

---

THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2022

---

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

The sign † indicates the original language and [ ] directly thereafter indicates a translation.

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: You may all be seated. Order, hon members! The Premier, the Leaders of political parties, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. In terms of the virtual sittings, as this one is, we are all reminded that you may not activate your microphone without indicating to the Presiding Officer and having been granted the opportunity to do so. Also equally important to indicate to the hon members that you have the chat room and also you have the microphone at your disposal and the Presiding Officer will recognise you should you intend to speak.

To the guests, members of the media, you all know that you are part of us so you are the guests. Therefore you are in the gallery and may not participate in the proceedings of the House.

I also need to draw the attention of the hon members to Rule 40 in this regard that we have to ensure that we do not interrupt the proceedings and therefore if you are excited to clap hands, virtually you may not do so except for using the Emojis that are there to enjoy the opportunity, but for the hon members who are here in the Chamber it is not something that is untoward. We have a full House here today. I welcome you all, hon members, Premier, the leaders of political parties.

Without further ado I am going to draw the attention of the hon members that in terms of our Order Paper today we have a long programme but it depends on the hon members entirely how we carry that. I recognise the Chief Whip.

(Notice of motion)

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

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), precedence be given to the debate on the matter of public importance. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Chief Whip. Are there any objections to the motion? No objections? Agreed to.

I now recognise hon Bosman, and you have five minutes, sir.

## **SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION**

### **MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

#### **(In accordance with Standing Rule 143)**

The impact of increasing fuel prices and the rate of inflation  
on the Western Cape economy, poverty and hunger

Mr G BOSMAN: Good afternoon, Speaker, members, Premier.

The SPEAKER: Hon Bosman, there is a point of order. Will you please take your seat? What is the point of order, hon the Chief Whip or the Deputy Chief of the Opposition?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Chief Whip. Hon Speaker, my greetings to you and to the Premier and I thank you for setting the tone. One does not want to be disruptive, but within the context of the decorum of the House, particularly if we see what happened last week, I would like to rise that given what has happened during the week, particularly around and we are saying innocent until proven guilty, but particularly around the public

discourse coming from the political party of hon Speaker, as well as hon Speaker's response in the public terrain, that for us to maintain the decorum and order of this particular House, and we are not making any allegations against members, but we feel as the African National Congress that it is best that for this particular sitting, until the matter is resolved, the Speaker recuses himself from chairing this particular setting, hon Speaker, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you honourable, the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC. Unfortunately, that is not a point of order. The Speaker has not in any way been found guilty in any platform and the Speaker remains the member of this Parliament and the Speaker remains the executive authority of the institution in terms of statute, and I would see no reason for anyone to suggest otherwise. Let us proceed.

I am not going to entertain this matter any further, but let me hear the hon, the Leader of the Opposition. The hon, the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. I note your ruling on that matter, but I would like to ask whether it is your intention to at some stage during this meeting, this session of the Legislature, to hand over the Chairpersonship to the Deputy Speaker, because as hon Sayed has said, we would also have, and we do have, a serious problem with all the allegations around the Deputy Speaker. We are still waiting for a code of conduct report but we want to ask you if you will give us the assurance that the Deputy Speaker will not be asked to chair a session

if you vacate that seat. That is the request.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon, the Leader of the Opposition. I see the Chief Whip of the majority party.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Speaker, that is not a point of order. Can we proceed with the debate? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Chief Whip of the majority party. Similarly, I would like to indicate to the hon, the Leader of the Opposition, that the Speaker cannot make that determination. It is for this House to make that determination and the Deputy Speaker is the Deputy Speaker until it has been decided otherwise by this House, and she enjoys the full rights of being a member of this House like any other member in this House.

May I then request that we proceed with the debate and follow the Order of the Day as presented before us? May I recognise the hon Bosman?

Mr G BOSMAN: Good afternoon, Speaker, hon Premier, members and most importantly the people of the Western Cape. Today we rise to debate one of the most pressing issues facing our province. It is the impact of increasing fuel prices and the rate of inflation on the Western Cape economy. We also rise to debate poverty and hunger, but Speaker, it is a fact that we cannot only discuss these issues if we do not discuss the impact of the ANC-led National Government's failure to provide economic direction to our country.

The role of Government is to create an enabling environment for the people of the country to thrive, something the Western Cape Government has worked hard at, but, Speaker, this work requires a multi-pronged approach. It requires a central government that is open to implementing the types of economic policies that protect the people against hunger, instead of causing hunger. The current fuel price is at around R24,00 per litre for petrol and over R22,00 for diesel. These unprecedented prices and the cost of living crisis are putting millions of our citizens at risk. This is not just a crisis of transportation or even energy, as if we need another one of those, but it is a crisis that affects every single person, business and even the Government of this country. As the fuel price filters through the entire economy, our companies face ever increasing costs for their inputs. This not only serves to make them less competitive and less profitable but ultimately it constrains their ability to grow and to provide more jobs and dignity for our people.

Speaker, we are a country facing a 45% unemployment rate nationally. Does that sound like a country that should be over-taxing fuel to the extent that a third of the fuel price goes to the National Government? Does it sound like a country where Government can afford to exacerbate the effects of international instability through uninformed policy? In the Western Cape we are finding innovative ways around the problems caused by ANC mismanagement. With specialised entities like Wesgro aimed at specifically attracting investment and growing the economy of this province, the Western Cape Government is addressing some of the biggest issues in our country, one of which is jobs.

Wesgro has facilitated almost R6 billion of committed investment and over 4 000 jobs from investors in the last financial year. This is an already difficult economic climate and it is about to become more untenable once the cost of living crisis leads to the inevitable higher interest rates, putting another huge obstacle in the way of real job creating investment.

The Western Cape Department of Economic Opportunities and Tourism is also committed to supporting our entrepreneurs through the SMME Booster Fund, a fund that provides support to our smaller businesses so that they can grow and contribute even more value to our society. This fund is currently open for applications and has R16 million available to support our small medium-term enterprises, specifically those township businesses. These businesses are the lifeblood of our economy and the lack of support from our National Government is shameful, absolutely shameful. It should not be lost on anyone that this is R16 million that could have accomplished a lot more if it was not for the ANC's policy of plunging us into an environment of constant price increases. In this Province we believe in a pathway to jobs through skills development. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has a dedicated Skills Development and Innovation Program that facilitates the degree of skills needed for our economy. [Audio distorted]

The SPEAKER: Hon member ... [audio distorted.]

Mr G BOSMAN: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes, there is an echo on the line. Would you just mute yourself and unmute again?

Mr G BOSMAN: Is it better now?

The SPEAKER: Much better, sir, thank you.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, Speaker. As I said this Government has a dedicated skills program that looks at the delivery of skills needed for the Western Cape economy. This is achieved through collaboration at the different levels of government and the private sector. The more than R96 million that has been allocated to this program for the next financial year, again shows that the Western Cape is serious about putting our people to work. It is only through actively driving systemic change as this Department is doing that we are going to fix the broken South African economy.

The National Government has made the wrong decision at every turn. They bring us to this, the precipice of this crisis, and it could see more and more South Africans suffering. We have not seen such suffering since the years of apartheid. We have experienced suffering through COVID and we are again condemned to ANC-led suffering. It does not take a genius to see what the ANC has done and what they are continuing to do. It is not working. It is time to try something different. It is time for new leadership and if we are going to provide a space for our economy to grow, we need to get rid of the



ANC that has brought us to the brink of this widespread suffering.  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Your time is up. Thank you. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Speaker, the continued undermining of the Office of the Speaker, as shown by how his special debate on Africa Day was thrown away in favour of DA debates, is noted with concern.

We call upon you, Speaker, to protect the legitimacy and decorum of your office from the DA factions, bullying and infighting. You must never allow your office again to be undermined and rendered useless by those who want you out of that position.

Nonetheless, we welcome this debate. It is an important debate to provide solutions to the pressing challenges of rising cost of living that the masses of our people are suffering from. This debate comes at a time when official unemployment rate in the province is at a deeply shocking 25,2% and the expanded definition at 29%. Alongside rising unemployment, the people are

also battling rising, rising costs of living in poverty.

In their written reply to a question by hon Marran, MEC Meyer stated that the country's average food prices recorded a 6,6% increase in March 2022; higher than 6% in March 2021. They attributed it to the country's weaker trading exchange rate, agriculture input costs, global food supply, disruption and domestic lockdown restrictions. The prices of oil and fresh bread and serials, dairy and eggs, meat, fish and sugar have all increased. We all know that an increase in food prices reduces the buying power of the average household static incomes and limits economic access to the basic food items and it threatens their household level food security and their healthy eating.

The September 2021 Report of the Children's Commissioner showed an increase in food insecurity with around 620 000 households reporting that a child had experienced hunger almost every day, or every day the week before they were interviewed. In the face of these challenges, we should be discussing integrated approaches between all spheres of Government and other stakeholders in business and NEDLAC on the much-needed Government-led intervention to caution the poor for the impact of rising cost of living, especially food prices, electricity, water tariffs.

Speaker, in the midst of rising food and fuel prices and high electricity cost the City of Cape Town passed its budget on Tuesday, adding more rates and tariff hikes for water, sanitation and refuse tariffs. It is no longer affordable to live in Cape Town anymore. The rates and tariffs hikes in the City of Cape

Town are a sign of Government that is not synced with reality on the ground.

Before the Premier made noise about the need of slashed fuel hikes he should first demand the DA in the City to slash tariff hikes. Your anti-poor Government is out of touch with people's lived experience. The people are in need of food, houses and basic services like water and sanitation.

DA administration in municipalities like the City of Cape Town has more budget for roads than for housing. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Bakubaku-Vos. Will you please take your seat? I will mute, I am going to pause the time. May I request the hon, the Chief Whip of the Opposition to rise? The Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): My apologies, Mr Speaker, I am sure I have made an error. My intention was not to raise a question, a hand.

The SPEAKER: I thought you had a point of order against hon Bakubaku-Vos?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Never, never!

The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Laughter]

The PREMIER: Never say never!

The SPEAKER: Exactly, here in the House, the Premier says, “never say never”, so we have observed that. May I please request the hon Bakubaku-Vos to proceed?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Speaker. The people are in need of food, houses and basic services like water and sanitation. DA administration municipalities like the City of Cape Town have more budget for the roads than for housing. They are pre-occupied with fuel prices, the regulation that is investing towards social relief programmes to assist the people. We demand to know what progress has been made by the Provincial Government... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Bakubaku-Vos. Will you please take your seat; there is a hand, the hon, the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speaker, yes, on a point of order, my understanding about interjections is that they are not allowed. Now, I do not know if – I know the Premier wanted you to resign, but I would like you to be bold and simply rule him out of order because he is not supposed to interject and while I am speaking there is running commentary from MEC Bredell. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And by the way, Speaker,

he allowed his councillors to leave a council in Oudtshoorn the other day.

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So my point of order is can you please – you use this opportunity... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to discipline the Premier, now! [Interjection.] Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order, order hon, the Leader of the Opposition. May I make another point on this? Hon, the Leader of the Opposition, the rest is not a point of order, but the one point of order is about the Rule 40 and the directives which I issued in 2020. I will deal with that shortly. Hon, the Premier.

The PREMIER: Speaker, if I may address you, I am thankful to the Leader of the Opposition for showing the mistake that I made in interjections and I apologise that I raised some ANC-run municipalities to try and get the Speaker to talk about those municipalities, but I withdraw. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. You have made it easier for the

Speaker, but I want to indicate to the hon, the Leader of the Opposition and to the hon members here. You may all recall in our State of the Province Address in Velddrif, in Bergrivier Municipality, that was in 2022 earlier on this year, I made a ruling that for the members who are in the Chamber, because we have hybrid sessions, the members who are in the Chamber, irrespective of the location, it is permissible for the members to make interjections or clap hands for as long as they do it within the Rules, because we have Standing Rules that guide that, but what becomes difficult is when members do it virtually because then that is not permissible in line with the directives issued by me on 17 April 2020, so those still stand. So as much as the Premier apologises and withdraws, there was no basis for him to feel aggrieved by that and even apologise for that because we have made that directive in that sitting.

The other points I will not consider them as a point of order. [Interjection.] That is not a point of order. That is not a point of order. [Laughter] Let us please proceed. You know, hon members, order! [Interjection.] Order, hon members. What you have done now is to unfortunately disarm hon Bakubaku-Vos. She was very much heated on her debate there and you have now killed that spirit. Please let us not do that. I would like you to proceed, hon Bakubaku-Vos. You have three and a half more minutes left.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I demand to know what progress has been made in the Provincial Government on the One Home One Garden Campaign which has established over 1 300 food gardens in 2020.

We reiterate our calls for a shift away from food relief to food security through establishment for community and household gardens in the province. Support for school gardens would also go a long way in supporting security in communities.

Secondly, we demand progress regarding the Agri-worker Electrification Project, which was piloted in 2016 already; yet poor farmworkers are still overcharged for electricity by greedy farmers. What is the Provincial Government doing about it? When will the Premier and the DA start a campaign to slash the expensive electricity prices for the poorest farmworkers?

Speaker, let us talk briefly about the DA campaign for fuel prices, price deregulation. Firstly, it is not the first time global economy experienced a fuel price increase, mostly due to supply shocks leading to an economic crisis. Following the October 1973 Yom Kippur War of the Arab–Israeli War, the world experienced an oil crisis leading to stagnant economic growth and inflation. The 1979 Iranian Revolution led to the economic crisis as it disrupted oil supply in the Middle East which led to rapid fuel prices. When the Russia/Ukraine conflict started, the DA should know that its reckless calls which went against the National Government's position on the matter, would lead to price shocks and a rise in fuel. There is a general consensus among scholars that rapidly rising general fuel and petrol prices constitute shocks on economies, leading to cost-push inflation, particularly in oil-importing development countries.

However, studies have proved that rising petrol prices have a significant impact on inflation and economy in the long run, but not in the short run. To jump on a bandwagon and demand fuel prices deregulation is a short-sighted and misguided approach.

Busani Ngcaweni, the principal of the National School of Government recently argued that in the UK there is no wrath like fuel levies. That is because no car ever enters a road without insurance, while in South Africa the majority of cars are not insured, both old and new, so scrapping in [Inaudible.] levy will be devastating for uninsured road users.

In the continuing debate for fuel price deregulation, let us also look at the ask by knowing on what will be the costs of scrapping the fuel levies. What will be... †Sungxola mani. [Do not make noise] [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: You must wrap up, hon Bakubaku-Vos. Your time is up.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Will it be cheaper for car owners to mandatory insure their cars or make it compulsory to pay ...[Inaudible, speaking simultaneously]

The SPEAKER: Hon Bakubaku-Vos, you have exhausted your time.

†UNksz N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Somlomo, ewe amaxabiso epetrol enyukile futhi kunyanzelekile urhulumente angenelele njengoko ebesenzile kwizihland



lo ezininzi ngaphambili. Ndiyabulela.

*[Translation of isiXhosa paragraph follows.]*

[Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Speaker, yes the petrol prices have increased, for that matter it is a must that the government should intervene as they did on many previous occasions. I thank you.]

The SPEAKER: †Enkosi, [thank you,] hon Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS:† Siyabulela, enkosi. [Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hear–hear!

The SPEAKER: Hon Kama, I see you had your hand up?

Mr M KAMA: No, thank you very much, hon Speaker. It was earlier on and I think it is what would have led to the member not being able to say some of the sentences because correctly as you were saying that we can interject, but that must not lead to interrupting the member and I could hear the member even saying that the MEC is making noise. It means that she was even interrupted as she was delivering the speech.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr M KAMA: So it is just to ask the Speaker to really pay attention to that. as well.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Kama. I will definitely be much more circumspect to that. Apologies. Sorry, hon Bakubaku-Vos. Let us proceed, hon members. The next speaker is hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, †Somlomo. [Speaker.] The constant increase in fuel, electricity and food prices will have a long-lasting negative impact on the province and South Africa at large. The great impact will be felt by those who remain unemployed and cannot provide for themselves and their families, as well as those who earn a minimum wage with little or no salary increase. This is sad because the majority of households in South Africa are unable to feed their families, as things stand. Here in the Western Cape we have a government that has always bragged about having the least unemployment rate in the country but the majority of people employed here receive stipends and salaries which are way below the minimum wage.

This DA-led Government should not concern itself too much with the so-called majority jobs, with salaries that do not improve the people's lives. This Government should look at the majority of people... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Xego, will you please take your seat. Pause the timer.

Hon, the Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you once again, †Somlomo. [Speaker.] I would like to ask through you whether the hon Xego is prepared to answer a question about the fact that he is critical of the DA Government here, but he is working with the DA.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Dugmore. Order, hon members, ordinarily – order hon members! I would like to indicate to the hon, the Leader of the Opposition, that you know the Standing Rules, sir. If you would like to ask a question you ask whether the member is prepared to answer the question.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: But then you do not bring that too because that then enters into a debate on the member, and you are not part of the debate at this point in time. Later on, yes. May I please request the hon member Xego to proceed?

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, †Somlomo. [Speaker.] No, hon Dugmore must go and break the relationship and the marriage in Kannaland first and then can come back and teach us about who is supposed to do what. He has got a DA-led marriage there in Kannaland. Most of the salaries of the people earning stipends in minimum wages are solely spent on transport alone, meaning that these people cannot provide for themselves or afford the necessities of life.

Now the countless number of fuel increases... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order hon Xego. There is another hand in the House there, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip of the DA?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, Speaker. I just want to ask of you to instil the discipline of the decorum. We cannot hear what he is saying.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. The hon Chief Whip was raising the issue of the noise. May I request the hon members in the Chamber to please respect the decorum of the House and be circumspect of the conversations in order to allow for the debate to go unhindered? I have taken note of that, Chief Whip. May I request the hon member to proceed? Hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, †Somlomo. [Speaker.] Now the countless number of fuel increases will mean that public transport costs will go up, food prices will skyrocket and to add loadshedding this will mean that poor people will not even be able to afford the cost of paraffin in order to cook and keep their households warm. If we had a working government in the Western Cape, then the whole issue of spatial planning would have been addressed, resulting in the residing in social housing near where the workers are working and saving the transport cost, but unfortunately, we do not have such a government that cares about the people and therefore we call upon the DA-led Government to consider among other things, issues of social cohesion and as well as

challenges that directly impact on the changes of the lives of our people. Which among them, is the issue of land and spatial planning in order to curb all the challenges that are facing our people, in particular the workers who will directly be impacted by this transport debacle as a result of fuel, and then coming to the hon Dugmore, I think I still have got a response now to him, that indeed the EFF will have any opportunity to criticise the DA-led Government and we are not the allies of the Democratic Alliance and we are not in government, unlike the ANC, in any government. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Xego. Your time is up.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister of Social Development, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Mr Speaker, am I audible?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you are, hon Minister. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, good afternoon, hon Premier, hon members, guests and media in the gallery and on the virtual platform, citizens in the province. Whilst we are debating the increase in fuel prices the rate of inflation and Eskom's inability to keep the lights on, people are starving in this province and in South Africa. The situation is dire. Many

do not know where the next meal is coming from. As I travel across the province, I listen to the stories of poverty and pain. Citizens who are unemployed and reliant on the State for grants are battling. The cost of staples such as bread, milk and LPG has increased drastically, a harsh reality that many South Africans are facing.

