
FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2013

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

The House met at 11:30.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS – see p

ANNOUNCEMENT

The SPEAKER: Order! I have to announce that due to the resignation of Mr P C McKenzie a vacancy occurred in the representation of the ANC in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. This vacancy has since been filled by the nomination of Ms D Gopie with effect from 1 December 2012. Ms Gopie was sworn in in my office on 6 December 2012.
[Applause.]

ANNOUNCEMENT

The SPEAKER: Order! I have to announce that in terms of Rule 14 of the Standing Rules, today, 22 February 2013, at 11:30 has been determined as the date and time for the Premier's State of the Province Address.

I now afford the hon Premier the opportunity to address the House on this occasion.

PREMIER'S STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS

The PREMIER: Mr Speaker, Mr Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Provincial Cabinet, members of the Diplomatic Corps, hon leaders of political parties, hon members of the National Assembly, hon Members of the Provincial Legislature, the Director-General of the Western Cape, the Mayor of the City of Cape Town, Heads of Provincial Departments, leaders of local government, religious leaders, community leaders, colleagues and friends, and, of course, most importantly, citizens of the Western Cape, welcome to everyone here today. Namkelekile nonke apha namhlanje. 'n Hartlike warm welkom aan almal hier vandag.

Mr Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to report back on the progress we are making towards our goal of ensuring that every citizen in this province has real opportunities to use their freedom to live a life they value. Many challenges remain, but as long as we progress every day, as far and as fast as possible, we will achieve our objectives.

I would like to welcome two special guests in the House today: Dr Cleve Robertson, Director of Emergency Medical Services (EMS); and Mr Phumzile Papu, the Provincial Ambulance Chief who manage 1 522 emergency medical staff across the province. Today we pay tribute to every member of the EMS team. Every day you save people's lives by freeing them from the mangled wrecks of motor vehicles, or lifting them off one of our mountains, or simply getting them to a hospital in time. This year, the extraordinary skills of our divers, Mr Fabian Higgins and Mr Elvin Stoffels, saved the lives of people trapped in freezing water underneath the overturned *Miroshga*. Working against time, in terrible weather conditions, and in circumstances where no conventional methods could be used, your team managed to get most passengers out alive.

For our EMS colleagues, heroism is a daily routine. That is why I speak for everyone in this House when I say we are greatly disturbed by the increasing number of attacks and muggings of EMS members on duty. Something is seriously wrong when the people who give of themselves so selflessly to save the lives of others are targeted by criminals while they are doing so. Every citizen in this province has a duty to ensure the safety of EMS members so that this extraordinary service can continue across our province.

Mr Speaker, all of us in the House today share a deep sense of horror at the series of brutal rapes and murders in recent weeks, symbolised by a crime so depraved that there are no appropriate words to describe it. As we piece together the tragic story of Anene Booysen's short life, and the background of her alleged killers, we see the all-too-familiar strands of a web in which so many young people's lives are trapped: absent parents, dysfunctional

families, drug and alcohol abuse, school drop-outs. Most of these elements are present in all these tragic cases. Yes, the State has a crucial role to play in combating these social ills, in protecting our young people and given them opportunities to improve their lives. But it is impossible to resolve any one of them without everyone playing a role: individuals through the choices they make, parents through the responsibility they take and the guidance they give, whole communities through the norms and culture they establish, institutions like churches and schools in the leadership they provide, as well as the services offered by the State. That is why we speak of a “whole-of-society” approach. It is the only way in which we can tackle our many challenges meaningfully.

At a time like this, it is important to remember that for every young person who succumbs to their dreadful circumstances, there are many others who through perseverance, discipline and hard work, manage to overcome them. That is why it is a particular pleasure to welcome three young entrepreneurs in the House today who symbolise why we should all be optimistic about South Africa’s future – Mr Wongama Baleni, Mr Vuyile Msaku and Mr Vusumzi Mamile. I’d like to know where they are. There they are in the orange shirts up there. Welcome! Namkelekile apha namhlanje. They are role models. They have walked the talk, and taken the pathway out of poverty – a pathway we want to create for all our young people.

This is why 76% of our annual budget is directed towards opening opportunities for people in poor communities through education, health services, housing and social development programmes

The result of our commitment was reflected in the 2011 census, which showed the Western Cape leading the way in basic service delivery. In the province 99,1 % of households have access to piped water; 93,4% have access to electricity; and 96,9% have toilet facilities.

We are, of course, aiming for 100%, but this will take time to achieve, given the rate of immigration to this province. The census revealed that the province's population grew by almost 30% between 2001 and 2011. During this period our population increased by 1,3 million people. Yet, Mr Speaker, not only did we keep up with levels of basic service delivery, we significantly exceeded the delivery levels of 2001. That is impressive by any standards, and I wish to commend the dedicated professionals under successive administrations who made this possible.

Mr Speaker, the past year was notable for another important development: the tabling of the National Development Plan (NDP) and its Vision 2030 in the National Parliament on 15 August 2012. It is a well-articulated vision of our better together philosophy. Never before has South Africa had a national plan to which all major parties subscribe. This is a milestone for our country, Mr Speaker. We agree that to tackle our many problems and the legacy of the past, we need good leadership at every level of society, a capable state and an active citizenry.

I have said it before and I say it again, in the Western Cape we are prepared to play our part in making the National Development Plan work because we want South Africa to work. This Cabinet agrees with Minister Trevor Manuel that the time for discussing the plan is now over and the time for implementation has begun.

I am delighted to say that we have been chosen by the National Government to pilot three crucial initiatives under the NDP: The reduction of red tape; the creation of an economic development partnership to facilitate growth and jobs and an after-school programme to keep young people involved in productive activities after school hours.

