth Strategy

9. Ms N D Nkondlo asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

With reference to his reply to question 15 of 9 July 2021:

- (1) Whether a copy of the Western Cape Growth Strategy can be made available;
- (2) whether the review referred to in the reply has been completed; if not, why not; if so, (i) what are the relevant details and (ii) can a copy of the "Township Economic Growth Strategy" and report of the review be made available?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

9. (1) The Department is in the first phase of developing the Western Cape Economic Growth Strategy. It is anticipated that the Economic Growth Strategy will be completed in the 2022/23 financial year.

- (2) (i) The review is in progress since we have been working on a Township Economic Growth Strategy which will be reviewed as part of a larger Western Cape Economic Growth Strategy.
- (ii) A copy of the Township Economic Growth Strategy and report cannot be made available at this stage.

Municipalities: red tape reduction units

10. Ms N D Nkondlo asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

With respect to Premier Winde's commitment in 2019 SOPA that: "We will also help to establish red tape reduction units in all of our municipalities and provide them with the support they need to succeed":

- (1) Which municipalities have established these red tape reduction units (RTRUs) and (b) for each, (i) on what date was it established, (ii) who is the manager or head of the unit, (iii) what is the budget allocated by provincial government and (iv) from which programme or cost item is the funding provided;
- (2) (a) what is the reporting format of these RTRUs (i) between units, (ii) to the municipalities where they operate from and (iii) to the Province;
- (3) whether a copy of the service level agreement (SLA) or any contractual document that sets out this relationship can be made available;
- (4) what are the (a) data of the cases each of these RTRUs have dealt with since their establishment, (b)(i) details and (ii) nature of these case, (c) response times to resolve these case, if they have been resolved, (d) reasons for cases not having been resolved and (e) contact details of the complainants in reference to the service received;
- (5) whether the RTRUs dealt with any cases from the informal sector; if so, (a) what are the details of such cases per municipality and (b) where the RTRUs exist, how such cases were resolved?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:

10. (1)-(4)

In November 2019, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism led by the Municipal Economic Support Unit as part of the Joint District Approach engaged municipalities on a one-on-one basis, specifically to discuss ease of doing business (EoDB) and the need for and possibilities of establishing red tape reduction units within municipalities.

The outcome of the discussions was that most municipalities lack the required resources (human and financial) and prefer to focus on basic service delivery and other economic support services to business (both formal and informal). The consensus was that municipalities preferred an EoDB municipal support programme driven by the department.

As such, in 2021, the Department allocated R1m to the first round of the Municipal Ease of Doing Business Fund focusing on improving services relating to the construction and planning industry within Municipalities. Such interventions include:

- 1) Online Heritage Resource Inventory and Heritage Digital Tool;
- 2) Online Integrated Property Development Application Tool;
- 3) Expansion of a Building Control Module and Portal;
- 4) Electronic Building Control and Town Planning Geographical Information System.

Going forward, the Ease of Doing Business Programme has once more dedicated support and resources to support municipalities. During March 2022, the Department launched the R10m Municipal Ease of Doing Business Fund. In support of the recommendation as per the engagements with municipalities, funding will be allocated to interventions aimed at reducing the regulatory burden, improving business processes, and ensuring effective communication to businesses with the overall impact of improving the environment in which businesses operate.

Earlier this year the George Municipality requested direct support from the Ease of Doing Business Programme to identify interventions, resource requirements and processes that will help institutionalise an Ease of Doing Business approach with the objective of reducing red tape within the municipality. The unit is engaging ongoingly with the Municipality to provide the best type of support based on their needs. The George Municipality is being considered as a pilot site for a regulatory reform project.

It must be noted that making it easier to do business in the non-metro municipal areas is a priority of the unit and besides the R10 million allocated for this purpose we have already commenced engagements with 5 municipalities in order to work collaboratively in improving municipal institutional capacity in terms of regulatory reform and more efficient business facing services e.g., permitting. This forms part of our collaborative work with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

- (5) The Ease of Doing Business Programme, within the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, has a long standing and solid relationship with the South African Informal Traders Association (SAITA) which brings the requests and complaints of the informal sector to the attention of the programme, on a regular basis.. The unit also assisted SAITA directly with enquiries related to red tape challenges as part of the Business Support Helpline Service.