I wish to remind this House that in May 2017, the price for a litre of unleaded petrol was slightly over R13,00. Today, one litre of unleaded petrol will cost you R23.94. It seems absurd to think that we have witnessed such a huge increase in fuel cost in just over five years. A recent *Daily Maverick* article provides some scary insights into the fuel debacle.

Mr Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a drastic rise in unemployment, which has increased the number of individuals who are dependent on the State. It does not take a rocket scientist to know that the poor devote a larger percentage of this spending on food and other much needed necessities, making them vulnerable to fuel price shocks, especially transport shocks and costs. Just last week, I listened to learners who explained to me that they walk two hours to get to school because their parents are unemployed and there is no money. The only meal they eat is at school and in rural areas, the situation is even worse.

Mr Speaker, the social sector is under huge strain. The need for assistance, services and social relief of distress has increased dramatically. Our social workers are at the forefront of this pressure with their caseload spiralling out

of control as they strive to meet the ever-increasing demands placed upon them.

However, it is also obvious that as a government, we have had to absorb huge budget cuts so we cannot fix the problem right away and these cuts are due to fraud, corruption, and mismanagement by the ANC National Government. If the National Government does not revisit its obsession with using fuel hikes to raise revenue, we can expect the following things to happen in our sector. I shall mention just a few.

The higher costs of living associated with transport, food prices, electricity, tariff hikes, and all other things will mean that SASSA grants will not go as far for older persons, child support and foster care needs, whilst middle- and working-class families will struggle even more to make ends meet and some sadly, will be pushed into the social welfare net.

The psychological stress caused by increasing living costs tend to result in more mental health challenges, alcohol and substance abuse as well as gender-based violence and family dysfunction. The NGO sector, Mr Speaker, is battling due to donor fatigue. They will also suffer as fuel prices will drive up the operational costs. One of the examples is using their vehicles in rural areas to service clients. The sector has reduced funding. DSD has reduced funding, and sadly the dysfunction at the Lotto could push more NGOs into closure.

For DSD and other Government Departments. increased fuel costs and inflation are going to put a strain on our goods and services budget, which means we will struggle to pay GG costs for social workers and all staff as they travel to and from to meet the needs of our citizens. Furthermore, Mr Speaker, some of our facilities are reliant on diesel generators to power supply issues. This is going to become unaffordable and could result in power outages at our facilities. But all is not lost.

The Western Cape Government has a Recovery Plan and despite the gloom and doom we will forge ahead, but I do need to caution, Mr Speaker. We cannot afford the fuel price increase. Our economy is in tatters and we are staring a humanitarian crisis in the face. The National Government needs to review its policy position, and it is time for them to urgently cut the exorbitant taxes on fuel. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Please finish up, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: The time is now. I thank you.  
[Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member August.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Speaker, the latest increase in the fuel price has citizens of this province and in the rest of the country on the edge of their



seats literally. This cannot continue. South Africans are holding on by their fingernails to survive and ride out these waves of economic hardships that are hitting households daily. The cost of living and the looming increase in the price of basic goods that follow fuel hikes are simply unreachable by the majority of our citizens. People in this province are trying to survive swells of hardship already. Gangsterism, kidnappings and human trafficking, murders and gun wars, and in the midst of all this, they find themselves in an economy that is not producing jobs or alleviating poverty, which could drastically decrease crime. This is the reality that many are subjected to. The increase of fuel pricing adds further pressure on the people of the Western Cape who already carry an extremely heavy load. The steep rise in fuel will further shrink pockets, widening the net of poverty, hunger and increasing crime. National Government can safeguard citizens against the dire state of economic aggression as any proactive State would, but instead, it prefers to continuously waste money on non-performing outcomes.

Speaker, the Western Cape Government and this House also have a responsibility in shielding people of this province against economic restitution. We need to turn our focus towards establishing pockets of economic activity based on the needs of communities. We need to promote and develop community-based kits for small-scale farming, drive cross-sector upskilling, create an enabling environment for entrepreneurship and recognise the informal economy as an integral driver of economic activity to prioritise their needs.

National Government should take several steps back as this misdirection is costing our people dearly and the Provincial Government should understand that their hands are not tied, and they should not lay blame... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon. [Interjections.]

Mr S N AUGUST: ...solely at the feet of the ANC, but accept that they too are not doing much for ...[inaudible, speaking simultaneously]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time is up, thank you. Thank you, hon August. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Speaker, and good afternoon Premier and members of the esteemed House. Hon Speaker, there is little doubt that the recent fuel price increases have had a significant impact on the cost of living, particularly in relation to transportation. The COVID pandemic highlighted and exacerbated the National Government's serious fiscal challenges. Many individuals have lost their jobs and continue to have a difficult time dealing with the pandemic's aftermath.

The recent rise in interest rates and now the consecutive fuel price increases surely will have devastating consequences for the middle class, working class and unemployed South Africans. Speaker, these fuel hikes will take money out of the pockets of already stressed commuters. I would like to quote an RSG listener:

†“Hierdie petrolverhoging is nie ’n grap nie. Ek woon 10 kilometer van my werk. Ek gaan moet loop want ek kan nie ophou werk nie. Dit is donker in die nag.”

So is daar duisende inwoners, Speaker, van Suid-Afrika wat met hierdie realiteit gekonfronteer word.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

["This fuel increase is no joke. I live 10 kilometres from my workplace. I will have to walk because I cannot stop working. It is dark at night.”

So there are thousands of residents, Speaker, of South Africa who are confronted by this reality.]

It does not stop there. Increased fuel prices also mean a potential increase in transportation costs for public transport passengers who are already trying to make ends meet under extremely difficult circumstances.

Thanks to the mismanagement by the National ANC Government of PRASA and Metro Rail, commuters have been robbed of fast and cheap rail transportation as an alternative. Trains are the backbone of any well functioning public transport system and economy. It provides fast and cheap transportation to the majority of our workforce. I therefore cannot stress enough that our rail system has to be fixed and that the Central Line is

restored by no later than the end of this year.

For many poor South Africans this fuel hike could potentially limit their mobility as they will more than likely only be able to afford transport to work and from and the unemployed will in all likelihood be in a worse position to look for work. Therefore, I welcome Golden Arrow's commitment not to increase their fares in recognition of the hardship of our communities that our communities already face.

Speaker, higher fuel prices will have an inevitable impact on the transportation of goods. The Rail Freight Association warned early in May that the fuel increases have a knock-on effect on consumer goods. This is because an increase in diesel prices has a direct impact on the transportation prices of goods. We will now pay even more for food and other necessities. While the ANC fails to provide reliable affordable public transport to communities, the DA-run Western Cape is diversifying public transport options in the province. On 19 February this year, Cape Town's MyCiTi N2 Express resumed services with more than 11 500 passengers using the bus service within the first 10 days.

This highlights the fact that the DA governments are responsive to the needs of their residents, a commitment Mayor Hill-Lewis made before the elections. Meanwhile, the GoGeorge Bus Service in George Municipality continues to expand its services to serve more residents. Following the continued high demand for dependable, convenient, safe and affordable public transport

system in the city, George Municipality has been collaborating with the Western Cape Government to expand the GoGeorge Services to the community of Thembalethu. This will result in residents being able to have greater access to job and economic opportunities. This service will be up and running by October this year. Clearly DA governments are finding new and affordable ways to ensure that communities keep moving.

Lastly, Speaker, in order to address the rising cost of fuel in South Africa, we call that the 33% fuel levy be scrapped; the fuel price be deregulated, the bankrupt Road Accident Fund must be reformed as it currently benefits from the bulk of the [Inaudible.] ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon America. Thank you.

Mr D AMERICA: I thank you. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon America. Hon members, I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Speaker, the ACDP welcomes this debate in the House today, namely the impact of increasing fuel prices and the rate of inflation on the Western Cape economy, poverty and hunger.

Speaker, listen to this. When the ANC was not in government in 1993, the

ANC's reaction to a 1993 fuel hike:

“The ill considered and uncaring decision to increase the petrol price only confirms the NP Government does not have the interests of the majority of South Africans who are poor and struggling desperately to make ends meet at heart. If the Government persists in pressing ahead with these indefensible price hikes, they will be inviting similar reaction to when the VAT was increased. Now is the time for them to establish the tradition of a government that cares and consult with its citizens.”

That is or that was on 16 September 1993 as the ANC demanded suspension of the petrol price increase. No wonder Trevor Manuel, the former Finance Minister said – the former MEC member of the ANC, said in an interview:

“Manuel says his Damascus moment was when former ANC Secretary-General Gwede Mantashe called him a free agent after he said former President Jacob Zuma should pay back the money used for his Nkandla homestead upgrades. Manuel further says: ‘I am no longer an ANC member. The party was never the same after Polokwane 2007’...”

So that says a lot. The shock announcement of the fuel price increase and the reluctant expectation of everything else that can increase will increase and it will painfully be a reality. People on the ground will feel these hikes. Speaker, let me just say in March the average cost of the household food basket was R4 450... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians, you have exhausted your time.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: ...and it is not R4 500. It increased with a R92,00 increase on the food price.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, sir.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister of Health of Wellness, hon Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, †Speaker. [Speaker.] Hon Premier and members of the House, the impact of the increasing petrol price and the rate of inflation on the Western Cape economy, poverty and hunger, it comes just as I was conducting oversight in the Central Karoo District yesterday and Matzikama the Sub-District, in the past days.

In Central Karoo, Speaker, the Clinic Committees and Hospital Boards as community members were saying to me: “Minister, we love what we do in volunteering to represent the communities and be the voices of the patients from the cradle to the grave, including those patients who are in mortuaries, and we have been doing this for decades, but things are different now. It is no longer about the health services. It is no longer about the wounds that

need to be dressed. It is not about the infrastructure that needs to be fixed. Now it is about the patient's telling the statutory bodies that: "I went to bed hungry. I am used to forsaking my supper for my kids but there is nothing to forsake any more." People are hungry, Minister, we are also hungry. We are helpless too and there is nothing we are able to do.

This is to confirm that we now see as more of socio-economic political ills, Speaker, poverty and inequalities that are actually situated outside the health system, but we have to absorb as a health system.

In Beaufort West, Speaker, students at TVET College, when I was there, were sharing how they are succumbing to transactional and unprotected sex, peer pressure and experimenting with drugs and alcohol as they are faced with unemployment, hunger, lack of accommodation that they have to fund themselves. These are not only confined to Central Karoo, but quite common all over South Africa among the youth in impoverished communities where there is an elevated level of unemployment. When we read health statistics, members note contributory factors to teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, illegal abortions, mental health and everything. You must not be shocked.

There is a correlation between economic growth and health. When economic growth goes up, so does the health status and other human development indexes such as education, employment, life expectancy and gender. Yes, the National Government has spent a lot on social grants. Actually in 2021 you would have seen that there were about 25 million grants that were paid



compared to the 30 million people who are unemployed, noting that the social grants do not necessarily guarantee better health services as there are still more people who now have to rely on public health services, and then with 30 million now, there are fewer who are taxpayers and supposed to be contributing to the building of hospitals and salaries for health professionals. Nutrition-related diseases are likely to increase for example, in Tygerberg Hospital we have seen a number of children in the Outpatient [Inaudible.] section due to poor nutrition. This is very much likely to increase.

Speaker, let us be clear, this is not as a result of COVID, but COVID worsened the situation. If I could demonstrate, for example, our real South African GDP growth for 2022 was below 2%, about 1,7% to be exact. This is actually since 2014. It has always been below 2%. The Government expenditure on health during the same period, it remains at 12% throughout whilst the servicing of their Department, I mean, of their debt, has been climbing. So as the population increases as more people are getting poorer, as more people require health services, including those now who lost their businesses and livelihoods due to COVID, the proportion of Government expenditure on health remained.

As a country we are unable to absorb as many medical interns and appoint other health professionals as nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, etcetera, after they completed their community service. The demand is there, the supply is there, but there are no resources because there is no political will.

Speaker, I must say that despite that our total healthcare system is in ICU generally for the whole of the country, but as the Western Cape Government †noko singumdlungu odlekayo. [we are better than others.]

They do not just resort to being cry-babies, to the National Government, we †dala [create] whatever we must; just to showcase, Speaker, on poverty and education on the same period since 2015 we have contributed almost – if you look at the 2015 and 2021 figures, coming from the R29 million that we have spent in 2015 in terms of the food for the patients, now we are spending almost R53 million. For the supplementary food for the baby formula years, in that period we were spending almost R85 million, but now we are spending R249 million. Even if I could add for the supplementary feeding for those patients who are on chronic medication, you will find that it has been growing throughout and also in addition for the people to the doctor, if you see our figures, the average South African in terms of the population to a doctor, you get about 1 253. In the Western Cape it is about 570 and if you look at Gauteng it is about 811 and then the worst scenarios are Limpopo, KZN and the Eastern Cape.

The point that I am trying to make, Speaker, even in the rural areas it becomes difficult to attract health professionals. How much more is it going to be now with the increase in the fuel, because it is difficult for them to go to these areas?

In Merweville it has been quite a long time that we did not have a clinical

nurse practitioner. As a result, people are unable to afford the fuel and also for accommodation because there are no people who are staying there. Now how much more, how much it is going to be.

In conclusion, Speaker, I always say there are no binaries between health and the economy. When people have the means, they can be able to buy food and also they have more options to choose to buy nutritious meals. When they are unemployed and they have no other means, those people are compelled to buy the only food that could be eaten by the whole family from the baby to the oldest persons... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Your time is up.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: So we must not only look at malnutrition. Thanks, Speaker. Malnutrition, but also in terms of the food that is being bought that is ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ...that results in obesity.  
Thank you very much, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

Hon members, I now recognise hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the rising fuel prices are a major wake-up call for all of us. We have three to four gruelling months of winter ahead of us and we know of the increase in food prices that is looming, let alone the increase in water and electricity prices. Above all of this the Western Cape is the most unequal province in the world. We are facing unprecedented times here in the Western Cape. The only way out for us is that the governing party in the Western Cape will stop blaming National Government for the inequality here in the Western Cape and start to serve all the communities of the Western Cape.

The DA has the perfect opportunity to win the hearts of the Western community, but you are letting it slip through your fingers. You are following the same trend previous failed governments have taken. I will be surprised if you still govern in the coming years. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. Hon members, I now recognise the Hon Marais, FFP.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon members, with unemployment at 40% and youth unemployment at 70% it is most disturbing that consumer prices are still skyrocketing unabated. Even before new prices came into effect 7,9 million people were jobless.

The increase in fuel prices will have knock-on effects on essential foods, transport and ultimately lead to stagflation. This much is obvious, but this

debate, however, should be conducted in the National Assembly as we have absolutely no influence nor control over fuel prices. What are we doing here? We are just making people more depressed. At best the debate today is an exercise in futility and showing merely our concerns, but offering no solutions.

The rand's poor exchange rate to the dollar and geopolitical events in Ukraine have made fuel preciously inevitable, giving the existing add-ons on fuel prices. However, there is a light in the tunnel. Wesgro reported an impressive recovery in tourism. We should rather debate what we can do to soften the blows on consumers, than pointing fingers at things we have no control over.

Let us do what is possible for the Western Cape. Leave points scoring to Central Government. Let us give people hope or shut up because the people are fed up. They know what is happening. They feel the effect of price increases and all we do here are complain without offering any solutions.

Hotels occupancy increased from 37,9% to 70,52% [Inaudible.] in April this year. We had 448 000 visitors in April. It is a 67% year-on-year growth rate. There is hope. Yes, the petrol price had gone up ...[Interjections.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable.]

Mr P J MARAIS: ... but there is hope. Let us give people hope  
...[Interjections.]

†Die SPEAKER: Jou tyd is op.

[The SPEAKER: Your time has expired.]

Mr P J MARAIS: ... and stop moaning.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid Marais.

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

Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Van der Westhuizen.

†Agbare? [Honourable?]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Speaker, the cost of living keeps rising and the National Government would like us to believe that they are powerless to stop this. They point to the high price of oil and the war in Ukraine as justification for these costs, conveniently glossing over the fact that a third of what is paid for each litre of fuel goes into their pockets, but, hon Speaker, the price of oil is not the highest that it has ever been. That was in 2008 when the price of oil reached US\$140 per barrel. Yet at that time we in South Africa paid around half of what we currently do for fuel.

So what has changed? Why is our cost of living so much higher now than it was then? Hon Speaker, it is very simple. In the last 10 years ANC corruption

has permeated every level of the State Government and the rand has plummeted as a result. By almost every imaginable metric our currency has crashed in value.

While all currencies face inflation, the simple fact is that the rand has had it worse than most. This is primarily a result of the ANC's utter destruction of investor confidence in our currency and the implementation of fiscal policies that everyone but them can see is ludicrous.

So make no mistake, the rising cost of living is not because of war or other world circumstances, but by those in charge of this country, but those in National Government will not suffer. Instead, as always, the burden will be placed on the end consumer, the average South African who is forced to pay the bill for Government's failure.

The weakening of our currency is perhaps most keenly felt by our agricultural sector where the rising costs of imported goods, such as seeds and fertiliser, combined with fast escalating costs for security, electricity, etcetera, force our farmers into dire financial straits as they attempt to provide food for the nation. It also stops them from expanding and employing more people. Not only will the unprecedented fuel prices mean that what food they do manage to process will cost more to sell, the cost to get their products to the market will also, as always, have to be passed on to the consumer. High food prices will place a strain on already overextended budgets.

Transport costs will force people to pay even more to get to work. Studies on household costs have shown people spend proportionally more on transport and this is particularly the case in South Africa where the poor have been displaced and forced to live far from our urban centres. That is why the collapse of commuter rail is such a travesty. That, hon Speaker, assumes that people have got jobs to go to.

Without exports there can be no growth and without growth there can be no creation of new jobs. The recently released quarterly Labour Force Survey, which some members referred to, shows us that some progress has been made in overcoming unemployment, but we are at risk of eradicating this gain if we continue on this path.

The report shows us that it is the young who are hardest hit by our stagnant economy. If we do not create employment for them, we stand to lose an entire generation of workers to the social ills that come with unemployment. This cannot happen. The rural poor will suffer even more.

So today, as we discuss the impact of living costs, I urge those opposite me to implore their colleagues at the national level to do everything they can to resolve the situation. The DA has proposed real workable solutions to reduce the fuel price, implement them. This country has numerous qualified experts who will be able to introduce a fiscal policy that makes this country attractive to investors, thus driving the growth we need to create jobs, employ them, borrow from their ideas. Our people need jobs.