We have added a fourth component: We will expand our version of the Youth Wage Subsidy to give many more young people a foothold on the ladder of our economy so that they can build their careers and move out of poverty.

All these initiatives, Mr Speaker, are rooted in the NDP's understanding that a government is not a job-creation agency, least of all for dispensing political patronage. When it comes to the crucial task, our most crucial task of job creation, the state must establish an enabling environment that attracts investors who start businesses that create jobs. Part of that enabling environment is policy certainty, good infrastructure and an educated and skilled population.

That is what attracts entrepreneurs and that is where people like Wongama, Vuyile and Vusumzi, who I welcomed earlier on, come in. Just as the ghastly murder of Anene Booysens and many other young women reflect the confluence of so many strands of social malfunction, the story of these three entrepreneurs represents the precise opposite.

They opened a coffee shop last July, called the Department of Coffee – I think we must have a Department of Coffee in this Cabinet, don't you think - in a newly developed precinct in Harare, Khayelitsha. The City and the province, with additional funding from the German

Development Bank, established the right environment, working through the Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading Programme, implemented by outstanding professionals, with the involvement of the local community.

An innovative nonprofit organisation, called Connect Community Development, linked these aspirant young entrepreneurs with a private investment vehicle that goes under the delightfully ironic name of the Ministry of Service Delivery which provided start-up funding as well as training and support. As a result, three young vision-led entrepreneurs are in business and on the road to escaping poverty and the legacy of our past.

The coffee shop has flourished, making daily deliveries to the nearby Khayelitsha Magistrates' Court, hospital and shopping mall. This shows you how agglomeration economies and investment by the state in hospitals, courts and other infrastructure creates an economic base for young entrepreneurs to flourish. They have also hosted two open days where other traders in the area had the opportunity to sell their products to customers who arrived in droves from all over Cape Town.

This is the better together philosophy in action. We must make it possible for this example to be replicated many times over, Mr Speaker. That is why our Red Tape Reduction Unit is helping to create an enabling environment for new businesses. Of the 921 administrative bottlenecks reported to our red tape unit since August 2011, 89,3% have been successfully cleared. I don't know what happens to the other 10,7 %, Minister Winde, but we'll be working on them. Are we?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Yes, we are.

The PREMIER: Good. The red tape unit must get rid of red tape to ease investment, business creation and jobs in the Western Cape.

To speed things up further, we are working with municipalities such as the Cape Winelands district to determine which regulations and by-laws are hindering economic development. We are also developing a best-practice process map to streamline the approval of building plans in municipalities across the province; and we have substantially reduced the backlog of planning applications in order to get the right balance between protecting our precious environment and encouraging investment and development that creates jobs.

However, we recognise that much more needs to be done before we can say that Western Cape ranks highly when it comes to the ease of doing business. We have established a joint task team to introduce regulatory impact assessments (RIAs). So if we find that certain regulations are deterring investment and economic growth, we will look at ways to remove or amend them, Mr Speaker.

Our Minister of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, who himself has run a range of small businesses, knows exactly what needs to be done to make it easier for new entrants into this challenging space. That is why he established the Partnership Network that offers a full range of support services to new entrepreneurs. The partnership has brought together

three small business support providers from the Department of Trade and Industries to ease access to training, departmental programmes and incentives.

These providers are the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda); the Business Place that operates in Philippi, the Cape Town CBD and Khayelitsha; and the West Coast Business Development Centre.

We have also provided start-up funding to rural and urban SMMEs through our newly established Enterprise Development Fund. During the pilot phase R1,7 million was disbursed to help finance new businesses. Mr Solani Lidzhade is one of the beneficiaries of this programme. He started an IT company in Bellville called Mukoni Software, which offers software development consultancy services to its clients. His business, I'm delighted to say, won the SAB KickStart Company of the Year award in 2011.

Behind every successful business is an innovator with the self-belief to take the necessary risks to start an enterprise, and the discipline to sustain and grow it. But even the best talent needs the skills and capital to use their opportunity.

This is why we have invested R442 million in skills development programmes, and provided more than 5 500 bursaries during the 2012-13 financial year.

The highly successful Masakh'iSizwe programme has provided 220 bursaries in the engineering and built environment sector in partnership with 14 companies which supported

the programme with funding and job placement opportunities. We intend to extend this bursary scheme to the water sector, where the need for engineering, chemistry and technical skills is enormous, particularly in our municipalities.

The new Premier's Advancement of Youth (PAY) project also kicked off last year. This is, effectively, an apprenticeship programme in the State and has so far given 750 young people on-the-job training through working in a government department for a year. Another 750 interns will be starting the programme in April. Many of those who were on the course last year were offered permanent jobs after completing their internships. They used their opportunities to kick start their careers, which is what this programme is all about.

Thembakazi Ngada is one of them, and I welcome her here today. Thembakazi, uphi? There is Thembakazi. Wamkelekile, sisi. Thembakazi is blind and lives in Khayelitsha. Her sister is autistic and needs the constant care of her mother, leaving her father as the family's sole breadwinner. For her internship, Thembakazi was placed at the Athlone School for the Blind, where she is assisting Grade 3 learners to learn to read in Braille.

The PAY project has provided Thembakazi with practical work experience in the field of teaching learners with special needs, which will assist her to develop her career in this crucial field. Thembakazi, I remember how you welcomed me most warmly at the start of the PAY project and I remember seeing your father in the front row feeling so immensely proud of you. I hear from the school what an extraordinary job you are doing in adding value and teaching the young pupils how to read. Thank you very much for using your opportunity in

the Works and Skills Programme to the full. You are an inspiration to everyone else on the programme.

We have also continued to expand this programme, which is our version of the Youth Wage Subsidy, and which has been running since August 2009.