The Business Support Helpline Service logs cases by citizens seeking assistance with red tape related challenges.

In 2021 during the COVID 19 pandemic, SAITA reached out to the Business Support Helpline Service to seek clarity on the latest directive from the Presidency regarding the suspension of Trading Permits in Municipalities. The Business Support Helpline Service actioned the request within the Red Tape Reduction Unit where a legal opinion from the Western Cape Government's Legal Services was provided to SAITA. This direct assistance is one of the ways that the Programme has a link to the informal economy as part of reducing red tape challenges.

As per our records on the Case Management System, there have been 23 enquiries between 2017 and 2021 from the informal sector seeking assistance with individual red tape related challenges. All of these cases and enquiries have been resolved and closed. The nature of the cases were related to COVID-19 and seeking information regarding street trading permits, advice regarding the latest directives from the Presidency and business support.

The EoDB Programme continues to support all sectors of the economy as part of its efforts to remove red tape inhibitors in the form of ineffective regulation, business process improvements as well as communication.

Government Motor Transport

11. Ms N G Bakubaku-Vos asked the Minister of Social Development:

With regard to the issuing of Government Motor Transport (GMT) cars to staff during the fifth administration:

(a) How many of these vehicles were issued to staff members with a rank lower than assistant director and (b) for what reasons were vehicles issued to them?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:

11. (a) The department has a fleet of just over 400 vehicles across its Head Office, 6 regions and Care Facilities, which includes vehicles permanently allocated and vehicles "hired" from GMT on an ad-hoc basis to supplement our fleet. The majority (over 80%) of these vehicles is used daily by staff on levels lower than that of assistant director, including social workers, community development workers and monitoring and evaluation officials.
- (b) Vehicles are used by staff from a range of units in the department, the majority of which include:

- local office social workers for conducting home visits, attending courts and transporting children entering or already in the alternative care system
- facility personnel for transport of children resident in secure care centres to and from court, medical facilities, specialised services etc.
- program staff who monitor funded NGOs and/or perform registrations of NGOs rendering substance abuse treatment, care for people with disabilities, care for older persons, community, and partnership development.

Government Motor Transport

12. Ms N G Bakubaku-Vos asked the Acting Minister of Community Safety:

With regard to issuing of Government Motor Transport (GMT) cars to staff during the sixth administration:

(a) How many of these vehicles were issued to staff members with a rank lower than assistant director and (b) for what reasons were vehicles issued to them?

The ACTING MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY:

12. (a) There were 137 booked out occurrences made to Assistant Directors and lower, against the 182 vehicles in use within the Department during this period.
- (b) Ministry
- Staff support with ministerial duties
 - Outreach programmes

Finance

- Overtime work
- Meetings
- Audit engagements

Registry

- Delivery and collection of documents, etc

Risk Management

- Transportation of staff/ security officials
- Site visits within Western Cape
- Provide Security Services during Covid
- Assisting of DSD projects in Paarl
- Security stakeholder meetings

Monitoring and Evaluation of Police Stations and Watching Briefs

- M&E of SAPS stations in Western Cape
- Watching Briefs at Court visits

Alcohol Harms Reduction

- Meetings and joint projects with Liquor Authority meetings
- Community Police Relations
- Monitoring and Evaluation of NHW projects
- AGM engagements
- Monthly CPF stakeholder meetings within Western Cape

Policy and Research

- Policing Needs and Priorities (PNPs): Data collection
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) interventions
- Public engagements

Safety Promotions and Partnerships

- Peace Officer Training
- Meetings
- Covid-19 youth deployment plans
- Chrysalis graduates deployment
- Delivery of Safety Kiosks within Western Cape

Neighbourhood Watch

- Delivery of equipment within Western Cape to Neighbourhood Watch structures
- Drop neighbourhood watch certificates
- Neighbourhood Watch training

Strategic Services and Communications

- Events logistics (set up of banners and pamphlets etc) and photography

Ombudsman

- Investigations
- Attend meetings
- Outreaches

INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER**(as put to relevant Minister)****Bakubaku-Vos, N G –**