So get this country moving, attract investors and create jobs. This country and its people have incredible potential, but we as leaders must create that environment in which all South Africans can thrive. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen. Hon members, I now recognise hon the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. We welcome this debate today, but we really need to be honest. We must be honest in identifying those items that increase the cost of living in this province in particular. The ANC understands that the increasing fuel prices and the subsequent rate of inflation do impact not only on the economy of this province, but in particular on those excluded from the economy of this province, the poor and the marginalised, but I want to remind this House, hon Speaker, that when the ANC governed this province the unemployment rate was 17%. It is under this DA Government that unemployment has skyrocketed and broad-based economic empowerment for black people [Inaudible.] has dropped.

You know, hon member Bosman comes here and talks about R6 billion investment secured by Wesgro and he says that that created 4 000 jobs. I actually do not believe him. That is R1,5 million a job. I challenge hon member Bosman to come to this House with those 4 000 names, where are they employed, who are they and where do their work. I challenge him to come here next week with that information.

It is also clear that through the ANC the Presidential Youth Employment Fund, thousands and thousands of young people are being employed as school assistants, but yet hon member Plato's Walking Bus, which employed 2 300 people in the city, has been closed down. This province ...[Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... has had the safety ambassadors ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... the Leader of the Opposition ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat, sir? There is a point of order. Your time is now paused in respect of the point of order. Hon member Bosman?

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker.

On a point of order. I think the hon member is misleading the House. I never said R6 billion rand gets you 4 000 jobs ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bosman. That is not how we do this. If the hon member has misrepresented you, the process is to follow in terms of the

Standing Rules. Let us do that and I implore you to follow that process, hon member Bosman. If you could please take your seat. Hon the Leader of the Opposition ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Is this ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... I am just going to request ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... the same hon Bosman who has been appointed as a Chair of a committee of this House? Is it that person that is a Chair? †Hayi madoda. [No man.] Yôh, the DA is scratching for talent now, it is clear.

So they cancelled and people are suffering because this was an election †foefie. [trick.] Those jobs were cancelled. That is the DA for you, opportunistically using mainly Coloured people on the Cape Flats who are vulnerable, to get votes †en ek wil vir ons mense sê kom ons sien die DA vir wat hulle is. Hulle is rassisties, hulle gebruik net ons mense vir stemme en die waarheid kom nou uit, jy kan dit sien. [and I want to say to our people let us see the DA for what they are. They are racist, they only use our people for votes and the truth now comes out, you can see it.]

Then we have NGOs which are supposed to play a role, but it is clear that only if you are a blue Coloured NGO, †as jy blou in kleur is, dan kry jy geld

van agb Minister Fernandez. [if you are blue in colour, then you get money from the hon Minister Fernandez.] You do not get money for an NGO if you are from an NGO that is doing good work, is that not so, hon Baku? If you are not blue then they do not even want to look at you. You do not even have to be green and gold, you just have to be doing the work, but they come down on you and poverty has got no colour. Coloured people are poor, black African people are poor and white people are also poor, †maar die DA gebruik vir ons mense, maar hulle gaan sien in '24, hulle gaan sien [but the DA uses our people, but they will see in '24, they will see.]

Yet if we look, you see when you look at the solution, now the DA proposes in regard to the fuel price, they want to deregulate the fuel price, but if we look, hon Speaker, at international examples, it is terrifying to see what the example of deregulation of the fuel price actually does.

For cities in unregulated markets, like Paris and London, do you know, hon Speaker and hon members, that these prices have skyrocketed, that is of 95 octane unleaded, in Paris at over R33 per litre; in London at R33.66 per litre. Even in Denmark where the DA recently received funding as declared to the IEC, the fuel price is over R40. That is because of deregulation, which the DA wants. That is what their solution is, deregulation, so that their friends can make more money. Had the cost of petrol in our country not been regulated, National Government would not have been able to intervene as they have at the end of March and the last few days and that is why our Government has intervened with the relief for the fuel levy of R1.50 to

mitigate the current petrol problems we are facing, which could have resulted in increasing the unleaded petrol price to just above R25 a litre.

So like London and Paris, Cape Town is not an oil producing country, we know that and therefore compared to these two cities we actually seem to be doing better because of a National Government fuel levy and the regulation of the price, but let us look at the DA's other proposal on the cost of living.

†Dit is 'n skande dat terwyl die minimum loon nou R4,633.46 is vir plaaswerkers, die DA stel voor, hulle beleid in hulle boeke is R1,900 in 'n maand, R1,900. [It is a disgrace that while the minimum wage is now R4,633.46 for farmworkers, the DA proposes, their policy is R1,900 in a month, R1,900.]

†Jonga le DA, ifuna ukubhatala I 1,900 qha IANC Rhulumente funeke I minimum wage izakuba yi, R4 633. [Look at this DA, wants to pay R1 900 only whilst the ANC government should pay a minimum wage of R4 633.]

Who is serious about fighting poverty here? Not the DA and they come here and they want to be †skynheilig hierso in die Huis [hypocritical here in the House.]

Amidst the DA's complaints of National Government here today, let us look at what the City of Cape Town is doing. When we must condemn the unreasonable increase in electricity tariffs and water tariffs that resulted in

protests from residents, but what is more you fall behind in your water account, you go with R100 to go and buy electricity. They take off R80 immediately and you are left with R20. Is that being pro-poor? No, it is not and that is how the DA and the City and Witzenberg and many other municipalities are doing this. You say you care for the poor, but you want to make people get a R20 electricity out of R100. That is the DA for you.

They brag about getting Capetonians off the grid, but do we really know what the price is going to be of the energy that the City of Cape Town is talking about? Do we really know what the price is going to be? The DA, †die ligte is aan, kan jy nie sien nie? Die ligte brand [the lights are on, can you not see? The lights are on.] The DA-run City should cut back. The solution is the DA must cut back on the [Inaudible.] ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Please proceed, hon the Leader of the Opposition, and I would kindly ask you to address the Presiding Officer.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: To address?

The SPEAKER: The Presiding Officer, the Speaker.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: To address who?

The SPEAKER: Speak through the Speaker, sir.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speak through the Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Yes. [Laughs]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay, yes. So what we should do about that is the pipe levy and hon member Plato knows about this. The electricity surcharges are above the NERSA rate. So that is how you can provide relief to consumers, but †nee, die DA doen dit nie in die stad nie, [no, the DA does not do that in the city,] that is how much they care about.

Then we look at the issue of the cost of public transport. Golden Arrow gets subsidies, but the people of the province face rising costs in our public transport. So the subsidy should not just be used for operational costs in this crisis period, but to cushion the impact of inflation. So clearly, we need to subsidise the taxi industry, hon Speaker.

We know that in the State of the Province Address they have neglected the agricultural sector. Support our people to grow food, have urban agriculture like they do in Havana in Cuba and many other cities around the world. That is what hon member Fernandez should be doing, but she is not.

Right here in the City the DA tried to sell the PHA, which is the bread, the vegetable basket of the city, to private developers. We had to stop that and we mobilised against that. So they want to push big commercial farmers, sell off the land and that is why they do not want the Environmental

Commissioner and we know that the Premier's Committee has not met for months, six months, to discuss this issue, which should become a law.

We fought for the Children's Commissioner, we won that battle. Now we are going to fight for the Environmental Commissioner because that is going to help us. So there is no word on agriculture; there is no word on what we should do and I think that we must give more support to these sectors.

Where is the plan for tourism? That is the biggest job creator as people come back. We salute Checkers and others who are charging a minimal amount for bread, but it is not enough loaves. Community bakeries, why are we not looking at that?

The SPEAKER: Please wrap up ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: We need to make sure ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... that we have price control. We must consider, hon member Marais, through you, why not price control for this period on certain basic goods?

The SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]



The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am sure the Freedom Front and others ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... will support us on this.

The SPEAKER: ... the Leader of the Opposition ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: *Amandla!* Salut!

The SPEAKER: ... your time is up, thank you.

Hon members, order, hon members! I now recognise the Minister of Agriculture, Dr Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, hon Premier, leaders of various political parties, hon members. The agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in food production, job creation and economic growth. This forms the backbone of the economy during the initial year of COVID-19, the pandemic, and shows a positive and consistent economic growth. However, ensuring sustained agricultural production requires optimising the use of critical factors of production, like land, labour, capital and access to affordable inputs such as fuel and fertilisers and I want to thank hon member Bosman for bringing this matter to this House. I want to thank hon member the

Chairperson of the Standing Committee, hon member Andricus van der Westhuizen had extensively spoken about the relationship between fuel and the war and fertilisers.

Now the recent increase in the price of these inputs has increased the cost of agricultural production and contributes to high food prices. The volatile macro-economic conditions driven by the geopolitical tensions in Eastern Europe, the COVID-19 pandemic, extreme weather events and now the rising fuel prices, continue to constrain the pace of economic recovery in South Africa.

South Africa, hon members, as a net importer of crude oil, is experiencing record high fuel prices and high food prices as explained by members of this House.

Now these increases are impacting low-income households severely in South Africa. The increase in the fuel price will undermine food security and affordability. The ripple effect of expensive fuel will be transmitted resulting in high agricultural production costs, food prices and other essentials that rely on the road transportation.

Hon Speaker, according to Stats South Africa, transport and fuel input costs accounted for 6,9% or R3,6 billion of the R52 billion total expenditure on inputs used by the Western Cape commercial agriculture.

Hon Speaker and hon members, the recent further hike in the fuel price spike will have an adverse impact on agricultural production and post-farm gate transport cost and the ANC Government, unlike what hon member Dugmore said, simply does not care.

The energy prices continue to drive cost higher, there is no ending to loadshedding. As mentioned by my colleague, the Minister of Social Development, Minister Fernandez, the same trends are observed in international markets where crude oil and natural gas prices continue to indicate an upward pressure.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased significantly in the past few months. In May 2022, last month, diesel prices increased by 54,8% year-on-year. There are implications for poverty and hunger, as my colleagues indicated during this debate. The current increase in fuel and food prices is likely to worsen food insecurity in the province and the ANC Government simply does not care anymore.

The population experiencing adult or child hunger has sharply increased since 2020. This follows significant disruptions correlated with the initial period of the COVID-19 pandemic and the hard lockdown restrictions. Adult hunger has sharply increased from 11,74% in 2019 to 16,98% in 2020 and child hunger also from 11,06% to 12,09% respectively.

Hon Speaker, food insecurity in the Western Cape will be a greater reality.

This province accounts for 55% of the agricultural exports from South Africa and food insecurity is now prevalent at more household levels. The ongoing war in Russia and Ukraine adds a layer of complexity. It exerts more pressure on the already fragile global food system weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and other extreme events.

Hon Speaker, I think the situation is getting closer to home as hon member America has indicated. Also, the impact of the war is systemic in nature and we see that the ANC is simply supporting the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is no longer invasion, it is a full scale war. Fuel prices have increased significantly, which has a significant impact on the mobility of people to access the workplaces. This becomes a vicious cycle, and the ANC Government is simply not caring.

The ANC Government has uncaringly been abusing South Africans through the artificially high fuel price for decades. If you strip out the price of taxes and other costs, the real basic fuel price is only 9,74% per litre. It is 48% lower than the total price South Africans are currently paying at the pump. My party, the Democratic Alliance, will introduce urgent legislation to immediately deregulate and reduce the fuel price, which will bring immediate relief for all commuters and retailers to compete to offer lower prices.

While the ANC Government cares more about the flagpole, vanity projects and sending your tax money to Cuba, the DA cares deeply about the suffering South Africans and we will fight until we win this battle to deregulate, cut taxes and lower the fuel price.

Hon Speaker, my Department will continue to intensify the rollout of agri-process initiatives to promote food security along the value chain. Hon Speaker, the reality is simple. The ANC Government has run out of money. They stole the public funds as per the Zondo Commission and is now introducing a fuel corruption tax to punish South Africans. The fuel corruption tax will put more people into poverty, and I am asking all South Africans to sign our petition “Slashfuelprices.co.za”. Let us unite together and force the ANC Government to stop the exorbitant taxes on fuels.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon ...[Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Speaker, lastly hon member Marais, we are debating this matter here in this House in the Western Cape Parliament because the ANC Minister of Finance ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: ... is refusing to discuss this matter in the National Assembly. I thank you, hon Speaker.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb, baie dankie.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable, thank you.]

Hon members, †Iphelile ingxoxo ngoku sizakuthath' isali zethu sigoduke.

[The debate is concluded and we will saddle up and go home.] We have

finished our debate. The time allocated to the debate has come to an end. We are now moving to the Interpellations, and I want to thank the hon members who have participated in the debate.

The first interpellation is by hon member Kaizer-Philander to the hon Minister of Health, Dr Mbombo. I now recognise the Hon Minister.

## **INTERPELLATIONS**

*Temporary disability grant: withholding the deployment of doctors*

**1. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked the Minister of Health and Wellness:**

With respect to the National Government withholding the deployment of doctors to assess whether beneficiaries qualify for the temporary disability grant:

(a) What was the reason for withholding the deployment of doctors to the province and (b) when will this hold be lifted?

**The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** Thank you, Speaker. Thank you, hon member Philander.

Just also to note that this question was actually asked before, I think August

2020, by hon member Bosman. It was asked, but nonetheless.

What we need to understand is that the responsibility, I think starting from 2004 the responsibility ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat. Hon the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, could I ask the hon member Philander a question as to whether she and hon member Bosman speak about these issues before they pose questions? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Sit down!

The SPEAKER: ... Deputy Chief Whip, that is not how the Standing Rules are. You do not break the Rule in trying to enforce another one. I think let us allow the hon Minister to proceed. I think the hon Minister has drawn our attention to that she indicates that this question was asked. The Table staff will advise the Speaker in terms of that.

Let me repeat what the Minister said. The hon Minister has indicated to the House that this question was asked by another hon member of the House. So in terms of the Standing Rules there are provisions that guide the nature of

questions and that should be adhered to at all times.

I am going to request that the hon Minister proceeds. We will deal with this in terms of the Standing Rules and I commit to do just that. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Ja, thank you, hon Speaker. It was a written reply then, but nevertheless.

The SPEAKER: Is there – sorry, hon Minister, if you do not mind to take your seat again. I see the hand of the Deputy Chief Whip of the DA is up. Have you accidentally raised your hand or you have now withdrawn it? Hon member Baartman?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [DA]: Afternoon, I have withdrawn as you have covered my point. However, in terms of questions, the Same Question Rule only applies within the Six Month Rule, not after it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Baartman. You said you have withdrawn your hand, it is fine. I have addressed it and I am going to deal with it in terms of the Standing Rules.

Hon member, if it is the same matter can we please, please, please, please, no matter how much you like each other, let us relax now and proceed. Hon the Leader of the Opposition?



The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Chair. I would like to ask through you whether hon MEC Mbombo would be prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Leader of the Opposition. Hon Minister, you may now address the House. There is a question whether you are prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Probably maybe, because it is an interpellation, so I have got time at the end. So probably after I have responded to all questions, those that would be raised during the interpellation by speakers, if I still have got time left. I will be fine. I will use any – ja.

The SPEAKER: You will use any time less time later? All right.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: If there is time left, ja.

The SPEAKER: You have, hon Minister, three minutes. 20 seconds left.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: That is a lot. So as I was saying, hon Speaker, thank you for the question, but normally I like to also to bring perspective on the issue of the Health Department assisting with the assessment for the SASSA grant holders, which is in the disability, in the care dependency, in the grant in AIDS, as according to the Social Security

Act.

So in South Africa, generally that started in 2004 and with the Western Cape we did have our own service level agreement with the Western Cape SASSA, which now ended because of the COVID. I think our last SLA was ending 31 March 2021, but currently now we are renewing and it has been only the Metro actually because the others were not as active. The SASSA was appointing their own doctors, but in the Metro we have been assisting them where SASSA pays the money to the Department of Health and the Department of Health pays the money to those doctors and we are not using the same doctors that are part of the health services.

So we get the doctors and then in a particular facility you may get a SASSA doctor in consulting room A and then we have the doctor that belongs to that facility in consulting room B. In the SLA it does stipulate how much per assessment and also what forms need to be submitted before even they are paid out.

So it has been like that, but noting prior that at the national level it is supposed to have a kind of an agreement with the National Department and SAS for such, but we ended up doing our own because at the end it does have an impact on us. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you. I do understand that the hon member Sayed can get nervous in actually showing and emphasising the inefficiencies of the ANC National Government. Nevertheless, hon Speaker, thank you, hon Minister, for your reply.

Through you, hon Speaker. The Minister speaks to a continual theme of constraints that we all experience across portfolios in the Western Cape and, hon Speaker, that is the endemic trend of inefficiencies, as I said from the National Government, which our people are getting very anxious about. Once again, hon Speaker, the Western Cape has to go above and beyond its responsibilities in order to ensure that national mandates are delivered.

Hon Speaker, we see this as the hon Minister has just said, that our province is now needing to explore new ways to help SASSA dependents in order for them to receive the grants that they deserve.

Hon Speaker, when we look at the various projects that are being explored and we hope that they will be brought into fruition in due course, however, in the short-term at least ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kaizer-Philander, will you please take your seat? Is there a point of order, hon member Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, I would like to know if the

hon member Kaizer-Philander, given that she speaks on behalf of the Executive and the Department of Health, if she is able to take a question, please? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition. You have heard the question, hon member Kaizer-Philander?

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I am mindful of my time. Can I continue?

The SPEAKER: Proceed, please, yes.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you, hon Speaker. However, in the short-term at least, hon Speaker, through you, can the Minister give detail how this withholding has affected the province and is there any role that the Provincial Government has in this regard? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Kaizer-Philander. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this is a very important question and my question just to the hon Minister is, are there other measures so that we can assist the most vulnerable people? I know that nurses are qualified; there are a lot of qualified nurses. Are there other ways to assist the people in need when it comes to going to the doctor? Because it

is a fact, there is a shortage of doctors; people spend their whole day there. Can we make it more accessible? Does the Minister have any plans to make this more accessible to the most vulnerable people? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the way this question is framed is both misleading and incorrect. At some point we need to outgrow this childish politics endemic of painting National Government in a bad light. This is the continuation of the tiring and boring campaign of DA being unfairly targeted by the National Government. This is not true and the DA must desist from this. It is shocking that no one else outside of the DA in the province is aware of this withholding of deployment.

Thank you, hon Speaker, going forward I would like to say SASSA in the province is not aware, National Parliament Committee is not aware...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms G BAKUBAKU-VOS: ... is not aware, it is only the DA.

The SPEAKER: Will you please take your seat. I will pause the timer. There is a hand online. Hon member Bosman, is that a point of order?

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Through you I would like to know if the member is prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bosman. Hon member Bakubaku-Vos, the question is clear?

†UNKzs N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Andifuni ukuphendula mbuzo wakhe.

[Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: I do not want to answer his question.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bakubaku-Vos, you may proceed. Hon member Bosman, the hon member indicated that she is not interested. You may proceed, hon member Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Speaker. It is shocking that no one else outside of the DA in the province is aware of this withholding of deployment of doctors. SASSA in the province is not aware; National Parliament Committee is not aware. It is only the DA that knows about it.

Can the MEC tell us when was this communication sent? Where did it come from and what reason was given for it? We know there have been a lot of challenges with regards to the application of temporary disability grants, especially during the hard lockdown. Through National Government intervention SASSA allocated millions to recruit over 400 doctors to assist with managing the backlog in temporary disability grants.

Through efficient management thousands of [Inaudible.] grants were reinstated, including the majority that were in the Western Cape. In the spirit of the inter-governmental relations one sphere of government cannot be a distant spectator whose only role is shouting from the grandstand and rejoicing when they are challenged. What has the Provincial Government ...[Interjection.] done during the challenge with temporary disability grants? I thank you, hon Speaker. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, hon member Bakubaku-Vos. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Interesting, through you, I wonder when last was the hon member Bakubaku-Vos in her constituency, but nevertheless.

Hon Speaker, in the interest as a member of this Provincial Parliament and serving the communities out there, hon Speaker, it is incumbent upon me to ask questions when confronted with it within that community, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Kaizer-Philander, there are two hands. The one hand in the virtual platform. I will start with the Chief Whip of the Opposition and then there is another hand in the Chamber. Hon the Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, hon member Kaizer-Philander is casting aspersions on the integrity of hon member Bakubaku-Vos and I would like to appeal to you to rule on that when she says she is wondering when last was hon member Bakubaku-Vos was in her constituents. May you please rule on that one?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Chief Whip of the Opposition. I would like to now ask the Deputy Chief Whip to rise on the point of order.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Yes, hon Speaker, thank you. I also rise on the point of order in terms of Rule 59. It is very, very clear in terms of reflecting on the integrity or dignity of another member. So because it is unethical and ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: ... improper for the member not to be in their constituency and not to serve as the constituency. So hon member Kaizer-Philander must bring a substantive motion to you, hon Speaker, on this particular matter, if it is true, but really this is, and then it is also not something in line with the discussion. What has this got to do with health? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Let me – alright, thank you, hon members. I have heard the point of order raised by the hon the Chief Whip of the Opposition and equally by the hon the Deputy Chief Whip of the



Opposition. I am not too sure how the Rule 159, hon the Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition, gets activated by what has been shared, but I will consult with my team and I will make such a ruling in the next sitting.

May I please allow the hon member to proceed? Hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. So typical of the ANC, as National Government is also not aware of anything. Nevertheless, hon Speaker, let me continue. Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Order! Order, hon Speaker!

The SPEAKER: Order, order, hon members. Hon the Chief Whip of the Opposition?

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: [No audible response]

The SPEAKER: Hon the Chief Whip of the Opposition?

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Thank you, thank you, hon Speaker. My apologies for disrupting hon member Kaizer-Philander. My hand was up immediately after you have made the ruling on Rule 159 because I have not heard you make a ruling on the fact that hon member Kaizer-Philander is casting aspersion on hon member Bakubaku-Vos.

The SPEAKER: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: I thank you.

The SPEAKER: ... thank you, hon the Chief Whip of the Opposition. I have made such a ruling on Rule 59, not 159. Rule 59 which I have, and I will repeat because the matter, I think is important for the purposes of the Chief Whip in this regard. I have indicated that I do not get it clearly how this statement by hon member Kaizer-Philander impacts and thereby activating Rule 59. I would like to consult the Table staff and Hansard, and I will return to the matter in the next sitting.

So that is the ruling and therefore there is no more debate on the matter because the Presiding Officer has made a ruling. Is that a different matter, hon the Chief Whip?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Speaker, I am not contesting your ruling, it is just a point for noting that just to, and we want to thank you, hon Speaker, for saying that you are going to analyse and you are going to come back to the House with a ruling because it is unlike what happened last week when hon member Van der Westhuizen was chairing and immediately on the spot came with a ruling on that same Rule 59. So I want to thank you for this approach. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Deputy Chief of the Opposition. I also

know that there was a matter on that point but let me assure the House and the hon members that at all times we will follow the Standing Rules and this is our House, let us treat it as such. There is no more point of orders because the ruling has been made by the Presiding Officer.

I now move with the speakers' list. Order, hon members. There is another hand on the virtual platform. Is it on a different matter, hon member Bosman?

Mr G BOSMAN: Yes, hon Speaker. I am just trying to get some clarity. I am reading the Rules and I do not understand where in the Rules a member can rise on a point of noting.

If hon member Sayed would like to educate the House, he should organise a study group. There is no Rule for points of noting. We would like to continue with the debate, please. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member Bosman. I am going to say that let us close this matter as the Presiding Officer has made the ruling and proceed in the interest of the House and for the sake of time that we proceed. Order, hon members. Order, hon members. I know we have not had a sitting that lasts until 12 a.m., but if you are canvassing the Presiding Officer, I will grant that. Let me request the cooperation of the hon members. May I then allow the opportunity for the hon member Kaizer-Philander to proceed.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Indeed,

the ANC is out of touch with the reality in our communities and they must bring their own interpellations and questions, hon Speaker, in the interest of our communities. Nevertheless, hon Speaker, I am going to shorten my address.

Hon Speaker, what is currently happening, and this is what is evident and a reality in our communities, is that people are deprived of grants because doctors are not available to assess them.

Hon Speaker, disability grants especially, I know about residents that have not received their grants for many months and this does not fall within the ambit of the hon Minister Mbombo, but asking the questions in terms of when it comes to doctors and what exactly is the role that the Provincial Government plays or could play to assist those communities in order to make sure that they do get assessed and in order for them to access those grants.

Hon Speaker, can I ask if the Minister can perhaps also just indicate to us how could the Western Cape Health Department assists in this regard? Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Kaizer-Philander. Hon members I now recognize the hon the Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon members for the inputs.

Just quickly, hon Speaker. Here I have opened the two service level agreements. The one that was signed in August 2020. By the original from the SASSA is to Mr [Inaudible.] and then for the 21 February 2022 it is from SASSA from Pretoria, April Mashangu. However, inasmuch as I am tempted actually to say more, I take into cognisance Section 11 of the SLA talks about the confidentiality, that this cannot be shared.

So you can understand when SASSA is saying that, according to hon member Bakubaku-Vos, they reshare because it talks about:

“The party shall not during the currency of this agreement, or any time thereafter, utilise or call to utilise directly or indirectly publish or cause to be published otherwise disclose or cause to be disclosed.”

Blah-blah-blah-blah, all of those. So I am not sure exactly to what extent that I can disclose, but the point that the members are trying to highlight is that there have been backlogs and also because specifically they need health assessment, can the Health Department assist? We are saying that no, we cannot. However, we could be able to assist SASSA by making sure that we do appoint those doctors on their behalf, subject that they will be paying those doctors, and also we have assisted them in terms of how these doctors can be able to claim and also that we take the money from SASSA, when they receive the invoice, we do it on their behalf, which is what we have done as part of the SLAs.

There are many doctors actually who are unemployed. Once they are done with their community services, they need appointment. So just like they do outside the Metro in some other areas, like Central Karoo, where SASSA brings their doctors themselves and appoint them. It does not stop them to do that, but our understanding is it becomes hectic for them because it is not their area. Therefore, that is why we volunteer in assisting them, but they must pay.

Lastly, hon Speaker, I think there was a question about how does it impact on us? There are children who might have been born with some disability and now they are 17-year-olds or 18-year-olds. Just think of it, that person has been dependent on the grant since birth and then now all of a sudden at 17, 18 where the primary caregiver maybe is working, now has got nothing and that child depends on that food, there is no way that you can ask that person, that child who has been with a disability, especially like cerebral palsy, you expect now that person to go for reassessment because nothing is going to change, because not being able to sit, not being able to talk, has nothing about it. So why would you want that person to go and renew disability?

So they are supposed to have worked on themselves so that they categorise which ones they need for the renewal. So instead of just doing the blanket thing. So it has impacted us hugely because it means that those caregivers have to come to the health facility, not necessarily for the assessment, but it is because now those children which are now adults and they are not having any food to eat, the primary caregivers or their assistants end up not being

able even to be provided not only with food, but also in regard to support.

So as I indicated, hon Speaker, lastly, we have renewed for the 2022 until March 2023 for the Metro. I see here also the signature of the Garden Route director, which means that it does actually accommodate such part, but as I indicated that I am not sure to what extent that I can be able to divulge more as accordingly, but the people who signed it for Metro is the Metro Service Director, Dr Perez [Interjections.], and then for the Garden Route is [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: †Ixesha lixhatshwe yinja, Ncibane. [The time is up, Ncibane.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: †Incedile u member Dugmore angabisafumana not, shame. [Serves member Dugmore right that he could not get anything, shame.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. †Siyabulela ke mhlonipheki. [Thank you, honourable.] No, the hon member – you see I thought your isiXhosa was much better than mine, hon the Leader of the Opposition. I was indicating to the Minister that †ixesha lixhatshwe yinja. [the time has gone.] Ja, it is really lapsed. So she responded graciously [Interjections.] – we do not have factions in this House. [Laughs]

Order, hon members. Order, hon members. That concludes the Interpellation

number 1. We now – thank you to the hon members who participated. Order!

I now move to Interpellation number 2 by hon member Xego to hon the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Minister Wenger. I now recognise the hon Minister, and I want to say to the House as you all know the hon Minister it is her debut address in the House and we know the Rule and the convention, that we must be nice to the Minister and ensure that she enjoys her maiden address to the House and congratulations once more, hon Minister.

*Job creation in the province*

**2. Mr M Xego asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:**

What changes will she bring to her Department to enhance job creation and to alleviate poverty in the province?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, for that as the intro to my maiden interpellation.

Thank you very much, hon member Xego, for the question. It is indeed a great pleasure to address you today as the new Minister for Finance and Economic Opportunities and I fully appreciate the immense responsibility that now falls on me as we look to deliver opportunity and hope in the



Western Cape. I take this responsibility very seriously and in all that I do, I consider myself on the job to create jobs in the Western Cape.

There can be no greater priority in our province right now, especially given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our economy and on the livelihoods of so many of our residents. We have to claw back the jobs that we have lost during this time, and it is my strong view that even more so we need to aim higher. It is not enough that we have the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa, important as that is, we need to be a shining example of rapid economic growth that creates the jobs that we need to roll back poverty and this is our unwavering objective and so I fully agree with President Cyril Ramaphosa when he said in his State of the Nation Address this year, that it is not the role of Government to create jobs, it is businesses that do that. It is Government's role to enable businesses to be able to create jobs.

We have to continue to proudly embrace this principle that it is the private sector, which includes SMMEs, the informal sector and entrepreneurs that create jobs and that our role as Government is to adopt policies that enable this, and let us not forget that we also have a role to play in removing barriers to growth for our SMMEs and entrepreneurs. That we have a role to play in supporting and enabling the growth of small and informal businesses within the private sector.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with a small business owner, Mr Salim Williams, who owns "*Lekker Pies*" in Mitchells Plain and I can

personally say that those pies were †heerlik, [delicious,] they really were †lekker [nice] and I think the rest of the Cabinet will agree as they enjoyed some of the pies at our last Cabinet meeting, but at the visit I heard how he struggled to find financing for his enterprise and was assisted through the Department's Red Tape Reduction Unit, who put them in contact with small enterprise finance agencies and now his business is thriving and he has plans to expand, providing employment to many more people in Mitchells Plain, and this is one example of how Government can help to enable job creation, but ultimately it is the private sector that creates them.

I am also committed to embracing innovation and collaboration so that we can get the job done efficiently. That includes a whole of government approach in the jobs cluster, for example, the new Departments of Infrastructure and Mobility will be key in enabling private sector led growth and job creation into the future.

In my first week I met with our teams to discuss plans on the go and in the pipelines to drive growth and job creation in the province. In all these discussions I have kept the following core areas on top of my mind, making it easier to do business in the Western Cape so that the private sector can do its job of creating jobs; increasing partnerships with the private sector, including the informal sector so that we can be responsive to the needs of job creators. We must back entrepreneurs and small businesses who are the engines of the economy. We must invest in our people through targeted skills programmes so that they can leverage opportunities that the private sector

creates and needs and we must enable innovation not only in our economy, but also in our Government so that we can deliver services that our economy needs to grow, and finally we must entrench our province's resilience, especially our energy resilience so that we remain on track to be the first province to beat loadshedding.

These core focus areas will also inform our growth for jobs strategy, which is currently underway and which we want to inform next year's Main Budget [Interjections.].

At the foundation of everything ...[Interjections.]

*[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister, if you can just finish off, please. Your time is almost up.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY: Okay, at the foundation of everything we do we must fulfil our commitment to good and clean governance in the province because when you spend your money properly, we can create the right conditions for growth, job creation and inspire confidence in the province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Wenger. I allowed the Minister to finish as it is her new interpellations.

Thank you very much, hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for her response.

One of the first statements that the Minister made taking over the office was that it is the private sector that creates jobs, and we hear even today the Minister reiterates that. Linked to that is that that statement was also made by the Premier earlier this year whilst giving the State of the Province Address, saying that the Provincial Government still has a duty to make sure that there is adequate infrastructure so that the private sector can invest.

Now the sort of infrastructure that one would assume the Premier was referring to is one intended to largely cater for those with the deeper pockets and for indirect investment in the province, with the aim of creating jobs, which is fine, we do not have a problem with that. However, our concern in all of this is that not enough is done to assist the township economy. As we are hearing now the Minister is referring to small businesses in Mitchells Plain. We wish that that could be said by all the township economies around the province because the problem we are having here is that we have potential, but this potential is not nurtured enough and as a result it leads to nowhere.

We have poor people in townships with companies and small businesses operating at a very small scale as a result of lacking enough capital and other

resources in order to move from small to medium enterprises. Oftentimes these businesses are well-run by their owners who just lack the necessary skills as well as capital.

Now the lack of skills can vary but can also include not being able to attract investment, meaning that the owners are running these businesses from self-generated funds. Now when one looks at initiatives administered by the Provincial Government, such as the Small Medium Enterprises Booster Fund, the first thing one notices is that the fund of R16 million is very little and to make up for that the Department requires applicants to also demonstrate that they are getting other funding from elsewhere, which most of the townships and businesses do not have and will therefore fail to satisfy the requirement and then coupled with all this, will be endless technical documents that the Department will require from them, which they do not have and then this will result in them not getting the necessary funding.

Now as far as the creation of employment is concerned, what is the Department doing to reduce administrative red tape in initiatives such as SMMEs Booster Fund in order to make sure that they are accessible to small township business owners who do not necessarily have capital from anyone or people outside the Government and they are not being able to generate these things themselves?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Xego, your time is up. Thank you very much. I now recognise hon member Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the new Minister has been charged with taking an already successful Department to even greater heights. I have no doubt that this is what Minister Wenger will do as our party has proven that we hold our own very high standard.

I say that the Minister is taking over a successful Department as it should be quite clear from the unemployment statistics released this week, the Western Cape is doing the best at putting the people of our province to work. We in the Western Cape have an expanded unemployment rate of 29%. So there is still much work to be done, but that should be seen in light of a 45,5% national rate. It is clear there that something very differently is being done in the Western Cape.

Minister Wenger has really made it very clear that her number one priority is jobs, and the DA has a principle economic approach that is always informed by evidence, and this means that there is coherence and continuity when Ministers are in charge. This is evidenced by the fact that the SMME Booster Fund, which has helped 730 small businesses since 2019, has been reopened for application since Minister Wenger took charge and we are confident that Minister Wenger will continue to empower SMMEs as they contribute to the growth of the provincial economy and job creation, but can the Minister perhaps give some more details on how SMMEs contribute to our provincial economy? Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bosman. I now

recognise hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I just want to ask the Minister two questions. The one question is when will we in the Western Cape see an end to loadshedding? Just the other day I was in Mitchells Plain in Westgate Mall, taking people to the Spur there for a meeting and when we got there, there was no electricity and they told me, when I went to speak to the manager, they said this is an unscheduled loadshedding; they did not even know about it and all the people left the Spur.

So that is a big problem. So I want to know from the Minister when is the end of loadshedding in the province? And secondly, because that is important for economic growth. You can have everything in order, but if you every time is going to have loadshedding, we cannot grow in the Western Cape and just another question to the Minister, are the skills that required in the province, are there innovative skills? Those who are unemployed to get them back into employment? What is the Minister's plans with that? Thank you, Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. I now recognise hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As the ANC we believe that poverty alleviation is absolutely paramount, particularly in this province and we want to extend a hand to the hon MEC to say that we would work with her. It just so happens, hon Deputy

Speaker, that when you were the MEC and now we have another woman, MEC Wenger, it is very clear that those two women outperformed both the Premier, when he was in that portfolio, and also MEC Maynier and that is why we were surprised when you are not appointed again, but nevertheless we want to work with you, MEC, through the Deputy Speaker.

Our province has its own PERO and it shows a very high Gini coefficient; 0,6 as we know in the Western Cape, while Stats SA indicates that the poverty rate was actually at 21% in 20 [Inaudible.] – there is nothing more important than actually growing jobs and building and transforming an inclusive economy. Nothing more important than that and we just wish that you would start off, because this question from hon member Xego is clear. What changes will you bring? And unfortunately, we did not hear that.

Surely if you are taking R1.2 billion into a Community Safety Plan, imagine if you could actually use a third of that to support tourism, to support other job creators in those particular sectors. There is not that thinking, unfortunately. We have spin from the Premier, but no substance. He is the weakest Premier we have ever had, hon Deputy Speaker, he has got no substance; he likes bells and whistles, but actually the conflict in his own party, which he cannot manage, is creating instability not only in the Government, but even here where there is a fight and we saw it, hon Deputy Speaker, with respect, between you and the Speaker. You were fighting. †Julle het baklei in die vergadering, ons het dit gesien. [You were fighting in the meeting, we saw that.]



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, you are now talking about something that has nothing to do with the topic at hand. Are you complete? Your time is up. Yes, thank you very much. Your time is up, thank you very much, hon member Dugmore. I now recognise hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order – one minute, hon member Xego. Order members in the House, please! I cannot hear hon member Xego. Hon member Xego, you may proceed.

Mr M XEGO: Sorry, sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, I'm muted there. Sorry about that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. In one of the previous statements made by the new Minister when sworn in, is that the Minister is going to create jobs and kind of reverse the job losses which came about as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now in the short-term what input will the Department make to ensure that infrastructure is created in order to create more job opportunities and also what would be the relationship of the Minister with other Opposition parties? Because we have got SMMEs out there who are seeking direct assistance

from the Ministry or from the Department and yet they do not have any kind of assistance that they are getting. Then Opposition parties would come as part of their constituencies to approach the Department with such kind of proposal to say, "We have got there constituencies that are not serviced." How will the approach of the Minister be as far as that is concerned? Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Xego. Now I recognise hon Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Certainly, a lot to respond to there, I will try my best.