The Work and Skills Programme provides learning and work placement opportunities to unemployed youth between the ages of 18 and 35 in a range of sectors. A total of 2 810 job opportunities have been provided so far, with 60% of participants having been offered permanent jobs once they completed the programme. Here again, we see young people recognising their opportunities and using them to change their lives.

This programme is proof of what can be achieved when businesses are incentivised to employ young people. I am very pleased to announce today that the Development Bank of South Africa has granted R64 million from its Jobs Fund to build this programme.

This will support the creation of 1 000 new work opportunities for young people each year over the next three years. That is 3 000 in all. Now it is up to each of the young people who get this opportunity to use it, and make an enormous effort to build a career and advance in life. That is freedom you must use.

Mr Speaker, last year I announced a game-changing infrastructure agenda aimed at attracting investment and creating jobs.

We are on track with the roll-out of our broadband project.

Seventy per cent of provincial government buildings, rural libraries and schools will be connected by the end of 2014 as we lay the foundation for every citizen in every town and village to have access to affordable high-speed broadband.

The feasibility and design study for the Wireless Mesh project in Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Saldanha Bay will also be finalised by the end of next month. Once we have implemented this Wireless Mesh project, by the end of 2014, these areas will, in effect, become wireless Internet hotspots. That means that people living and working there will have access to the Internet without having to be connected to a modem or a digital subscriber line. Thousands of people will then experience, for the first time, what it means to live in a connected, open, opportunity society for all.

Another catalytic project is the Saldanha Industrial Development Zone (IDZ), which will be designated by the national Department of Trade and Industry in the next few months, enabling work on the establishment of the facility to begin. I say, at last!

A key project in the IDZ is the development of an oil and gas servicing hub. Of the scores of oil rigs that pass the West Coast of Africa, just six docked in Saldanha and Cape Town last year for maintenance and servicing. This is an enormous opportunity lost.

It is estimated that an eight-week stay by an oil rig in a port is worth R200 million and 2 000 job opportunities. The IDZ will significantly increase the capacity of the Saldanha Bay Port to receive many more rigs that create thousands of new jobs.

The Western Cape Government has also introduced a number of initiatives to support the training of artisans who will be needed once the establishment of the Saldanha IDZ has been completed. We want the skills to be there so that investment can happen. For example, we are working in collaboration with the National Artisan Moderation Body on a pilot project, which will recognise the prior learning of many workers who perform the work of artisans without formal qualifications. We have also supported more than 500 people in artisan development programmes during the past year.

Mr Speaker, turning the Western Cape into SA's Green Economy Hub is another priority. We congratulate the national government for achieving an important milestone in the roll-out of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme, by achieving financial closure for the first round of projects, with round two expected to be concluded shortly.

Investment in the Western Cape for these first two rounds is estimated at R7,5 billion. Our government is committed to doing everything it can to ensure that wind farms are developed without unnecessary logistical and regulatory hitches. So I imagine the red tape unit will be very busy, Minister Winde. We are therefore appealing to developers to engage with us, through this unit, on any problems they encounter so that we can ensure the efficient roll-out of these farms across the province.

Our province is also the home to South Africa's solar manufacturers, and we have welcomed new investment to support the renewable energy industry, including the recent establishment of plants by AEG and Enertronica for the manufacture of inverters.

Mr Speaker, we have prioritised the Green Economy in our budget framework and we are finalising our Green Economy Strategic Framework for the next few years.

The Business Process Outsourcing sector is also particularly important because of its high growth potential and the employment opportunities it offers young people.

The Western Cape is now the BPO centre of South Africa, and we are thrilled that we were voted the UK Destination of the Year for BPO outsourcing.

Mr Speaker, growth in this sector has been nothing short of spectacular. It contributed R8,6 billion to the provincial GDP, a growth of 52% between the 2011-12 and 2012-13 financial years. That is spectacular growth by any standard. No wonder we were the outsourcing Destination of the Year. The sector has also provided 38 000 jobs, of which 8 640 were created by international companies investing here. A further 10 000 new off-shore jobs are expected over the next three years.

As Cape Town prepares for World Design Capital 2014, it is also important to grasp this opportunity to stimulate growth in the design sector, which has the potential to provide a major source of employment for young, dynamic and creative people, of which there is a

large supply in the Western Cape. We want to replicate the model of Silicon Cape, that amazing network of young IT boffins, who are turning Cape Town into the Silicon Valley of Africa, and attracting the interest and investment of Angel Investors worldwide.

A great example of our whole-of-society approach is the Economic Development Partnership (EDP), chaired by Barbara Hogan. The board of the EDP was appointed last year and consists of a diverse group of individuals from a range of different fields.

The partnership spearheaded a new economic vision for the whole province called One Cape 2040, which the Provincial Cabinet has supported. The EDP is now designing a Western Cape Performance Index to benchmark us internationally and track our performance against this vision.

Mr Speaker, a key sector in our provincial economy is agriculture.

While the Western Cape economy as a whole accounted for 14,2% of the national economy in 2010, our agricultural sector accounted for 23,2%, a much higher percentage. Eighty per cent of South Africa's black farmers in the deciduous fruit industry are in the Western Cape. Our land reform model is the only one that has succeeded anywhere in South Africa. [Interjections.] That is the only one that has succeeded anywhere in South Africa. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: If you wanted to ask around, ask the team who works on the National Development Plan. Indeed, Mr Speaker, ours is the model upon which the National Development Plan's proposals are based. Maybe the hon members on the other side of the House have not yet read the National Development Plan. [Interjections.]