Social Development..... 727, 2345

Baartman, D M –

Finance and Economic Opportunities 4759

Bosman, G –

Minister of Social Development 4182

Christians, F C –

Agriculture 446

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Transport and Public Works 688, 761, 4186

Dugmore, C M –

Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning 4898

Premier 630, 1777

Herron, B D –

Community Safety 1699, 4764

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Premier 2601, 3823

Kaiser-Philander, W F –

Health 263, 1840, 3829

Kama, M –

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Lili, A –

Human Settlements 4875

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Education..... 771, 985, 1719

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Human Settlements 2335

Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning 2426

Marais, P J –

Community Safety 451

Maseko, L M –

Human Settlements 538, 2534

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Mvimbi, L L –

Finance and Economic Opportunities 978, 4039

Nkondlo, N D –

Finance and Economic Opportunities 542, 1782, 3995

Sayed, M K –

Education 821, 2421, 2831, 3937, 4245

Smith, D –

Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning 828, 2066

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Van der Westhuizen, A P –

Local Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning 638

Transport and Public Works 688, 689

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Health 4755

Xego, M –

Community Safety 732, 765, 2271

Education 1834

Finance and Economic Opportunities 1724, 1787

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(Oral and Written: as put to relevant Minister under name of Member)

Allen, R I –

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... 2663, 2664, 2858, 2860, 3000, 3157, 3159, 3160, 3252, 3384, 3396, 3454, 3456

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Social Development 709

America, D –

Finance and Economic Opportunities 1697

Human Settlements 686, 687, 739

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August, S N –

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Baartman, D M –

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Bans, A P –

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Bosman, G –

Acting Minister of Community Safety.....	5648, 5651
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Botha, L J –

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Brinkhuis, G

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Christians, F C –

Community Safety.....	804, 2070, 2449, 2853, 4190
Education	473, 514, 587, 675, 676, 783, 790, 804, 861, 1011, 2124, 2449
.....	2578, 2856, 3929, 3976, 4060, 4203, 4954
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De Jager, I –

Education	788
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Dugmore, C M –

Agriculture	2192
Education	473, 3399
Human Settlements.....	2297

Local Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	3415
.....	3666, 3721, 3729
Premier	458, 463, 517, 928, 1128, 1331, 1333, 1450, 1695, 1696, 1745
.....	2168, 2277, 2350, 2354, 2431, 2527, 2690, 2722, 2843, 2941, 3014, 3032
.....	3079, 3213, 3295, 3712, 3834, 4000, 4081, 4151, 4153, 4336, 4696, 4717
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Social Development.....	3500
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Herron, B N –

Acting Minister of Community Safety	5640, 5659
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Cultural Affairs and Sport.....	2640, 3461
Education.....	1039, 1041, 1095, 2389, 3025, 3267, 3280, 3447, 3499, 3708
.....	3752, 3860, 3892, 4148, 4150, 4810, 5289, 5429
Finance and Economic Opportunities	1027, 1323, 1424, 2202, 2857, 3054
.....	3166, 3250, 3284, 3524, 4076, 4544, 4557, 4558, 4559, 4837
Health	1072, 1469, 1866, 1867, 1868, 2013, 2387, 3365, 3896, 4219, 4656
Human Settlements	466, 1046, 2490, 2658, 2823, 2909, 3050, 3069, 3127
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Local Government Environmental Affairs and Development Planning	269, 586, 817
.....	928, 1029, 1329, 1713, 2099, 2101, 2146, 2195, 2218, 2469, 2485, 2589
.....	2641, 2708, 2710, 2716, 2827, 2992, 2998, 2999, 3025, 3051, 3071, 3123
.....	3154, 3239, 3242, 3362, 3418, 3662, 3895, 3978, 3983, 4075, 4548, 4630
.....	4677, 4806, 4838, 5490
Premier	113, 1773, 2812, 3150, 3525, 3563, 3662, 3793, 3796, 3842, 4218
.....	5635, 5638, 5540, 5655
Social Development.....	115, 1066, 2144, 2412, 3285, 3500, 3529, 4149, 4216
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Transport and Public Works	392, 726, 839, 922, 1065, 1296, 2144, 2517, 2912
.....	3053, 3211, 3256, 3366, 3799, 3864, 4629, 5327, 5328, 5658

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