So first of all to hon Xego and hon Bosman, absolutely we have to back entrepreneurs and small businesses which are important engines in our economy. The latest statistics that I have available show that, and according to the DTIC, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises accounted for about 30% of total GDP in 2006 in South Africa. In the Western Cape, according to [Inaudible.] in their Quarter 1 report of last year, the Western Cape has just under 300 000 SMMEs mainly in the following industries: trade and accommodation; financial and business services; community services; construction and manufacturing.

So as part of our plan to support entrepreneurs and small businesses and it

was mentioned, is the SMME Booster Fund which I announced that applications for the 2022 Booster Fund opened this week. It will distribute R16 million to selected organisations which deliver training programmes on business development and support and access to markets for those SMMEs.

It is managed by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and it aims to enhance the sustainability of urban, rural township-based youth and people with disabilities, as well as women-owned SMMEs in our province. Since the first iteration of this fund, it allocated almost R60 million in funding and support at 730 SMMEs in the Western Cape.

In the countdown to the launch, I was very happy to go and visit Owen Mdledle who owns the Baphumelele Fountain of Hope farm in Philippi, who was a previous beneficiary of this fund, and he has done some absolutely amazing things with the assistance that the fund has provided. Let us see.

Then talking about skills development, which is something hon member Xego mentioned. The Department has set aside more than R80 million and leverages more than an additional R100 million each year from the private sector as well as other Government sources, to support youth employment and skills development.

These funds have been provided to accredited training and incentivised firms and they have employed more than 6 500 unemployed youth over the past two years and in recognition of the historic marginalisation of women in the

workplace and society in general, of those 6 500 employment opportunities, approximately 60% were women and for the upcoming financial year we will be incentivising the employment of individuals with disabilities as well.

On loadshedding. Of course, hon member Christians, loadshedding is harming the economy in an extraordinary way. The Department is, however, full steam ahead with its Municipal Energy Resilience Programme, which is aiming to mitigate the effects of loadshedding; we had a briefing on it this week and it really is conducting some pioneering work.

Hon member Dugmore, thank you very much for extending a hand. I agree, collaboration is key. We are actively working on a growth and jobs plan with the Premier and I am very excited to see this take shape in the coming months.

Then to conclude, our economy ultimately depends on us not only identifying what are the barriers to growth, but it requires us to be bold, to innovate and to do everything we can to resolve them together. Key to economic growth is investment in infrastructure, which is something that is necessary to unlock the economic potential of our region.

We know that if we work harder and smarter, we can unlock the tremendous value of our economy and by working together we can remove barriers to growth, stimulate the private sector for more investment, grow our economy and enable the creation of many more jobs for the people of the Western

Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Wenger.

That brings us to the end of Interpellation 2. We will now begin Interpellation 3. I now recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

*Driftsands Nature Reserve*

**3. Mr P Marran asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

Whether he received any legal advice before taking the decision to deproclaim and abolish the Driftsands Nature Reserve; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

†DIE MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Agb Adjunkspeaker, baie dankie aan die agb lid Marran vir die interpellasie.

Alhoewel die besluit om Driftsands Natuurresewaat te deproklameer en te sluit nog nie geneem is nie, het ek deurgaans tydens hierdie proses regs ...

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to hon member Marran for the interpellation.

Although the decision to deproclaim and close the Driftsands Nature Reserve has not yet been taken, I have throughout during this process received legal...]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Apologies, Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dit is als reg, ja.

[THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: It is all right, yes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agb Adjunkspeaker, alhoewel die besluit om die Driftsands Natuurreservaat te deproklameer en te sluit nog nie geneem is nie, het ek deurgaans tydens hierdie proses regsadvies ontvang om die deproklamasie en die sluiting van Driftsands Natuurreservaat te oorweeg.

Regsadvies was 'n integrale deel van CapeNature se reaksie op die onwettige besetting van die Driftsands Natuurreservaat sedert dit in Junie 2020 tydens die aanvanklike fase van Covid-19 pandemie begin het. Ek is deur regsspanne

van beide CapeNature en die Departement van die Premier ingelig oor die reaksie op beide die onwettige bewoning op die terrein sowel as die gepaardgaande onwettige sandmyne, of sandmynaktiwiteite. Ek word in kennis gestel dat dit tydens die nasionale staat van inperking byna onmoontlik was om onwettige bewoners uit te sit aangesien die regulasies wat ingevolge die Rampbestuurwet gepubliseer is, bepaal het dat, en ek haal aan:

“Alle uitsettings en uitvoering van beslagleggingsbevele, beide roerende en onroerende insluitende die verwydering van roerende bates, en die verkoop wat besig is om plaas te vind, met onmiddellike effek opgeskort is vir die duur van die inperkingsperiode.”;

en dat ‘n persoon nie van sy of haar grond of huis verwyder mag word, of sy of haar woonplek vir die duur van die nasionale ramptoestande afgebreek mag word nie, tensy ‘n bevoegde hof ‘n bevel toestaan of toegestaan het wat die uitsetting of sloping magtig, en het die hof bewus van die benarde toestand van onwettige bewoners, uitsettingsbevele teruggehou, wat dit dus onmoontlik maak om enige persoon uit die natuurreservaat te verwyder.

Ek word in kennis gestel dat die migrasie van groot getalle mense en die oprigting van duisende strukture binne ‘n paar weke op die natuurreservaat tesame met die feit dat die onwettige bewoners daar gebly het vir die duur van die Covid-19 nasionale ramptoestand, groot skade aan die natuurreservaat aangerig het. CapeNature het gesê hulle het die Driftsands Natuurreservaat

deurlopend geëvalueer deur van hommeltuie-beeldmateriaal gebruik te maak om die toestand van die natuurreservaat en die voortgesette impak van die onwettige besetting op die natuurreservaat te bepaal. Toe CapeNature die Ministerie gedurende 2020/21 genader het om die omvang van die verlies van die natuurlike habitat as gevolg van die onwettige besetting van die natuurreservaat uiteen te sit, het ek met die Departement van die Premier en die Regsdienste-afdeling gekommunikeer en ek is toe in kennis gestel dat die sluiting en terugtrekking van die proklamasie deur 'n tweeledige proses onderneem gaan word ingevolge die Natuurbewaringsordonnansie van 1974 en die Wet op Nasionale Omgewingsbestuur van 2003, Wet 57 van 2003.

Ingevolge die Ordonnansie sluit ek die natuurreservaat en ingevolge die Wet op Nasionale Rampbestuur, trek die provinsiale wetgewing die proklamasie terug. Ingevolge die advies ontvang, het ek kennis geneem van die voorneme om die Driftsands Natuurreservaat ingevolge die Natuurbewaringsordonnansie van 1974 te sluit deur publikasie van 'n kennisgewing in die *Provinsiale Koerant* op 18 Maart 2022, en plaaslike koerante, sodat ek kommentaar van alle belanghebbendes kon kry om enige besluit om die natuurreservaat te sluit, in te lig. Ek dank u.

***[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]***

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, although the decision to deproclaim and close the Driftsands Nature Reserve has not yet



been taken, I have throughout during this process received legal advice to consider the deproclamation and closing of Driftsands Nature Reserve.

Legal advice has been an integral part of CapeNature's reaction to the illegal occupation of the Driftsands Nature Reserve since it has started in June 2020 during the initial phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. I have been informed by legal teams of both CapeNature and the Department of the Premier on the reaction to both the illegal occupation of the terrain as well as the accompanying sand mines, or sand mining activities. I am being informed that during the national state of restriction it had been almost impossible to evict illegal occupants as the regulations that were published in terms of the Disaster Management Act stipulated, and I quote:

“A person may not be evicted from his or her land or home or have his or her place of residence demolished for the duration of the national state of disaster unless a competent court has granted an order authorising the eviction or demolition.”;

And that a person may not be removed from his or her land or home, or his or her home may not be demolished for the duration of the national disaster conditions, unless a competent court grants an order or granted an order authorizing the eviction or demolition, and the courts are aware of the dire condition of illegal occupants and eviction orders held back which thus made it impossible to remove any person from the nature reserve.

I am being informed that the migration of large numbers of people and the erection of thousands of structures within a few weeks on the nature reserve along with the fact that the illegal occupants lived there for the duration of the Covid-19 national disaster, caused great damage to the nature reserve. CapeNature said they evaluated the Driftsands Nature Reserve throughout by using drone image material to determine the condition of the nature reserve and the continued impact of the illegal occupation on the nature reserve. When CapeNature approached the Ministry during 2020/21 to set out the scope of the loss of the natural habitat as a result of the illegal occupation, I communicated with the Department of the Premier and Legal Services Division and I was then informed that the closure and withdrawal of the proclamation would be undertaken by a two-prong process in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinances of 1974 and the National Environmental Management Act, Act 57 of 2003.

In terms of the Ordinances I close the nature reserve and in terms of the National Disaster Management Act the provincial legislation withdraws the proclamation. In terms of the advice received, I noted the intention to close the Driftsands Nature Reserve in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance of 1974 by publication of a notice in the *Provincial Gazette* on 18 March 2022, and local newspapers, so that I can receive comments from all interested parties to inform any decision to close the nature reserve. I thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.] Thank you very much hon Minister, we move on to hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, greetings Premier, members present. Speaker, what we have now heard from the MEC is the legal advice that they have obtained, to deproclaim. Speaker, this is precisely why the ANC is calling for the establishment of the Environmental Commissioner. †Wat huidiglik plaasvind op Driftsands is 'n skande. [What is currently taking place on Driftsands is a disgrace.] The easy way out that this Provincial Government is considering is a disgrace to the environmental policy of the DA itself, never mind the understanding that we who should be protecting the environment. Climate change is a reality. As the MEC of Environmental Affairs, the MEC ought to know this. In the budget vote of this Department, the ANC raised in particular their concern that CapeNature and the Department will take the easy way out and deproclaim the Driftsands Nature Reserve.

How are we to be convinced that this Department and CapeNature takes the environment and protecting of our nature reserves seriously after this? When CapeNature made their presentation to the Select Committee, they pointed out that it is the responsibility of the private owners of the property to protect their land. It was their responsibility to protect the land but when we raised these issues in the House, we were accused by the MEC of politicising Department officials. The MEC and his Department must take responsibility for the failure of Driftsands Nature Reserve especially given that it is in the part of the Western Cape where there are indigenous and rare species of

flora. The Environmental Commissioner would certainly have had the necessary constitutional clout to act against the City of Cape Town for the lack of service delivery, against CapeNature and against this Department in its failure to protect Driftsands Nature Reserve.

We were told that during lockdown, many former backyard dwellers were forced to move into the Nature Reserve. That people could have so easily moved onto the land is an indictment on CapeNature but the ultimate responsibility of this failure must lie with the DA-run City of Cape Town and its failure to build houses for our people. The DA is content with informal settlements hence it has given no urgency to the housing crisis in our province, a crisis which lies at the very heart of the occupation of Driftsands. The DA's latest budget in the City of Cape Town is over R6 billion for public transport but just over R2 billion for Human Settlements. The DA must take responsibility for the deproclamation of this nature reserve. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise hon America. My apologies.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Sorry Speaker, it has been changed, it is Van der Westhuizen.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies, hon van der Westhuizen. Thank you.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Geagte Adjunkspeaker, die Covid-19

regulasies wat deur die ANC-regering ingestel is, het die vermoë van grondeienaars om hul eiendom teen onwettige besettings te beskerm, erg aan bande gelê. Ek sou graag van die agbare Marran wou hoor hoe hy reken 'n Omgewingskommissaris die onwettige besetting sou kon verhoed, net seker soos wat hy reken die Kinderkommissaris alle geweld tans teen kinders verhoed. Die Wes-Kaap is bevoorreg dat daar in die verlede ten spyte van die druk op behuising, nywerhede en van landboukant die versierendheid was om verskeie stukke grond opsy te sit vir natuurbewaring. Daar is veral gepoog om voorbeelde van die verskillende tipes fauna en flora vir die toekoms te bewaar. Baie van hierdie natuurparke is ongelukkig ver van ons dorpe en stede, wat die voorreg van toegang, hetsy vir ontspanning of om ons bioversiteit te bewonder of meer te leer, vir baie arm Suid-Afrikaners onmoontlik gemaak het.

Driftsands was 'n unieke voorbeeld van 'n kus-fynbosreservaat wat boonop binne maklike bereik van 'n area van hoë bevolkingsdigtheid was. Die gerieflike toegang tot Driftsands het ongelukkig geblyk ook sy Achilles-hiel te wees. Die verlies van Driftsands Natuurreservaat weens onwettige besetting, is dus betreurenswaardig. Dat sommige hul strukture op gevaarlike plekke op hierdie natuurpark opgerig het, is 'n bron van groot kommer. Minister, ek hoop dat u ons ook kan inlig oor die volgende aspekte:

Eerstens, aan watter entiteit sal Driftsands waarskynlik oorgedra word;

Tweedens, is daar 'n moontlikheid om stukke kus-fynbos soortgelyk aan Driftsands, met ander stukke grond van Natuurbewaring te vervang;

En laastens, wat het u Department gedoen om diegene wat hulle op die laagliggende dele van Driftsands gevestig het, van die gevare in te lig.

Baie dankie.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Covid-19 regulations introduced by the ANC Government severely restricted the ability of land owners to protect their property against illegal occupations. I would like to hear from the hon Marran how he reckons an Environmental Commissioner could have prevented the illegal occupation, probably just as he reckons the Childrens' Commissioner is preventing all violence against children. The Western Cape is privileged that in the past, in spite of the pressure on housing, industries and from agriculture, there had been the vision to set aside various pieces of land for nature conservation. It was especially attempted to conserve examples of the various types of fauna and flora for the future. Many of these nature parks are unfortunately far from our towns and cities, which made the privilege of access, whether for recreation or to appreciate our biodiversity or learn more, impossible for many poor South Africans.

Driftsands was a unique example of a coastal fynbos reserve which was also within easy reach of an area with a high density population. The easy access to Driftsands unfortunately also proved to be its Achilles heel. The loss of Driftsands Nature Reserve through illegal occupation is therefore lamentable.

That some had erected their structures on dangerous places in this nature park, is a source of great concern. Minister, I hope that you can inform us on the following aspects:

Firstly, to which entity will Driftsands probably be transferred;

Secondly, is there a possibility to replace parcels of fynbos similar to Driftsands with other parcels of Nature Conservation;

And finally, what has your Department done to inform those people who settled on the low-lying parts of Driftsands of the dangers.

Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, we want to hear how the MEC will defend the indefensible. The losing of Driftsands Nature Reserve is a classic example of the failure of DA governance, yet Speaker where the nature reserve was is also important and I think hon Van der Westhuizen would have sung a different song if this nature reserve was in Constantia, Blaauwberg or on the West Coast; the DA would never have allowed this to happen.

I remember when we were taken, all the way to Hermanus, hon Speaker, just to look at one milkwood tree, just one. One milkwood tree and the argument

was we should rescue; we should save this, one milkwood tree because it was next to a white suburb. While the ANC is empathetic that this was a classical case for the Environmental Commissioner to investigate and make proposals that will ensure that this never happens again. There are also concerns about the human tragedy. Yes, the deproclamation of Driftsands is an environmental tragedy but it is also a human tragedy. It is a tragedy of people who have been neglected by the DA-run City of Cape Town in not providing basic services and human settlements. It is a tragedy of people who have been neglected by the DA-run Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, now called Infrastructure. It is a tragedy of people throughout this province who are not a priority of the DA because they are poor, they are African, they are Coloured and Indian, but it is also a failure of this Department to plan. [Inaudible.] the Khayelitsha and Makhaza area we have seen the rapid growth of this area over the last five to ten years. The Department of Development Planning fails to work with the City of Cape Town and fails to work with the Department of Infrastructure to ensure that the needs of our people are met. Our people have to fend for themselves, and they have to find a piece of land for themselves in order to make a home because the Provincial Government and City of Cape Town cannot care about them.

The ANC will certainly be writing to the National Minister to ask for an intervention on this matter but also to ensure that this does not happen in the future again. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marran. I now recognise



the Minister Bredell.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agb Adjunkspeaker, baie dankie, die deproklamasie van enige natuurreservaat word nie ligtelik opgeneem nie. Die agb Marran moet maar sy huiswerk gaan doen oor die Omgewingskommissaris en hoe dit gestop kon word deur 'n Omgewingskommissaris wil ek graag verstaan. Dan ons moet net onthou, agb Adjunkspeaker, ek hoor vandag eintlik 'n klomp ontstellende goed, dit is net die ANC wat dit in 'n rasdebat kan probeer verander, maar een, dat die ANC eintlik wil hê ons moet die mense afsit van die grond af. So ons moet nou mense gaan uitjaag met gewere en, en, en mense gaan seerkry want daar bly duisende mense op daardie natuurreservaat. U moet onthou 108 000 mense het gevlug van ANC-regering na die Wes-Kaap toe. Dit is deel van ons probleem, agb Adjunkspeaker, ons verwelkom mense maar ongelukkig kan ons nie voorbly nie, want hulle vlug weg van ANC-regering, om die waarheid te weet. Die behuisingskrisis in hierdie land is geskep deur die ANC, en die agb Marran kan met liefde aan die nasionale Minister skryf, hy sal nie 'n antwoord kry nie, so daar sal niks van kom nie, dit kan ek hom waarborg.

Aan die agb Andricus van der Westhuizen, baie dankie, dankie vir jou insette. Ons het meer as, ek wil nou nie eintlik 'n syfer noem nie maar duisende hektaar en ek sal die agb Marran ook uitdaag om vir my te wys watter provinsie het meer natuurbewaringsgrond geskep as die Wes-Kaap in hierdie land. Met ooreenkomste met landbou, en, en, ons het duisende hektaar

toegevoeg tot die reeds bestuurde mandjie. Die gevaarlike plekke binne Driftsands is die een wat ons slapelose nagte gee, en dit is die regte vraag om te vra, agb Andricus, ons het 'n advertensieveldtog geloods, ons het *billboards* opgesit, ek dink ons het 72% van die mense se selfoonnommers, ons stuur vir hulle Whatsapp, SMS'e, om vir hulle te vra, asseblief, daar is ander grond geïdentifiseer, skuif soontoe, want ons is baie bekommerd oor daardie retensie. Dan weens die onwettige myne, ens., ens. Nie dat ons van die ANC of enige partye hulp gekry het nie, maar hulle wag eers totdat die katastrofe gebeur en dan wil hulle seker almal goedkoop politiek maak. Ons wil mense se lewens red, kinders se lewens red en daarom vra ons die publiek om saam te werk. Daar is grond uitgewys waarheen die mense wat in onmiddellike gevaar is kan skuif, en hopelik sal hulle hierdie aanbod opneem voor die ergste winterreën kom. Maar weereens, dankie vir u interpellasie, dit bly 'n belangrike gesprek. Baie dankie.