Mr Speaker, farming is one of the few remaining sectors in our economy able to absorb unskilled labour. Our farmers have traditionally paid above the minimum wage set by the national Minister of Labour. For example, in De Doorns before the recent strike, the average cost-to-company remuneration for seasonal workers was R100 per worker per day. That is one of the reasons that so many ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: Mr Speaker, that is one of the reasons that so many seasonal workers have traditionally sought work in the Western Cape from countries such as Zimbabwe and Lesotho, and other provinces, particularly the Eastern Cape. We welcome the national Department of Home Affairs' recently initiated survey into the migration of farm labour, which will reveal many of the underlying challenges that gave rise to the tragic conflicts that unfolded in December and January.

There is a particularly tragic irony in the fact that farm workers leave the most fertile agricultural regions in our subcontinent, from our Eastern Seaboard to our northern neighbours, to seek work on the stony mountain slopes of De Doorns. As the National

Development Plan notes, the key target of land reform must be to address the legacy that has left 30% of South Africa's most fertile land unproductive, under tribal tenure. [Interjections.] The number of commercial farmers in South Africa has decreased from 120 000 in 1994 to 37 000 today. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: It is the 100-year anniversary of the Land Act, and what we need to do is deal with its legacy and deal with the challenge that 30% of South Africa's most fertile land produces hardly any food and zero jobs. That is the major challenge of land reform, Mr Speaker. [Interjections.] This is 20 years after democracy. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order, hon Magaxa!

The PREMIER: Those farms that remain viable without the subsidies accorded to their international competitors are a precious resource and we must sustain them for food security. Farming is also one of the last remaining sectors able to absorb unskilled labour, a feature that is at risk of changing with increasing mechanisation.

Mr Speaker, we are anticipating significant job losses in the agricultural sector, which will be a major setback for this province. [Interjections.] That is why 44% of participants in our Work and Skills Programme are drawn from rural areas, and that is why we are doing so

much to promote South African wine and fruit in new markets such as China and Africa.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Magaxa, please stop the running commentary in the House. There will be a chance for members to reply. Please use that opportunity. Proceed, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We have also sourced R265 million from other government departments for ongoing rural development projects in seven areas such as Murraysburg, Villiersdorp, Matzikama, Witzenberg, Dysselsdorp and Bitou. This investment has created 1 636 job opportunities and 2 905 skills training opportunities.

Mr Speaker, in 2009 we inherited an education system that was entrenching the social inequalities of apartheid.

An HON MEMBER: No! No!

The PREMIER: You say no. Listen to the facts. The number of underperforming schools in the province had increased from 36 in 2006 to 85 in 2009 under your watch. The matric pass rate was at an all-time low in this province. As Dr Mamphela Ramphele said, “You took a bad education system and made it worse.” [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The PREMIER: We acknowledged that there was no quick fix. Only a sustained, focused and systemic approach will address the legacy of our past.

Our plan prioritises improving the quality of education available to all learners.

Mr Speaker, around 80% of our budget for education is allocated to items, including textbooks, stationery, learner transport and feeding schemes, which go to the poorest 60% of our learners. Let me repeat that in case it is misunderstood, Mr Speaker. Eighty per cent of the budget allocation to items, including textbooks, stationery, learner transport and feeding schemes, go to the poorest 60% of our learners, which is as it should be.

We have increased the amount allocated to the Department of Education feeding scheme by more than 100% since we took office in 2009. We now feed approximately 365 300 learners in our poorest schools, which are National Quintiles 1 to 3, and 63 175 of the poorest learners in our Quintiles 4 and 5 schools every day.

We have also expanded the number of no-fee schools which benefit just under 370 000 learners; and last year we paid out over R30 million to 650 schools that applied for fee compensation. This is the highest amount anywhere in the country. We have also prioritised the allocation of educator posts to poorer schools by top-slicing the maximum allowable 5% of posts totalling around R500 million and diverting this to public schools serving poorer communities. This is the most pro-poor plan anywhere in the country and it is reaping results.

In October last year, 250 000 Grades 3, 6 and 9 learners from 1 421 schools took part in our Mathematics and Literacy tests. We are the only provincial government to implement these independently administered and internationally benchmarked tests, which assist us in identifying schools where remedial action is needed and then taking that remedial action.

There was an improvement in every grade for both Language and Mathematics with the Grade 3 numeracy pass rate increasing by 50%. Mr Speaker, there is, however, a very long way to go to get our literacy and numeracy rates up to international levels, particularly in our poorer schools, and we will not rest until we have succeeded in doing so.

The department also piloted the School Improvement Plan (Sips) online, which is a management tool. It requires all principals to submit and update information necessary for effective planning processes. It has also introduced accountability in the education system by requiring schools to set targets for improvements for each grade and to provide information on absentee rates for learners and educators as well as the number of learners repeating a year. This means we will have all of that management information in the system and can take the right policy decisions to address the issues on the basis of the evidence.

A new infrastructure plan was launched for the 2013-14 financial year which will end in 2015-16, which will result in 26 new schools and 46 replacement schools being built, as well as 124 additional Grade R classrooms. Under the new plan, 420 schools will also receive maintenance and refurbishment over the next three years. This is over and above the 26 new

schools, 21 replacement schools, additional classrooms and mobile units delivered between 2010 and April 2013, which has benefited over 57 000 learners.

As far as textbooks are concerned, Mr Speaker, 1,6 million textbooks have also been delivered for the 2013 school year, which is far beyond the national norm. Through this programme, in the last two years, learners have received Maths textbooks and readers free of charge in Grades 1 to 3 and textbooks in every core subject in Grades 4, 5, 6 and 12.

In order to keep the learner-teacher ratio as low as possible in the Foundation Phase, the department has allocated 650 additional educator posts to Grades 1, 2 and 3 since 2009, because that is where our childrens' basic understanding and capacity for literacy and numeracy is established.

While we knew from the outset, Mr Speaker, that turning around the system we inherited was going to take time, we are already seeing progress in a number of areas. In 2012, we had a record number of 36 992 candidates who passed the National Senior Certificate examinations. This is an increase of 3 846 learners from the previous year and the highest number of passes ever achieved in the province ...

Mr M SKWATSHA: No, after Gauteng.

The PREMIER: No – the highest number ever achieved in this province. You need some numeracy, basic numeracy. [Laughter.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The PREMIER: This achievement took place in a context where our Matric markers had to pass rigorous tests to ensure that they had the skills and subject knowledge to adequately assess the quality of candidates' scripts. We are the only province, Mr Speaker, which has raised the bar for Matric markers, because we believe a Matric pass must remain meaningful. More importantly, the quality of National Senior Certificate examination passes has improved consistently over the last three years.

There has been a steady increase in the number of candidates who achieved access to Bachelor Degree study over the last four years from 14 324 passes in 2009, to 16 319 in 2012. There was also an increase of 2 184 in diploma passes between 2011 and 2012. That's in one year and that's an extraordinary improvement. The Maths pass rate has increased from 64,9% in 2009 to a record-breaking 73,5% in 2012 and the physical science pass rate from 52,9% to 70,9%, Mr Speaker.

We also reduced the number of underperforming schools to 26, a reduction of 59 schools since 2009. We are confident that through our ongoing remedial action and support programmes we will meet our target of reducing the number of underperforming schools to zero by the end of 2014.

Mr Speaker, last year I spoke about how our focus on schools in poorer communities is delivering real redress. I am proud to say that we have continued this trend. Between 2009

and 2012, the pass rate for the schools in Quintiles 1 to 3 – that is the poorest schools - increased from 56,9% to 70,9%. The average pass rate for Maths also increased by 12,2% and by 26,6% for physical science and the number of Bachelors passes increased by an incredible 76% over this period. This means that 1 099 more learners from seriously disadvantaged backgrounds qualified for admission to a higher education institution. That was the number compared with last year – 1 099 more than the previous year.

I would like to thank the principals and educators, who have worked so hard to provide young people with a real chance of improving their lives and breaking the cycle of poverty, and the dedicated professional staff in the department, who are focused on achieving those outcomes.

Good public schools are the most important institutions in our democracy, which is why I welcome President Zuma's recent announcement in his State of the Nation Address that a Presidential Remuneration Commission will prioritise teachers and that improved remuneration should be linked to accountability for learning outcomes.

Mr Speaker, despite these successes we still face a number of challenges. Our education budget continues to face the ever-increasing pressure of growing enrolment numbers each year. Of all new enrolments this year, from Grade 1 to Matric, 44,3% of pupils are from the Eastern Cape. Often these learners are not registered the year before, which creates major logistical challenges at the start of a new academic year.

Burglary and vandalism of our schools also remain a serious problem, and an indication that too many people still do not adequately appreciate that a functional school is a precious resource in a community. While our Safe Schools Programme has significantly reduced the incidence of violence, theft and vandalism, communities must do much more to help us protect our schools.

Twenty four schools were vandalised during the recent December holidays. In the past year we have spent R5,2 million fixing vandalised schools, and millions more providing security guards for schools. This is money that should be going to our core function of education.

There has also been an increase in the disruption of schooling by individuals and groups driving personal agendas. [Interjections.] Most recently, a group led by – surprise, surprise – ANC Councillor Andile Lili in Enkanini in Khayelitsha demanded that a new school be built despite the fact that all learners had been offered places at schools in the area. Some parents have ignored this and placed their children in an unregistered, illegal school that has no learning resources, no equipment or any educators employed by the education department.

Let me say this quite clearly, Mr Speaker, we will not tolerate learners being abused in ongoing campaigns to make this province ungovernable.

Mr H P GEYER: Hear, hear!

The PREMIER: I want to repeat this: We will not tolerate learners being abused in ongoing campaigns to make this province ungovernable! The loss of jobs in the farming sector, the lack of education for our students will all be hung around the ANC's neck when history is written in this country about their ungovernability campaigns.

Mr Speaker, no school, no matter how good, can substitute for committed parents. Parents must play an active role in their children's education by instilling sound values and ensuring their children attend school and do their homework. Parents should also participate in school activities, particularly parents' meetings. They cannot outsource responsibility for raising their children to other people.

Mr Speaker, another area where a whole of society approach is crucial is our provincial health care system. We have embarked on a number of partnerships aimed at expanding health care opportunities to all patients. Last month, we launched the partnership with the Clicks Group to provide immunisation and family planning services to state patients at Clicks stores.

It will be rolled out across the province in the year ahead. Patients are able to make an appointment with a nurse at a participating Clicks clinic for vaccines and contraceptives and the stock is provided by this provincial government. Not only will this result in this medication being more widely accessible, but it will also help to shorten the queues at primary health care facilities, which is an outcome we want to achieve. This partnership is the first of its kind in the country, and we hope to form similar partnerships with other pharmacy groups across the province.

Last month, we launched the Health Foundation in Stellenbosch. This independent nonprofit organisation aims to replicate the work done by the Red Cross Children's Hospital Trust across the province by generating funds for the maintenance and upgrading of all health infrastructure.

The state-of-the-art Khayelitsha Hospital celebrated its first birthday last month and has already received a number of awards. The hospital's pharmacy won a gold award for the best-functioning pharmacy in the province and has been recognised for having the lowest emergency unit mortality rate in the whole country. That means that the Khayelitsha Hospital's emergency unit's mortality rate – the number of people who die there – is the lowest in the country, and that really is something to celebrate.

Last week Minister Theuns Botha also officially opened the new R33 million Malmesbury Community Day Care Centre. A number of other health facilities also opened last year, including the upgraded Grassy Park and T C Newman Day Care Centres and the Oudtshoorn Clinic.