***[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]***

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you, the deproclamation of any nature reserve is not taken lightly. The hon Marran must go and do his homework on the Environmental Commissioner and how it can be stopped by an Environmental Commissioner I would like to understand. Then we just have to remember, hon Deputy Speaker, I actually hear a lot of upsetting things, it is only the ANC that tries to change it into a racial debate, but one, that the ANC actually wants us to remove the people

from the land. So we have to now go and chase people out with rifles and, and, and people are going to get hurt because there are thousands of people living on that nature reserve. You have to remember 108 000 people fled from the ANC Government to the Western Cape. It is part of our problem, hon Deputy Speaker, we welcome people but unfortunately we cannot stay ahead, because they flee from the ANC Government, to tell the truth. The housing crisis in this country was created by the ANC, and the hon Marran can write to the national Minister by all means but he will not receive a reply, so nothing will come of that, that I can guarantee him.

To the hon Andricus van der Westhuizen, thank you, thank you for your input. We have more than, I do not really want to name a figure, but thousands of hectares and I will also challenge the hon Marran to show me which province has created more nature conservation land than the Western Cape in this country. With the agreements with agriculture, and, and, we have added thousands of hectares to the already managed basket. The dangerous places within Driftsands is the one giving us sleepless nights, and it is the right question to ask, hon Andricus, we have launched an advertising campaign, we put up billboards, I think we have the phone numbers of 72% of the people, we are sending them Whatsapp, SMS's, to ask them, please, there is other land identified, move there, because we are very concerned about that retention. Then because of the illegal mines, etc., etc. Not that we received any assistance from the ANC or any parties, but they wait until the catastrophe happens and then they all probably play cheap politics. We want to save people's lives, save children's lives, and therefore we ask the public

to cooperate. Land has been allocated where people in immediate danger can move to, and hopefully they will take up this offer before the worst winter rains arrive. But again, thank you for your interpellation, it remains an important discussion. Thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie, agbare Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister] and that brings us to the end of Interpellations. We now move in terms of Rule 202 to Questions. If I can just remind members of this House that there are four opportunities but the hon member who posed the question will have the first opportunity, then for a follow-up question. So, the rest of the members can take the remaining of the opportunities. I now recognise – is your hand up for the first question? Thanks very much. Alright I now recognise the hon Minister to reply to the first question, yes. Sorry, where am I? My apologies I am looking at the wrong page, I do apologise. There we go, hon Premier, over to you.

## QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

*New question to the Premier:*

### *Safety Plan*

#### **1. Mr M Xego asked the Premier:**

Whether the Safety Plan is still effective in fighting crime in the

province; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

THE PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker and thank you very much, the hon Xego for the question, whether the Safety Plan is still effective, and the answer is yes, the Safety Plan is still effective. Within the hot spots where the law enforcement advanced plan or LEAP officers have been deployed, there were decreases in the number of murders as reported by the National Minister of Police for the second and third quarter of the previous financial year. The statistics for the fourth quarter, having not yet being released by the National Minister and we are actually expecting those numbers tomorrow and I am fairly confident that exact same trend will continue.

With reference to the LEAP members, the target of deploying 1 000 LEAP members was achieved. A total of 1 228 members are currently deployed in 13 areas of the province of which 10 areas form part of the top ten murder areas of the Western Cape, namely: Delft; Gugulethu; Harare; Khayelitsha; Kraaifontein; Mfuleni; Mitchells Plain; Nyanga; Philippe East which also includes Hanover Park and Samora Machel.

We have further established a LEAP reaction unit where LEAP officers are currently deployed to Ottery and Steenberg SAPS or police stations to quell violence in the Mannenberg and Lavender Hill areas respectively. Just between the 16th and the 22nd of May this year, and through the efforts of law enforcement advance LEAP officers, 176 perpetrators were arrested for a

variety of offences. Two were in the possession of illegal firearms, four in the possession of imitation firearms, three in possession of illegal ammunition, 91 for possession of drugs, 22 for the possession of dangerous weapons and the balance for various other offences. The illegal firearms were confiscated in Delft, Gugulethu and Kraaifontein.

The Safety Plan further clearly states that this will be achieved by using an evidence informed and data-led approach. Last week we officially launched the Western Cape government's Safety Dashboard which will provide real time data, not only to guide our deployments based on past incidents, but also to anticipate where new hotspots may appear so that we can deploy the necessary resources before they are lost. The Safety Dashboard which will support the establishment of the Provincial Department of Health and Wellness, where the violence prevention unit is based on the data entered at 34 facilities in the Western Cape and allows us to see patterns of admission into these emergency centres.

Other examples of how this data is used: the LEAP members are deployed in 13 areas in the Cape Metropole of which 10 areas, as I said are the murder hotspots, the number of members deployed per areas are allocated according to the number of homicide incidents in those areas. The Reaction Unit which was established to assist areas where flare ups happen are also deployed, based on that data and that evidence.

The working hours of these officers are also deployed based on that evidence

on a 24-hour shift basis, seven days a week and are deployed when we, through that evidence, work out that perhaps a Sunday night in area 1 is better than a Saturday morning in area 2 and so we will deploy accordingly.

If I look at the Department's monitoring and the trends in those priority stations thus far, we are sitting with Bishop Lavis at a reduction of 51%; Khayelitsha a reduction of 3%; Mitchells Plain a reduction of 21,5%; Nyanga minus 45,2% as reduction and of course the really good news is that for many years Nyanga was the crime capital, the murder capital of South Africa and it has now gone way down on that list so that really is exciting. Philippi at minus 25,6 and Philippi East at minus 40% . So I think with those statistics it is quite evident, hon member that the answer is yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Premier. Hon Xego because you posed the question, you are first, then hon Christians and then hon Botha. Hon Xego and hon Kama I see you there.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you to the Premier for the response. Furthermore Premier, through you Deputy Speaker, what is the impact of the Safety Plan on the ever-increasing mass shootings that are taking place in the province, and why are the communities in informal settlements still complaining about the lack of the visibility of both the police and law enforcement personnel? We keep on hearing that more law enforcement personnel will be hired but their visibility in the informal settlements is nowhere to be found.

Lastly Premier, the issue of the Safety Plan as far as the introduction of Operation Dudula, that we all know normally takes the law into their own hands, what would the impact be of diffusing the kinds of impasses where communities find themselves at each other's throats as far as the issues of safety are concerned? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks hon Xego. Before the Premier answers I know there were two questions, three so the Premier can choose one. Okay Premier you can put it into one but ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: I will try and put all three of those questions into one, Deputy Speaker. So the first one, mass shootings and of course that really is a very concerning trend and especially in the last few weeks. I mean communities across this province have felt the absolute pain and I think in the last session of questions it was also a question from the hon Kama, because of what is happening so in actual fact when you read statistics it does not really almost feel like it aligns to what is happening and experienced by the citizens. The question was, is the Safety Plan still working and my answer is, yes, because we are seeing a reduction of murders.

You will see in that quarter period when the Minister puts out those stats tomorrow, you will see what the overall numbers were in the corresponding quarter just a year ago and you will see at least a 30% and maybe even a 40% reduction in overall numbers. So absolutely, I mean every single shooting and



mass shooting is of massive concern to me and that is why we put the Safety Plan in place in the first place because the big problem is which is the second part, the lack of policing. And still, we do not have sufficient deployment of police officers to deal with crime in this region. Imagine the numbers that I have just read for you. Imagine if this province was still run the way the ANC used to run the province where all I can give you is a history lesson on statistics from an oversight office. That is all I could do. Now we have got an intervention plan. The hon Dugmore was complaining about the R1,5 billion that it is being spent on safety in this province over and above what was normally spent. I cannot believe that member is complaining about that spend when our citizens are bleeding, dying and hurting every single day.

The last part of that question was Operation Dudula and of course we noticed that there was a meeting here about three weeks ago. We had a lot of law enforcement and monitoring of that launch so to speak. It was very, very tightly monitored. The interesting thing is that a lot of people that came to that event were actually bussed in from Gauteng. We monitored the bus the whole way through but of course I also am concerned because as we have just seen now in the last few days, vigilante style sort of citizens getting involved in dealing with crime or any other area where there is absolute failure from the ANC is very, very concerning.

So it whether it is ANC failure in policing or ANC failure in home affairs management, this is causing a lot of strain on society and really when they start to take the law into their own hands, that is very concerning.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Christians?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Premier actually answered the last one because I was thinking about the mob justice that took place. Now you look at the Safety Plan and you know it is the police's job but now people are frustrated and so sad when you read – you do not condone these things – but children are disappearing and now they said it is an innocent man and you feel so sorry for that so somehow. I know it is a police responsibility, but somehow you must now adjust the Safety Plan to address these concerns because otherwise innocent people might be killed and that is my question. Because it has not happened just once. It has happened now in a couple of places, Tafelsig, Parkwood and all over, I think in three places it has happened now, where people take the law into their own hands. How can the Safety Plan address this? Thank you, Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you to the hon Christians. Absolutely, I think the community or citizens are, I think it is beyond frustration. They are actually angry; they are angry that they are so – I want to say abused. Last week I played that sound clip of that teacher and the effect that these gang shootings are having on our children and how our children are growing up where they are running into these classrooms and ducking and hiding under school desks.

Imagine the long-term negative impact on the formation of a child's brain when you actually are supposed to be at school learning, that sponge of a brain, and now suddenly it's actually being destroyed. And so, the thing is I would love to be able to have billions more to really deal with policing. That is why I keep on saying that I do believe that I think provinces should be able to get management of policing and that National Government should have the oversight and if a province is failing, then take that responsibility away from the province. But give the management closer to the citizens because of course crime in KZN is different to crime in the Western Cape which is different to crime in the North West and they all need different nuances, different management styles. So that is why I truly believe in it, and I think what this project in the Safety Plan is showing, is that when you apply different mechanisms, different management principles just with 1 000 officers, you can start to make a difference when you add them to the police, and you get a force multiplier effect.

Then your question is about so what is it that we can do, and our real lesson was, we cannot say let us deploy to these 10 hotspots and then suddenly you find on the other side of town there is a vigilante attack and you just quickly draw people out because you do not sustain over time the reduction and that is why we put that Reaction Unit in place, specifically to do that. And I am sure it will not be long until people are going to say that Reaction Unit is not big enough, but every time you want to expand it, it means more budget. I really am happy that the City has also come to the party and put some extra money in. But it is almost one of those things that I feel like we are putting

all this in, but we need so much more.

Quite frankly with the shooting that has just happened over the last two weeks or three weeks in the City, one would have expected the National Minister to say guys I want a full deployment, I want an extra 500 officers deployed in town, let us zap this thing. Nothing, nothing. I do not know what he is going to say tomorrow when he releases those statistics but let us wait and see.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Hon Chief Whip Botha?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The Premier has spoken to the failure of the ANC, and he has spoken to the residents, and I just want to ask, Premier in regard to speaking to the residents and speaking to this House, the limited policing resources availed by the National government, what is the impact on the safety of our residents in this province, if you could speak to that? Thanks Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Chief Whip, for that question. I think that is where it all starts. It all starts with the allocation of resources to where the problem lies and then of course management of those resources and that is the failure. That is the failure from a national level where the Minister is just not getting his head around the right policies and the right

management systems in place and we, and I say we in the province, because of course we are speaking about the Western Cape. But you know our 3,800 murders in the Western Cape last year, which is an unbelievable number to get your head around, but a bigger number than that was how many murders in KZN, a bigger number than that in Gauteng. So it is not as if this is only happening in the Western Cape. What on earth is the police Minister doing about murders in South Africa.

An HON MEMBER: †Dololo. [Nothing.]

The PREMIER: Nothing. It is unbelievable. Total lack of commitment, of management and of determination to make our citizens or help our citizens feel safe which is what the Constitution says we should be doing. It is just absolutely not there. He actually should be fired.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Hon Kama. This is the final opportunity.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. It is once again a very sad day. Deputy Speaker. I think let me try to get to the other aspect because I think the question was asking about the Safety Plan and whether it is working. From the responses I get a sense as if SAPS is now suddenly the cause of crime. Now the question that I want to ask, because the Premier in the Safety Plan, when it was announced, he talked about this integrated approach and that there needs to be also a process of addressing the causative

factors of crime.

Now the question that I want to ask the Premier in that we have identified 10 precincts, I want now to understand from the inception of this Safety Plan ,to date, what has assisted us to address, in these different communities in terms of the causative factors; what is the government doing to change the economic profile of those areas so that by 2029 we are able to halve the murder rate as envisaged by the Safety Plan? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you very much to the hon Kama. I think first for all he says – I do not know where he gets that we are saying SAPS is the cause. SAPS is not the cause. The problem is because there is a lack of management at a SAPS level and there is a lack of resources.

We have dedicated policemen and women in this province, really dedicated but they are not given the management and they are not given the resources. Just visit the police stations. And then deployment. You and I sat in my office three years ago; it is probably almost to the day three years ago, and I said to you, please help me. All I want you to do is let us just get the deployment from Claremont to Nyanga. It is not, it is not, it is not happening. There is absolutely ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute Premier, just take a seat. Exactly I understand hon Sayed. No, no, no. Both of you please speak to the Presiding Officer. Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much to the hon Sayed for pointing that out to me. Through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, to the hon Kama, it is not happening. There is zero management from the police, nothing, finished but the hon Kama asks the question ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members order.

The PREMIER: ... so I will read the statistics again. What is happening in the areas he asks? Bishop Lavis, murder is down by 51%; Khayelitsha, down by 3%; Mitchells Plain, down by 21,5%; Nyanga, down by 45,2%; Philippi, down by 25,6%; Philippi East, down by 40%. These are the hotspot areas where the deployment happens so that the policemen and women in those police stations get the resources that they need.

The dashboard and data that runs behind it, which is made available because there is no management that comes from National Government and the Minister and a National-led SAPS in South Africa, so our system is now built for it. And you know we launched it last week, and the hon Kama might be very pleased to know, that after we launched it, through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, FOSAD, the Directors-General in South Africa have arranged that they want to come and meet with us in the province, because they want to

come and see what we are doing. I look forward to that meeting because quite frankly they would never see that run by Bheki Cele at a National level. The ANC have dropped the ball when it comes to safety of the citizens in this country.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. That brings us to end of Question 1. We are now moving over to the question that stood over with the hon Minister Maynier.

*Question standing over from Thursday, 26 May 2022, as agreed to by the House:*

*Increase in non-fee paying schools*

**2. Mr F C Christians asked the Minister of Education:**

Whether there are plans to increase the number of non-fee-paying schools in the next financial year; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I just wanted to confirm that I am audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are perfectly audible Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you



to the hon member for putting the question. The response is yes. The Department plans to offer 161 of our fee charging schools in quintiles 4 and 5 the opportunity to become no fee schools from the 1 January 2023. I am advised that the invitation to become a no fee school must be presented to [Inaudible.] for approval and of course schools will in due course receive clear guidance on how indeed to manage the process. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Hon Christians first and then hon Sayed.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have just come out of a lockdown, people losing jobs and now with today's topic, the impact of the fuel increase on the Western Cape, so the question is:

Money must never be the problem why children cannot attend school, so is this an ongoing thing where the WCED will look at much needed schools where fee paying schools become non-paying schools? But the big question is where schools are wrongly placed. They are in poor areas but they are quintile 4 or quintile 5. So, hon Minister, will that be addressed in allocating the fee paying to non-paying schools?. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon member. Yes, the hon member is correct. Unfortunately, the quintile system as we all know divides

schools according to poverty levels of the areas in which schools are located but that of course is not necessarily an accurate reflection of the students in the school, and particularly, where schools where students travel from far away to attend school or where there are new housing settlements which have been established. And of course, then, parents of the students do not necessarily have the same income level as the schools surrounding the household. So the hon member and I agree.

We also agree of course that money must never be the problem and it is precisely for that reason, that the Department has embarked and does now plan to offer 161 of our fee charging schools in quintile 4 and 5 the opportunity to become no fee schools and of course that, we hope will relieve the burden on households in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Hon Sayed, over to you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and let me also thank the Minister for the response. I think we want to also welcome this initiative and I think it is going to be important that we work together, and we are willing to say, given that the policy issue around the quintile skewness is coming from a National level, let us collectively as a province and even as the official opposition, work with the Minister to ensure that we can have reform of that particular system.

I think it is very important but my main question here is, the Minister spoke

about quintile 5 schools, also being able to have no fee status. I just want to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the application made, and I think it is for the past five years now, the application made by the Petunia Primary School in the Scottsville area to be a no fee school? What will happen to those schools that have applied already? I know it is now being advertised but will the schools that have applied already, will they be looked at first or do the schools all have to be looked at, at the same time? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I think we agree that the quintile system is flawed, and I do think that we need to work together to review the system and I would be interested in the hon members' proposals and ideas in this regard. When it comes to the application by the Petunia High School to which the hon member refers, I am not sufficiently familiar with the details of that matter. I would welcome the hon member, either writing to me or indeed putting a written question on this matter so that I can provide him with a comprehensive response on that case.

I do encourage any member who is concerned about a particular case, about the fee status of a particular case and I do remind the hon members that schools are entitled to appeal their fee status at any time. It is of course a separate process, but schools are entitled to appeal their fee status and that appeal of course must run through a separate process, but those appeals will

be considered of course, going forward. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. I now recognise hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I just want to ask the Minister if there have been any applications during the previous financial year and how many if there were? Has the WCED received appeals from schools to shift from quintiles within the system? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon member for the question. I do not have the data at hand. I am aware that schools can at any time appeal their fee status, so I do assume that there are such appeals in the system, but I do not have the data and I will encourage the hon member to put a written question to the Department so that we can provide her with a comprehensive response. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I now recognise hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Firstly, I would like to welcome the increase of the 161 no paying school status for quintile 4 and 5 coming, as some of these schools are surrounded by many

poorer communities. I would like to ask the Minister why the Department has seen a need to offer a no fee status to some of our quintile 4 and 5 schools and whether the Minister will thus commit to consulting the National Government in order to review the currently very flawed national quintile system?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon member. I can assure the hon member that we will engage with National government on a review of the national quintile system. But I think that we need to go beyond that. There is no doubt in my mind that what we need of course is a review, not just of how funds are distributed between public schools through the quintile system but indeed the allocation of funds to education which of course are determined in terms of the Provincial Equitable Share formulae and the education component which is currently under review by the National Treasury.