The R500 million Mitchells Plain District Hospital will also be fully operational soon and will serve over 400 000 people. [Interjections.] Other ongoing infrastructure projects include the planned reconstruction of G F Jooste Hospital, the construction of the new Du Noon Community Health Care Centre and a R53 million emergency centre at the Karl Bremer Hospital.

Improving patient experience at our health facilities is a top priority for us, Mr Speaker. That is why the health department has been piloting a complaints hotline at eight health facilities across the province over the past five months. During this period 594 complaints were logged with the call centre, of which 578, or 97%, were resolved. The pilot has been a huge success and we plan to roll it out over the entire Metro during the 2013-14 financial year.

Mr Speaker, all our health care services prioritise poor communities and 80% of patients receive free services or pay a nominal fee. We distribute over 100 million condoms every year, an average of 50 condoms per sexually active male across the province. So, every sexually active male in the province, Mr Speaker, can get 50 free condoms from this government. I presume it is appropriately skewed to people who don't purchase their own contraceptives. That is as much as any government can do to ensure safe sex, short of deploying a team of nurses across the province to ensure that people wear condoms during sex. [Laughter.]

Providing over 100 million condoms across the province, averaging 50 per sexually active men, is the state playing its role in trying to prevent sexually transmitted diseases. During the same period we increased the antiretroviral treatment provision from 14 370 to 132 279, and brought down the mother-to-child HIV transmission rate to only 1,8%, the lowest in the country by a considerable distance.

While our TB rate is still unacceptably high, Mr Speaker, at 768 cases per 100 000 people, I'm pleased to report that we have the highest cure rate in the country at 82%. Despite all of

this, our HIV prevalence rate is a cause for grave concern. In 2009 we set a target of reducing HIV prevalence from 16% to 8% by 2014. That required a whole of society approach if anything ever did and we will fail to meet this target. In fact, the prevalence rate has increased to 18,4% in 2011.

The biggest increase was among women between the ages of 30 years and 39 years. This increase may partly be accounted for through demographic shifts, but it is primarily the result of our failure to achieve the behaviour change that is necessary to reduce the incidence of HIV and Aids and the transmission of this disease.

Our failure to change behaviour lies at the root of our failure to meet that target. On the contrary, not only are we failing to meet that target, but we are seeing the incidence of HIV and Aids going up at a time when there can be nobody in the province who doesn't understand how HIV and Aids are transmitted.

People continue to have unprotected, intergenerational sex with multiple concurrent partners, Mr Speaker. People continue to have unprotected sex with multiple partners and intergenerational sex and many women continue to have no say in their sexuality. That just continues, no matter how many times we explain from every single podium that unless we change that behaviour we will never beat HIV and Aids. Only a whole of society approach, including a serious stigma attached to multiple concurrent intergenerational partners and coercive sex will be able to reverse this trend, which is sick in more ways than one.

Mr Speaker, we worked very hard to get rid of the stigma against people living with HIV and Aids and we will continue to work hard to remove that stigma, but there must be an enormous stigma across our society attached to people who continue to have unprotected sex with multiple concurrent sexual partners and particularly intergenerational sex.

We cannot tolerate it. It results in all kinds of evils such as teenage pregnancy, the spread of disease and entrenching poverty. It is also one of the root causes of the crisis and the social dysfunction we face in the province – and I will never stop saying that, Mr Speaker.

Up to 80% of our health budget is spent on preventable conditions, including noncommunicable diseases caused by smoking, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity. Since 2000, the province has only been able to reduce the incidence of these conditions by a pitiful 0,3%. We are also struggling to reduce the number of injury-related deaths on our roads and in our homes that are caused by alcohol and drug abuse.

All of these avoidable diseases serve to trap our people and our society in poverty. The implications are stark when one considers that the government subsidises each schoolchild by R1 000 per year. We were delighted when our subsidies for schoolchildren went up to R1 000 per child per year, but some palliative care beds are subsidised by over R500 per day, and some hospital casualty beds, which often accommodate people damaged in drug- and alcohol-related accidents, cost us over R4 000 per day.

Now, obviously we must look after sick people whatever the cause of their illness is, but we've also got to understand and get real about the cost to society of people who drink and drive, of people who drink and get stabbed or stab other people, of people who beat up their wives. Yes, we must look after these people. Each one is precious to us and we admit them to hospital, sometimes again and again and again. And sometimes it costs up to R6 000 per bed per day to look after them, while for children who're trying at school and are trying to create a pathway out of poverty, we spend R1 000 a year.

Let's get these things into perspective. Let's get it into perspective by comparing this with the R65 per day we pay for fully serviced disability care, or R70 per day for orphaned children. Where illnesses can be prevented, we must each take responsibility for doing so, starting with us, right here in this Parliament, going on an eating and exercise regime to bring our weight within normal limits. [Laughter.]

That's what we need to do because when someone is overweight it adds to your problems by getting high blood pressure and diabetes and filling a hospital bed unnecessarily. Those who continue to live unhealthy life styles must realise they are depriving others of their rights, and that is as simple as it is.

Disability, Mr Speaker, has been a particularly neglected field, and that is why we are committed to changing this with a multisectoral task team spearheading a strategy for change.

Mr Speaker, in the past few horrific weeks the media spotlight has rightly focused on the ghastly crimes against women and children in this province. That is one of the reasons that we have invested so much more in our Victim Empowerment Programme. In 2009 its budget was R7,8 million. In the coming year it will more than double to R17,7 million.

SAPS statistics reveal that 9 153 sexual offences and 2 300 murders were committed in the Western Cape during 2011-12. The number of drug-related crimes also increased from 70 588 reported crimes in 2010-11, to 77 069. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased in the Western Cape to 17 534 cases. These statistics speak to the growing culture of violence and abuse that threatens our society's future and entrenches poverty.

There is no other area in the province where the whole of society approach has a more important role to play than in tackling crime and violence. An essential component is a fully functional criminal justice system that arrests, prosecutes and jails criminals. That is a national competence, as we all know. Provincial governments only have oversight powers, which we have sought to improve and institutionalise.

I have previously spoken in detail about our Community Safety Bill which seeks to define our oversight role and empower the Western Cape Department of Community Safety to implement this function effectively. The Portfolio Committee for Community Safety in the Provincial Legislature has recently concluded public hearings on the Bill and is currently considering the submissions made during this process.

Last August I also established a Commission of Inquiry into allegations of police inefficiency in Khayelitsha and of a breakdown in relations between the community and the police in the area. My decision to establish this commission was not taken lightly. It followed a request to establish a commission from a group of civil society organisations, jointly represented by the Women's Legal Centre, in November 2011. This request was prompted by the spate of vigilante killings in the area, allegedly because people had lost faith in the ability of the police to bring criminals to justice.

From November 2011 to June 2012, my office corresponded with the Provincial and National Commissioners of Police on this matter. For seven months, Mr Speaker, we received no response except perfunctory acknowledgments of receipt – what I called the “geniet-aandag” letter. Eventually, on the basis of legal advice, I announced the establishment of the commission.

Sadly, instead of seeing the commission as an opportunity to work with us to improve policing, the national Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa, sought an urgent interim interdict to stop it. This application was dismissed by the Western Cape High Court.

Now listen to this, Mr Speaker. Despite the fact that this application to stop the commission was dismissed, both the Regional Head of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Adv Hishaam Mohamed, and the State Attorney's Office, have informed the Commission in writing that neither the justice department nor the police will co-operate with the commission. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: That means that they think they are entitled to ignore a High Court ruling, which is quite a remarkable state of affairs. However, Mr Speaker, I presume that if the National Prosecuting Authority can be in contempt of a Supreme Court of Appeal order to hand over the Record of Decision on why they withdrew corruption charges against Jacob Zuma, well then every other state department now also considers themselves immune from court orders. It is a national disgrace. In any other democracy, Mr Speaker, this would bring the government down.

Minister Mthethwa says he will go all the way to the Constitutional Court to challenge both the commission and the Community Safety Bill. We are saddened by the fact that he refuses to apply co-operative governance principles to enable us to fulfil our functions to improve policing. Indeed, we believe that it is his attitude and approach that is unconstitutional, but that will be for the court to decide.

Some of the other interventions we have introduced as part of our oversight functions include, and these are very important, developing a database of provincial murder statistics by collating and comparing the national SAPS crime statistics with data received from our own mortuaries. This will allow us to work with real-time murder statistics rather than the retrospective annual crime statistics released by the police.

Our database also allows us to focus on crime rates in specific areas which will enable us to be more responsive to local safety needs, and correlate the incidence of crime, especially

violent crime and murder, with other factors, such as the availability of alcohol. Our first shadow crime report was released last September, Mr Speaker. We plan to publicly release this report every six months with the aim of eventually releasing quarterly reports.

We have also instituted watching briefs at courts to identify systemic failures such as evidence-gathering, with a particular focus on gang-related crimes, which are priority crimes. Watching briefs in our courts are undertaken either by trained legal experts in the department of the university or postgraduate law students.

They attend court cases to observe and report on the proceedings. This has given us a lot of meaningful information, for example, that a murder suspect walked free because the investigating officer failed to arrive in court three times in a row; or the occasion where a suspect and a witness were transported to court in the same vehicle, resulting in the intimidation of the witness who then refused to testify.

We report all of these incidents, gathered from our watching briefs, to The Western Cape Police Commissioner, Gen Arno Lamoer - who otherwise would not know about them - so that he can call the police officers to account, where necessary. That is part of our better together approach. All our oversight interventions are aimed at supporting the SAPS in delivering more effective and efficient policing in the province and increasing the public's trust and confidence in the criminal justice system.

Mr Speaker, drug and alcohol abuse are the main drivers of violent crime which threatens the future of many of our young people. A recent survey by the South African Community Epidemiology Network on Drug Use revealed that 42% of patients admitted to 21 drug treatment centres in the Western Cape between January and June 2011 were under the age of 25 years, and 21% were under 19 years old. One hundred and sixteen patients were aged between 10 and 14 years old. Tik was the leading substance abused by patients followed by alcohol and dagga.

That is why we have increased the number of addiction treatment centres from seven in 2008, to 24 across the province today. It is clear that if we have to tackle violence in our communities, we need to ensure our children stay in school up to matric and are kept away from alcohol, drugs and gangs, which fuel violent crime and risky sexual behaviour.

One of the ways we hope to achieve this is by increasing attendance at our Mass Opportunity Development (MOD) centres. We continued to expand this programme last year and now have 181 centres operational across the province, which provide learners with a safe place to learn and to participate in cultural and sporting activities after school hours.

The Western Cape Department of Social Development has also introduced a feeding scheme at after-school centres situated in the poorest areas, which provide food to 14 000 children participating in the programme on a daily basis. We would like to improve voluntary attendance at these centres, and are therefore working with Ideas42, a behavioural change

consultancy, to develop incentives that will encourage more learners to attend these centres every day.

We are confident that these programmes, coupled with increased random drug testing at schools and expanded early intervention services for children and adolescents, will assist in turning the tide against substance abuse and crime in the future. However, it is critical, Mr Speaker, that parents partner with us to ensure their children are off the streets and are participating in our MOD centre programmes.

We would like to thank all citizens who take the time and trouble to become involved in neighbourhood watches and Community Police Forums. These structures embody our whole of society approach to making communities safer. Over the last three years we have increased our financial support for neighbourhood watches by 265%, providing R2,6 million for equipment and R560 000 for the training of their members.