I certainly will be briefed in the coming weeks by the Department on these two matters and I look forward to further engagements with hon members on this matter. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Minister. That concludes question 1 which was standing over and we now move over to new questions. I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

*New questions:*

*Poultry production*

**2. Mr A P van der Westhuizen asked the Minister of Agriculture:**

- (a) What is the current state of poultry production in the province and
- (b) what is his Department's position on the removal of all import tariffs specific applicable to poultry?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you very much hon Chair for the question from hon member van der Westhuizen. I did communicate to him that this is a very long question, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would ask your permission, since it is a very long question if I could table my response in writing to the House and I have the concurrence of the hon member Andricus.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Hon van der Westhuizen?

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Ek sal graag dan van die Minister wil weet, hoe belangrik ag hy hoendervleis as 'n deel van die dieet van Suid-Afrikaners, en hoe belangrik is dit dat hoendervleis teen bekostigbare en hopelik die laagste pryse moontlik aan die publiek beskikbaar gestel sal word.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: I would like to know from the Minister how important does he regard chicken meat as part of the diet of South Africans, and how important is it that chicken meat be made available to the public at affordable and hopefully the lowest prices.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker, en baie dankie vir hierdie opvolgvraag van agbare Andricus. Ek dink dit is 'n baie belangrike vraag want ons weet hoendervleis is 'n baie belangrike deel van die voedselmandjie van baie inwoners hier in Suid-Afrika en in lyn met die vroeë debat wat ons gesien het. Dit is belangrik dat ons ook kyk na die voedselmandjie en ook kospryse en ook as ons kyk na die vier belangrikste tipe vleisprodukte, sien ons dat hoendervleis is van die goedkoopste van die onderskeie produkte, maar ondanks die feit dat dit die goedkoopste is, het dit slegs met omtrent 1% toegeneem, en agb Adjunkspekaer, die bron van hoender het ook 'n baie belangrike bron van proteïne, en ons hier in die Wes-Kaapse Departement monitor ook beide die vraag en aanbod van hoenders en pluimvee oor die algemeen, maar ons monitor ook die hele kwessie van die impak van die pryse van pluimvee ook op die verbruiker. Dit word ook daaglik gemonitor hier in die Wes-Kaap.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and

thank you for this follow-up from the hon Andricus. I think it is a very important question because we know chicken meat is a very important part of the food basket of many of our citizens here in South Africa and in line with the early debate we have seen. It is important that we also look at the food basket and also food prices and also if we look at the four most important types of meat, we see that chicken meat is some of the cheapest of the various products, but in spite of the fact that it is the cheapest, it only increased by about 1%, and hon Deputy Speaker, the source of chicken also has an important source of protein, and we here in the Western Cape Department also monitor both the demand and supply of chicken and poultry in general, but we also monitor the whole issue of the impact of the prices of poultry also on the consumer. It is monitored daily here in the Western Cape.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I now recognise hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I fully agree that the concerns are genuine when it comes to the removal of import tariffs and because it gives an advantage to those who are importing. But Speaker, what I want to understand, despite the fact that there are genuine concerns, what will be the benefits for the consumers, especially the poor in the light of rising food prices and also the cost of living, but also the fact that this Government is proposing that the already poor workers should only receive the minimum wage of R1,900, which is equal to the old age pension grant? Thank you.



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Agb Adjunkspeaker, ons het voorheen hierdie vraag gehoor ook in die debat van die Leier van die Amptelike Opposisie, agb Cameron Dugmore, en ek interpreteer hierdie as 'n nuwe vraag, en ek dink dit kan formeel aan my gestel word en ek sal dit volledig beantwoord.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, we have previously heard this question also in the debate of the Leader of the Official Opposition, hon Cameron Dugmore, and I interpret this as a new question, and I think it can be put to me formally and I will reply to it fully..]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, Minister. Nee, nee julle.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. No, no you.] We are now moving onto hon Bosman, hon Bosman.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, through you ... [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order please, members.

Mr G BOSMAN: ... if the Minister can tell us whether the companies importing poultry have made any commitment or put any substantial programmes in place to support the local economy, if the profits that they have made have been ploughed into any projects that support the development of the poultry industry in this province? If you can tell us whether any of those partnerships have taken place in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you very much to the hon member for that question. The answer is yes, there are continuous discussions with the poultry industry because we know that there was a huge debate around their import tax. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hello?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies for the interruption, there is a point of order from hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker, that is a new question, it is not a linked question, it is a new question. The MEC decides which one is a new question and which one is an actual question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I will leave that

to the hon Minister to decide.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: To the hon member Sayed, I think this matter is related but if he wants me to deal with this substantively as a new question, I am happy to do so. So let us make that ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is fine, thank you very much. I now move over to hon Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Dankie, Adjunkspeaker. Agb Minister, ons weet dat daar bepaalde sektore van die pluimveebedryf is ...

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Minister, we know that there are certain sectors in the poultry industry ...]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Can I continue?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, sorry hon member.

†Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you. Ons weet dat daar bepaalde

sektore binne die pluimveebedryf is en onder groot druk verkeer, en een van hulle is die volstruisbedryf. Wat doen u Departement om daardie deel van die pluimveebedryf te ondersteun. Baie dankie.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[We know that there are certain sectors within the poultry industry and are under great pressure, and one of those is the ostrich industry. What is your Department doing to support that part of the poultry industry? Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU: Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker, asook aan die voorsitter Andricus van der Westhuizen. Wel, vir die afgelope tien jaar het ons voortdurend gesien dat daar verskillende uitdagings is, veral vir die volstruisbedryf, ek kan selfs onthou in my vorige termyn ook as die Wes-Kaapse Minister van Landbou, ook in die tydperk van Oom Gerhard van Rensburg het ons voortdurend hier in die Wes-Kaap gekyk na navorsing, ander moontlikhede vir die volstruisbedryf, ons het ook selfs 'n *alternate crop fund* gestig, maar meer kontemporêr, agb Adjunkspeaker, het ons met die goedkeuring van die Premier ook spesifiek gekyk hoe kan ons die volstruisbedryf en die volstruisboere- en produsente help, en die Premier het dit goed gedink nadat ek gesprek gevoer het met die voorsitter van die volstruisbedryf daar in Oudtshoorn, het die Premier dit goed gedink om ook 'n bietjie hulp te verleen aan die volstruisbedryf deur goedkeuring te gee dat

ons 'n volstruisvleis-proedag reël, by Leeuwenhof met verkillende diplomate sodat ons ook die uitvoerbedryf kan ondersteun. Daar is ook twee ander spesifieke projekte waarmee ons tans besig is, onder meer die navorsing vanaf die hele kwessie rondom die eierbedryf van die volstruise en een projek is reeds voltooi wat ook 'n sogenaamde *spread sheet* databasis ontwikkel het vir die abbatoir, die slagpale, met ander woorde vanaf die plaas tot en by die slagpale sodat daardie hele vervoerketting en die bedryf baie meer doeltreffend funksioneer en ek is baie trots op dr Engelbrecht van ons enigste Wes-Kaapse volstruisnavorsingsplaas in die wêreld wat daardie stelsel vir ons ontwikkel het en in samewerking met die volstruisbedryf; dit is my oogmerk, dit is my beplanning om meer volstruisprodukte uit te voer in die wêreld maar ons is weer ook in daardie omgewing is daar ook weer erge droogtes en daarom werk on soek nou saam met die onderskeie waterrade en my kollega van Plaaslike Regering en Omgewingsake is ook intens besig om te kyk na die hele kwessie van watersekuriteit in daardie spesifieke streek.

***[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]***

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, also to the Chairman Andricus van der Westhuizen. Well, for the past ten years we have seen throughout that there are various challenges, especially in the ostrich industry, and I can even remember in my previous term as the Western Cape Minister of Agriculture, also in the period of *Oom* Gerhard van Rensburg we continuously looked at research here in the Western Cape, other possibilities for the ostrich industry, we even founded an alternate crop fund,

but more presently, hon Deputy Speaker, we have with the approval of the Premier also specifically looked at how we can help the ostrich industry and the ostrich farmers and producers, and the Premier thought it well, after I had discussions with the Chairman of the ostrich industry there in Oudtshoorn, to also assist the ostrich industry by organising a ostrich meat tasting day at Leeuwenhof with various diplomats so that we could also support the export industry. There are also two other specific projects with which we are currently busy, amongst others research on the whole issue around the egg industry of the ostriches and one project is already completed, which also developed a so-called spread sheet data base for the abbatoir, in other words, from the farm to the abbatoir so that that whole transport chain and the industry function a lot more efficiently. And I'm very proud of Dr Engelbrecht from our only Western Cape ostrich research farm in the world who had developed that system for us and in conjunction with the ostrich industry; it is my aim, it is my plan to export more ostrich products into the world but we are also again in that environment where there are severe droughts and therefore we also work closely with various water councils and my colleague of Local Government and Environmental Affairs is also busy looking intensely at the whole issue of water security in that specific region.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER. Thank you, Minister.]

That brings us to the end of Question 3. †Ons volg nou aan na Vraag 4, [We now follow on to Question 4.] I now recognise Minister Wenger.

*Population count*

**3. Mr G Bosman asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:**

In relation to the 2022 Census:

(a) What is the latest estimate of the percentage of the province's population that has been counted and (b) what are the implications for the Western Cape Government's (i) Budget and (ii) ability to provide quality services if all residents are not counted?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. In response to the question from hon Bosman, Part (a), Statistics South Africa has advised the Western Cape Government that 81% of the province's population has been counted as at 31 May 2022.

Part (b) of the question, we must ensure an accurate account so that we receive our fair share of the budget amid a growing population and a constrained fiscal environment. If we do not achieve an accurate account, we risk placing our ability to deliver key services, particularly in education and healthcare, at risk. This is because provinces have received most of their funding from National transfers with the Provincial Equitable Share of R58 billion accounting for approximately 74% of the province's available expenditure envelope.

The Provincial Equitable Share consists of six components that account for the relative demand of services and take into consideration the change of demographics in each of the provinces. More than 63% of the formula is linked to population numbers, that being 24% through the education sub-component; 20,25% through the health sub-component; 16% through the basic sub-components and 3% through the poverty component, with the remainder either being distributed equally across the nine provinces, based on official demand level data and economic activity.

Further refinements of the population data linked to the poverty and health sub-components need to be adjusted for considering the proportion of poor residents in each province as well as medical aid coverage. Accounting for these factors reduces the share of the Provincial Equitable Share formula directly linked to population numbers approximately 55%. This percentage amounts about R26,27 billion, however, the actual impact on allocations will be a function of the relative differences between provinces and any post enumerations statistical adjustments and are thus quite difficult to accurately estimate at this particular stage.

In addition, the province would be impacted through funding received from conditional grants, dependent on the extent to which they are directly linked to population estimates. While the impact will not be felt in the short term, it will have a lasting impact on the Province's budget. This is due to census results only being available two years from the actual census as there are further processes to conclude and thus not impacting on the first two years of



the 2023 MTEF.

Additionally, large amounts to the Provincial Equitable Share formula are typically phased in over a three-year period in line with the principles adopted by the Technical Committee on the Finance and Budget Council.

Finally, in response to ii): it would compromise the Province's ability to deliver quality services and specifically education and health which comprise 48% and 27% of the Provincial Equitable Share formula. In addition, there could be impact on municipal service delivery as the same census data is used to calculate Local Government Equitable Share and some conditional grants to municipalities. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Hon Bosman?

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, if the Minister can perhaps expand on some of the activities that the Western Cape Government has done to encourage participation in the census count, specifically in light of some of failures by STATS SA?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Bosman for that follow-up. The Western Cape Government identified the risk early on and has taken proactive steps to encourage residents to get counted. These steps included numerous press statements by

Premier Alan Winde as well as media campaigns on social media and radio. I am sure the hon members of this House have heard the Premier on the radio encouraging residents to get counted and informing residents of the possible consequences on service delivery from not being counted and what that will have on the Western Cape share of the Provincial Equitable Share.

I am convinced that the efforts by the Western Cape Government have had an impact and we have seen a significant uptick and participation in the census and completion rates which will hopefully mitigate any risks of the Western Cape losing out in terms of the Provincial Equitable Share.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Hon Marran?

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. If I recall, when we were standing at 70% a lot of noise was made about the 30% that were not counted. I would like to understand from the Minister: do you have the numbers in terms of the different races; you are black, you are coloured, you are Indian, you are white. Do we have numbers of those who were not counted and was it a case where more blacks and coloureds were not counted when we were standing at 70%? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister Wenger?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you very much, hon Marran. As far as I am aware the Western Cape

Government conducted its campaign to help Western Cape residents to participate in the Census when the numbers were standing at around 49%. As far as I am aware the breakdown that we received from STATS SA is by region and not by population demographics.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any other members? I do not see any further hands to this question? Not. Thank you very much, Minister. We now move over to Question 4. I recognise the hon Minister Wenger.

*Procurement disclosure reports*

**4. Mr G Bosman asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:**

In relation to the Western Cape Government's procurement disclosure reports:

- (1) What has been the effect of these reports on the fiscal responsibility of the Western Cape Government;
- (2) whether there are any plans to implement similar plans for other areas of government procurement; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank

you, Deputy Speaker. In response to hon Bosman's questions on the procurement disclosure reports, I would firstly like to acknowledge Minister David Maynier for the excellent work in establishing the monthly, quarterly and annual publication of the Procurement Disclosure Report, or the PDR, which has become the gold standard of transparency in South Africa.

The intended purpose of the PDR is to increase transparency and to allow for scrutiny, and if through this PDR errors are discovered then we know it is doing its job. The reports have played a significant role in strengthening transparency and public oversight over the Western Cape Government's spend in respect of disaster related procurement. The report also creates an opportunity for departments to implement mechanisms to make improvements to the quality and credibility of data and information in respect of COVID-19 procurement expenditure.

In response to sub-question (2): while this initiative initially focused on information in respect of the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) by provincial departments, the scope of the report was expanded to include all disaster related procurement and this approach by the Western Cape Provincial Treasury was subsequently adopted nationally by the National Treasury. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Bosman, a follow-up question?

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and

congratulations to both the Ministers. I saw today that the latest procurement report has been dropped. Can the Minister perhaps tell us what Provincial Treasury is doing to assist businesses who wish to become provincial suppliers and to ensure that they become compliant suppliers?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you. Thank you, hon Bosman. I am very proud to announce today that the Provincial Treasury is continuing to innovate and launched its new web-enabled dashboard today. This is a user-friendly dashboard that allows users to filter information they wish to access and can interrogate further. The new dashboard and one of the additions to the dashboard is that it has access to all departmental procurement plans for 2022/2023, with roughly 4 000 tenders in the current financial year.

So, what it does is it helps suppliers to access and plan for future tender opportunities, and makes it easier for businesses, and most especially, small businesses to find opportunities and prepare to participate in the procurement process. The dashboard will also enhance competition and the likelihood of SMME participation because small businesses can now see all opportunities across departments for a particular commodity or service over the entire year. This is another example that shows our commitment to supporting small businesses and enabling economic growth and job creation.

I also just wanted to add that as part of our red tape reduction efforts, any small businesses who are interested in becoming Western Cape Government suppliers would need to know that we have opened a Procurement Client Centre which is based in Century City. The Procurement Client Centre offers a range of services to improve the ease of doing business with Government.

For example, they provide procurement support assistance not only to suppliers, but also provincial departments, entities, municipalities through an integrated helpdesk and the helpdesk aids in guiding suppliers through the tender process and assisting suppliers with registration on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database and the Western Cape Supplier Evidence Bank. We are very proud of this Procurement Centre which is spearheaded by the Provincial Treasury, and it is an example of creating innovative ways in which we can deliver services in the province.

I went to visit this impressive Centre this week and in the last financial year, the eProcurement Client Centre assisted 5 700 suppliers with registration on the WCSEB. It assisted with 1 244 eProcurement queries, as well as 1 221 CSD registrations and it assisted more than 3 500 walk-in clients at the Centre in Century City.

So, it just shows how hard the Procurement Centre is working to ensure that suppliers are assisted and registered and have the opportunity to do business with the Western Cape Government, thereby fulfilling a key role in enabling jobs and economic growth. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I do not see any further hands for that question. Hon Bosman, is that an old hand? I see ...[Interjection.]

Mr G BOSMAN: No. No, hon Deputy Speaker. I have got very young hands.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed if that is a further question, a follow-up question, hon member.

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am hoping the hon Minister is able to answer, but if not, if the hon Minister can respond in writing and perhaps, enlighten the House around the percentage of SMMEs that are benefitting from the Procurement Disclosure Reports as well. So, on these reports, is there a larger percentage of Small And Medium-sized Enterprises that are benefitting from the transactions on these reports?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister? Hon Minister Wenger, are you there? We might have an IT problem. I seem to have an IT problem myself. I cannot see the little yellow hands. Hon Minister Wenger? Hon Baartman, I see your hand is up.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon Minister just messaged me to let me know that she just froze on the laptop with the technology online. Perhaps, if we can maybe give it a minute or two just so that the technology can unfreeze? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sure, I will do so. Maybe if IT can call her in at the same time, that will help. Just give her a minute. I see I have a similar, some kind of problem myself. Hon Minister Wenger, are you online? If IT can just call in the hon Minister, please, to answer the final part of the question? If not, unfortunately, I am going to move on because this is a recorded and streamed event or sitting, let us put it that way. So, last ten seconds. Hon Minister? No. Hon members, I am going to move onto the next question. We have got some time ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:  
...[Audio distorted.] ...but unfortunately, did not hear the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No problem, hon Minister. We can just repose that question, please? Hon Bosman? Hon Bosman, do you want to repose your question to the hon Minister? Okay. Hon Wenger, apologies, I am going to conclude with that question. Sorry about that. We are going to move over to Question 5.

*Racism at Western Cape Schools: eradication of*

**5. Ms N Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Education:**

- (a) What steps will he and his Department take to eradicate racism at Western Cape schools and (b) what is his Department's policy on sanctions imposed on perpetrators found guilty of racism?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Again,



can I confirm that I am audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are audible, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, I seem to be having a better afternoon than my hon successor, the hon Mireille Wenger. Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you and thank you to the hon member for the question. The hon member puts a question on what steps the Department will take to eradicate racism in the Western Cape schools.

I would like to begin, hon member, by being very clear and by giving hon members the assurance that I will not tolerate racism in our schools and we as a department, condemn any form of racism or prejudice and, of course, we must embrace diversity.

Of course, students and the teachers are encouraged to report racism or discrimination of any kind to the Department if they feel that this has not been addressed appropriately by their school's management team. We will, of course, intervene where necessary and we will continually address these matters.

Students, of course, can also contact the tollfree Safe Schools hotline, which I am sure hon members are aware can be contacted on 0800 45 46 47, to report such incidents. The Department, of course, will take the necessary action and we will actively engage with schools to ensure that they embrace

diversity within school communities. We work with non-government and specialist organisations to support schools in this regard.

Of course, the approach to dealing with these matters is governed by national legislation. So, in terms of Section 8 of the South African Schools Act, a governing body of a public school must, as many hon members will be aware, adopt a code of conduct for students after consultation with the school's students' parents and, of course, teachers. And that code of conduct must be aimed at establishing a discipline and purposeful school environment, dedicated to the improvement and maintenance of the quality of learning process.