We are also continuing to roll out the Western Cape Liquor Act throughout the province. By restricting drinking in residential areas and clamping down on the supply of alcohol to illegal liquor outlets, international experience has shown it is possible to drive down alcohol-related crime, deaths and injuries. The Western Cape Liquor Board has been conducting blitzes across the province, imposing heavy fines against owners who are not complying with liquor regulations.

We are also working with municipalities, City of Cape Town Law Enforcement and the SAPS to close down illegal liquor outlets. We have started mapping illegal shebeens in crime hot spots to measure the correlation between crime and alcohol and to take the necessary precautions.

Mr Speaker, we have also adopted a zero-tolerance approach to drinking and driving. A total of 71 197 vehicles were stopped at roadblocks during the recent Festive Season, which was a 32% increase compared to the same period the year before. A total of 34 384 drivers were screened for alcohol and 315 were arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence.

Through our various Safely Home interventions, we have also achieved an average 29% reduction in road deaths since 2009. In January, 79 lives were lost on our roads, which is the lowest figure of any month since we launched our Safely Home campaign three-and-a-half years ago. That's 79 lives lost, Mr Speaker, and it is still 79 too many. We still have a long way to go if we hope to meet our target of halving road deaths from the beginning till the end of our five-year term.

I would like to thank citizens who have taken responsibility for obeying road rules, for staying within the speed limits - even those on skateboards who must get off our public roads ... [Laughter.] ... for ensuring that everyone in their car is buckled up at all times and for never drinking and driving. Your efforts, in partnership with increased law enforcement, is the reason why we are steadily lowering the loss of life on our roads and is a great example of the whole of society approach in action.

Mr Speaker, critical to increasing social cohesion is building integrated and sustainable human settlements. When we launched our strategy in 2010, we made it clear that with our current budget allocation from National Treasury, we would only be able to build around 15 000 houses a year.

This meant it would take 30 years to address the current backlog of 500 000 households, let alone provide for ongoing in-migration. We agree with the national government that a human settlements plan that only focuses on building top-structures for indigent people excludes millions who cannot afford to access the housing process without some state support. That is why we are focused on delivering a range of housing opportunities in a way that is most fair considering our limited resources and the rapidly growing demand.

From April 2009 until 31 January 2013, our government has delivered 48 236 top structures and serviced 37 780 sites across the province. We have also run a number of other programmes, which have delivered 7 037 additional housing opportunities. For example, we have spent R166,3 million on bond subsidies for families earning between R3 501 and R15 000 a month, and even some who earn below R3 000.

Over 2 385 housing opportunities have been delivered under this programme and the demand is growing. The programme incentivises schemes that combine public and private contributions to housing.

One hundred and twenty one million rand has also been spent on the Extended Enhanced Discount Benefit Scheme, which uses a housing subsidy to write off old housing loans and which enabled 3 911 householders to receive their title deeds. Since April 2009, 789 social housing opportunities, including subsidised rentals, have also been provided at a cost of R228,1 million. A further R714,7 m has been spent on upgrading and renovating existing Community Rental Units. In addition, R129,7 million has been spent on the procurement of land for housing projects, R70,6 million has been spent with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) to ensure that houses built are to a high level of quality, and R12,5 million has been spent on repairing previously built RDP houses.

That is the range of housing opportunities on which we have spent our money to service a range of people in many constituencies and communities who require support from the state to get into the housing process or improve their housing circumstances.

Mr Speaker, a 2011 study indicated that approximately 36% of the 255 000 subsidy beneficiaries since 1994 have not received ownership of their properties. The Western Cape Department of Human Settlements subsequently initiated a Title Deeds Programme in order to eradicate this backlog. We have reduced it to 28% by issuing of 20 400 title deeds to individuals who should have previously received them.

This is a top-priority programme that we are continuing with. The empowerment of individuals through land ownership and official title deed transfers is crucial if we want to redress consequences of the 1913 Native Land Act.

We have also continued to prioritise access to clean water and sanitation. By December 2012, the Access to Basic Services programme has ensured a further 10 995 people have benefited from access to clean water, over 8 000 have also benefited from access to sanitation since 2009.

Mr Speaker, there are numerous other interventions that have been introduced by our government to uplift the poor in our province, but time constraints mean I cannot provide more detail about these today. This includes meeting our target of 83% of residents in the province within a 25 km radius of a Thusong Centre, which provide a range of services from all spheres of government to communities living away from metropolitan areas.

Services available at these centres include birth registrations, the issuing of ID documents, social security grants, TB and HCT testing and family planning as well as access to programmes run by the departments of human settlements, labour and agriculture. By the end of the third quarter of 2013, our government will also have rolled out 37 mobile Thusong Centres that will benefit about 41 840 people in our province.

There is so much more to mention, but I have spoken for too long already. [Interjections.] Well, there's a lot more to say because our government actually does things. Our government actually does things and I could actually fill twice this space telling you of all the other things that I haven't mentioned here today.

It only remains for me to thank my Cabinet colleagues most sincerely for creating a team which has a spirit like few I have ever worked with. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: One who knows everything.

The PREMIER: To the Director General, and the extraordinary team ... [Interjections.] ...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order!

The PREMIER: ... of top professional officials in the province ...

An HON MEMBER: Where are the women ... ?

The PREMIER: ... and to all the exceptional colleagues in my own office and very particularly to all of our families who sacrifice so much to enable us to do the work that we do.

I would also like to thank the official opposition, but we need you to be a little bit sharper and be a little more incisive ... [Laughter.] ... in choosing substantive issues on which to hold us to account.

Everyone who does their bit symbolises what we mean when we say, “Better together”. I thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The SPEAKER: Order! In terms of Rule 15 of the Standing Rules the Premier's address will be placed on the Order Paper for debate.

The House adjourned at 12:54.