Then, in terms of Section 9, a governing body of a school of course, conducts disciplinary hearings against students and should give a sanction that is guided by the school's code of conduct. Of course, that sanction could include anything from suspension, recommendations for expulsion or indeed, some form of restorative justice. But unlike students where teachers are concerned, a guilty finding can only be provided by a Presiding Office in terms of Section 18 of the Employment of Educators Act and, of course, Resolution 1 of 2003, for Public Servants.

Of course, the mitigating and aggravating, I beg your pardon, circumstances will have to be considered and will determine the type of sanction that will be issued, which could include a range of measures, depending on the circumstances of the case, a range of measures from counselling, of course,

to dismissal. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon Makamba-Botya and then, hon Sayed.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and thanks to the hon Minister. I just want to find out from the hon Minister, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, if it is a policy of the Western Cape Department of Education not to reveal or in other words, to keep secret on punishment or sanctions imposed on perpetrators of racism. And if so, hon Deputy Speaker, how will that assist the Department in discouraging racism and setting an example on how it deals with perpetrators of racism? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I want to be clear again that the Department takes allegations of this nature seriously. I have been clear that I will not tolerate racism in our schools.

When it comes to the disclosure of sanctions, I am not aware of the current departmental policy, but I would encourage the hon member: if she is concerned about a particular case, then if she could furnish me with those details so that I again can provide her with a comprehensive response. I think it is best to deal with these matters, obviously, first according to the law

which, as I have outlined, is established in terms of national legislation. But if the hon member is concerned about a particular case and a particular set of sanctions, I would invite her to provide me with the particulars so that I could provide her with a comprehensive response.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I am going to allow hon Sayed. There are about a few minutes left and hopefully hon Minister Maynier will be able to finish in time. Over to you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and let me thank the hon member Botya for the question because as these issues go unresolved and sanctions are not made known, it contributes to what we saw at Stellenbosch, for example, a few weeks ago. It is racism.

But I would like to ask the hon Minister and I want to thank him for the transparency. This is a fresh approach which we did not see previously, so I want to thank him for the transparency and the commitment.

But just to ask: does the hon Minister have an idea as to how many punishments or sanctions were meted out to learners and to educators in the current administration, for racism? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister Maynier, over to you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you to the hon member for the question. I am aware that over the past half

term there have been allegations in the public domain, but I do not have the data that the hon member requires immediately at hand and of course, that data is a breakdown of incidents of racism and sanctions in relation to learners and teachers. And again, I would invite the hon member to put a written parliamentary question and I will again furnish him with a comprehensive reply.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister Maynier, for keeping that short and sweet. That brings us to hon – one minute, I just recognise hon Dugmore. Have you got a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and once again, congratulations to the hon MEC Maynier which, for what I think, is a promotion in terms of the importance of this particular portfolio ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But I would like to ask him whether he ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, there is no more, unfortunately.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I thought you said there was one more?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The time is up?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, my apologies.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I thought you were raising a point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, sorry. I thought  
...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies, hon Dugmore, for not being clear.  
That does bring us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding  
replies will be printed in the Hansard.

Hon members, we now move over in terms of Rule 145 to Statements. I now  
recognise, and remember you have two minutes per statement. I recognise the  
DA: two minutes.

## **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, on Wednesday, Ms Christina  
Nomdo celebrated two years as the Western Cape Children's Commissioner.

At the time of Ms Nomdo's appointment, we would never have been able to determine just how devastating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic would be on our children. Over the past two years, the pandemic both exposed and exacerbated the social ills affecting our children. Societal challenges, such as poverty and hunger, mental health problems, drug abuse and gender-based violence, came under the microscope at the same time as schooling became severely interrupted.

These challenges highlighted the work that still needs to be done to keep our children safe, but also, reinforce the work being done by the Office of the Children's Commissioner. The Children's Commissioner played a critical role as a watchdog to amplify the interest of children in the province, by putting pressure on the Government to keep the needs of children hosting regular child rights workshops, providing a platform for children to express their mental health experiences, and creating awareness regarding the safety and security of children.

We urge the provincial governments across the country to follow the Western Cape's example to establish Children's Commissioner offices to prioritise and champion the rights and voices of children across South Africa. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, to the hon Chief Whip. I now recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Last week, the ANC noted and condemned the internal divisions in the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape, and how they are impacting on both governance, service delivery and the Legislature. We express serious concerns of the lack of understanding by the hon Premier in regard to his role in the Executive, about the separation of powers.

As we mentioned last week, the ANC was shocked that the hon Premier could actually have the temerity to ask the hon Speaker of this House to resign. Why did he not ask the hon Deputy Speaker to resign? The ANC remains consistent that it will not defend any faction within the DA, whether it is Madikizela's faction or hon Mnqasela's faction, but it will insist that the principles of democratic governance are safeguarded and protected from these DA shenanigans.

It has also come to the ANC's attention that a DA caucus was held last weekend at Leeuwenhof. Leeuwenhof is a provincial asset belonging to all the people and yet, we would think that the DA would respect and observe the principle of separation of powers. Imagine if the President of the country called an ANC caucus at Genadendal? Just yesterday, hon Deputy Speaker, the DA Mayor in [Inaudible.] had a DA press conference in the Council Chamber. It is no wonder where they get their ideas from. The DA would be the first to object to this.

But we also need to talk about our concerns about the foreign funders of the



DA, because it is clear that it comes as no surprise because the ANC knew that the DA's stand and view on Ukraine was a sponsored one. Given the DA's declaration on its foreign funders, it now puts into perspective why the hon Speaker of this House, unilaterally decided to light up this building with the colours of the Ukrainian flag. We have yet to hear from the hon Speaker who sponsored the exercise.

The DA does not understand the Constitutional competencies. They do not appreciate separation of party and State. What we have, hon Deputy Speaker, is a divided House, a factional House, a racist way in terms of how they have dealt with the former MEC, hon Madikizela, and now, hon Speaker Mnqasela so, who might be part of factions but, in fact, because they are black, they are also victims of double standards. The hon Premier is the weakest Premier ever. He is all show, but he is not able to keep his party together in ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And we all know a divided House ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...will fall.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The EFF would like to take this opportunity to condemn the unbecoming conduct of a hon member, a particular hon member of the Democratic Alliance, with regards to how he conducted himself whilst chairing the sitting of the Parliament on Thursday, 26 May 2022. The hon member in question had no right, either in law or elsewhere, to unconstitutionally decide that he has heard enough of the Statement from the EFF and to decide to cut it short without providing any rule that empowers him to do so.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF was voted by the masses to be in the Legislature, and it is here by right and not by invitation by the Democratic Alliance or its members. Those who have aspirations to occupy the hon Speaker's seat in the future must acclimatise themselves with the Rules of this House and understand them. Where they lack understanding, they should ask those with knowledge and be assisted to do that.

The factional battles that might exist within the Democratic Alliance are not the problem of the EFF or the Opposition parties so far, as they do not bring the House into disrepute. Now, when members are given an opportunity to preside over a position of Speaker, they must not abuse that power of formulating Rules which do not exist, just because they do not like what the Opposition says about a particular subject or matter.

This unbecoming conduct, hon Deputy Speaker, is very disturbing. If there is a certain manner in which black women within the DA are treated by their white male counterparts and it is accepted, then it should stop there within the DA and must not be imposed on members of the Opposition. Hon members must learn to exercise self-restraint because the Opposition is not here to nurse the feelings and egos of certain hon members that form the Opposition functions. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. Hon members, I have just – be aware that while you can put statements out like that, you could be infringing on Rules. I will just reflect on Hansard in terms of the content, but we will move on. Thank you very much, hon member. Over to the DA. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Chair, on a point of order, hon Chair, the hon member, as far as I gathered, did not mention any hon member by name ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ja.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...in the particular statement. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is why I am cautiously saying so and I am sure it should be fine. I just am cautious on that, and I will reflect on Hansard. Thank you very much, over to the DA.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, infrastructure theft and vandalism have become one of the biggest threats in South Africa's economic development. It has become all too common to see trains out of service because critical cables were stolen. These are the trains that are supposed to keep our people and our goods, and the rest of our economy moving.

Similarly, everyone has had to go through extra blackouts when some transformer or overhead cable from Eskom has been stolen in their neighbourhood. And I say 'extra' because I am not talking about loadshedding which is now expected from a chaotic Eskom. The ANC has for years taken no action, with this becoming a R7 billion direct loss for various State-Owned Enterprises per year. The knockoff effect of the problems caused by vandalism and theft on the economy as a whole, is estimated to be much larger than R187 billion per year.

So, while the ANC refuses to act, the DA has established an infrastructure task team to combat infrastructure theft and vandalism. The task team will push for copper theft to be a priority crime for SAPS, creating a specialised unit within SAPS, cooperation with metal recyclers to help track illicit trade, establish a reward hotline and deploying extra security to protect hotspots. We simply cannot sit back and look at a 45% national unemployment rate and think about the loss of R187 billion in economic outputs, is acceptable.

The DA take jobs seriously and this criminal activity is killing job creation. I

urge my ANC colleagues in the House, through you, hon Chair, hon member Lekker to ask their national counterparts to implement the DA's proposals to save our infrastructure and our country. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise GOOD. No? Okay, I move over to the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. After months of enforcing COVID-19 vaccination mandates in the workplace, some companies are now starting to relax their requirements for employees. Companies imposed mandatory vaccinations last year. Employees who did not want to be vaccinated, had to produce a negative antigen COVID-19 test.

As the ACDP, I want to congratulate Woolworths and Dis-Chem, who will no longer demand employees to be vaccinated. The ACDP calls on companies and institutions to follow the example of Woolworths and Dis-Chem, by ending mandatory vaccination. Thank you, hon Deputy Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the ANC.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are, hon member.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. In this National Child Protection Week, the ANC wishes to commend those national governmental organisations, such as Molo Songonlolo and Equal Education, who advanced the plight of our children. However, we also take this opportunity to commend the work of the Children's Commissioner for the work that she has been doing in advancing the protection and interests of the children of our province.

We commend Commissioner Nomdo on her Government monitors which enable her to hear directly from children, their concerns, and lead the realities. The direct involvement of children in the running of the office, according to the Commission, is a first for South Africa. The Commissioner also travelled to different parts of the province where she met and engaged directly with children. In the first year of the existence of her office, she has facilitated Community based Child Rights workshops in Matzikama, Berg River and Hessequa.

Amidst COVID-19, she was also able to work with key child rights champions in selected municipalities and travelled over seven days to conduct nine workshops with communities. The workshop of the Children's Commissioner is invaluable, especially for weeks such as Protection Week. We must look in her direction ...[Audio distorted.] to how we are to protect our children. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the DA.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans. The new Western Cape's strengthened mathematics strategy 2022 to 2027 follows on the success of the 2015 to 2019 mathematics strategy. The Western Cape's A Mind for Mathematics focus increased mathematics pass rates for Grade 3 from 47,2% in 2011 to 58,1% in 2019. For Grade 6, from 23,4% in 2011 to 44,4% in 2019 and for Grade 9, from 10,4% in 2011 to 22,7% in 2019. When the COVID-19 global pandemic hit, we then saw a decline in these grades with a negative 14% change in Grade 3, negative 7% change in Grade 6 and a negative 1% in Grade 9.

On a high school level, we have seen an increase in mathematics Grade 12 subject pass rate from 70,8% in 2020 to 72,5% in 2021, and an increase in technical mathematics from 24,5% in 2020 to 61,6% in 2021. Unfortunately, during this time, mathematics literacy declined from 82,9% in 2020 to 79% in 2021.

Recently, while on oversight in Athlone, we witnessed computer rooms and libraries empty, manned by teachers, so that these items of value are not stolen. Some of our schools, hon Deputy Speaker, are well equipped with resources – computers, projectors, printers, books, desks and chairs – but there are no long lines of learners waiting to use them. In fact, we saw an opposite problem. When enquiring with these schools why this was the case,

they also indicated that they simply do not have the manpower or finances to ensure the computer labs and libraries are manned. They do not have someone to teach IT or computer skills and they do not have librarians.

I would thus like to request from the hon Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier, to investigate the possible teamwork with school governing bodies here beyond and MOD programmes and units, to determine whether we can ensure that every computer lab and every library in the Western Cape is manned so that we can increase access to mathematics subjects, as well as the pass rate. Further, find people ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...to man these classrooms, as well as ensure that we have a whole of society approach in this regard. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Deputy Speaker, a dark cloud of suspicion, reports of mismanagement of funds, fruitless and irregular spending and even, spying by faceless informants, hangs over this Parliament's hon Speaker. We are experiencing, it seems, a huge cover-up, corridor whispering and party interference in State affairs. In fact, our own mini-Zuma Gate is unravelling right in front of our very eyes.



Hon Premier Winde owes this House an explanation. The hon Speaker and his hon Deputy did not stand accused of spending DA money, but that money of this Legislature. Why then run to the DA's Federal Council and cry on their shoulders? The hon Speaker should convene the conduct or the hon Premier, rather, should convene the Conduct Committee of this House and trust us, by sharing the evidence he holds against the hon Speaker or/and hon Deputy Speaker. Why the long delay in referring this to the Committee? If anyone flouted any Article of the Public Finance Management Act of 1996, then it becomes Government business of which the Director of Finance should give an account to this House.

I appeal, therefore, to the hon Premier to convene the Conduct Committee with all due haste, in the interest of this House and in the interest of good governance and transparency to investigate, listen to evidence available regarding the hon Speaker and his hon Deputy, and that this Premier should trust this House ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): ...and not the DA's Federal Council Chairman. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member again, I would also just – I will take advice in terms of Rule 62(1), but for now, it is absolutely fine. We will refer to Hansard. Thank you very much. Thank you.

I now recognise Al Jama-Ah ...[Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): I am not sure what I heard now, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, Rule 62(1) is very clear about reflecting on the honour and competence of any holder of office whose removal from such office is dependent on the decision of the House. So, we will just reflect on that and we will come back to you. Thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move over to Al Jama-Ah ...[Interjection.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): We, Al Jama-Ah party, wish every African citizen and resident a happy Africa Day/Month, a significant day or month that should be viewed memorable. While the party and everyone acknowledged Africa Day by celebrating our distinctive, but different identities; our exceptional, but diverse cultures; our distinct, but extraordinary ethnic groupings; and our unique, but belated religious traditions, we underline stressing that we should treat one another as we would ourselves.

Let us not follow what has been described as Western values once, that undermine our universal religious, cultural values that are embedded in our recognised moral and acknowledge written traditions. Embracing value systems, cultures and traditions that are foreign to Africa, comes at a huge cost to Africa and its people. Let us be committed to the war cry which resonated throughout Africa during the anti-colonial struggle, which is land, self-determination and the concept of Ubuntu.

Africa has enough wealth, both spiritually and materially, and therefore rejects the begging bowl mentality which has characterised this great continent since colonialism, and the anti-colonial struggle where resources were plundered by not only the colonisers, but also some power-hungry native rulers. The issues of poor insecurity are manmade. Poverty is intentionally created on the African continent. We have enough land and indigenous processes of farming, but all these have been destroyed.

We know that colonialism and neo-colonialism not only destroyed the resources, but also poisoned the soil and sheep so that colonisers can become the owners of how the indigenous people of Africa produce food. We must ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon member. Thank you, hon member, your time is up ...[Interjection.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...the interruption. I now recognise the DA.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today's debate on the cost of living emphasised that food security remains a vital issue. I wish to highlight one of the best tools we have to protect the security of our food supply: livestock vaccines.

Onderstepoort Biological Products has long been a revered animal diagnostic centre and has produced animal vaccines, some of which have been exported worldwide. However, like so many other State-Owned Enterprises, Onderstepoort has suffered from looting and maladministration which have resulted in shortages of critical vaccines, with the result being that animal mortality costs our farmers millions and badly compromises our food production. Facilities have deteriorated and there are shortages of critical chemical components.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it will come as no surprise what has caused this. Almost R1 billion was made available to Onderstepoort to modernise facilities. Half of this money cannot be accounted for, and the modernisation has not taken place. It seems that Onderstepoort has gone the way of Eskom and so many of our other State-Owned Enterprises: looted beyond comprehension.

As usual, the Western Cape has taken proactive measures to counteract the missteps of those at the National level. We have implemented measures to

prevent the spread of diseases such as foot and mouth disease, and have provided training in controlling diseases from internationally renowned experts in the field. We have also sourced alternative reagents for testing and are modernising our own veterinary facilities to the international ISO 17025 standard. All of these measures, go above and beyond the Provincial Government's mandate and would have been unnecessary if National Government played its part. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. That brings us to the end of Statements. In Rule 145(6), I now give one or more members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to the hon Members' Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. Are there any hon members of the Executive who would like to respond? If the Table staff would just help me? My hand feature is not working on my computer. No? No. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. That is the end of Members' Statements.

Hon members, we now move over to Notices of Motion in terms of Rule 151. So, in terms of Rule 151, all Notices of Motion by hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have been submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

## **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Mr P MARRAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the ongoing instability in municipalities in the Western Cape.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Ms W F PHILANDER: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the international best practices in healthcare and the progress the Western Cape has made in delivering quality services in the province.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr M KAMA: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House notes the 46th anniversary of 16 June and debates youth challenges and the need for more investment in youth development in the Western Cape.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr A LILI: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the readiness of the Province for the winter

season and the need for more investment in disaster management.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr L L MVIMBI: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the rising influence over, and possible capture, of the Provincial Executive by property developers in the Western Cape.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr L L MVIMBI: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the need for improved mobility in the rural towns of the province.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr L L MVIMBI: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates ongoing corruption in the Western Cape.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the high incidence of shootings and killings in high-risk areas in Cape Town and on the Cape Flats over the past 30 months.

*[Notice of Motion as printed on the Order Paper.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. We will now inform you that in terms of the Standing Rule pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 31 May 2022. We are reminding our hon members that Motions without Notice pertaining to this, will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority. Please members, I do have a copy here, so I am very aware of which motions have been submitted.

I will therefore, just for noting and for the purpose of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following member motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon Mackenzie, hon Mackenzie, hon America, hon Lekker and hon Sayed. I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House.



## MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That the House sends its most sincere condolences to the victims of the most recent, and continual, incidents of gang violence; notes that our communities are plagued by syndicates and individuals who wish to do harm to residents who only wish to live in a safe environment; and notes that now, more than ever, we need the South African Police Service to prioritise its resources and to rationalise its deployments so that residents in the Western Cape can live a quality life of safety.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That the House offers its condolences to the family of Jamie Bartlett who passed away suddenly on Monday 23 May 2022 at the age of 55; notes that he was best known for his roles in beloved programmes such as *Isidingo* and *Rhythm City*; notes that Bartlett's vibrant career saw him star in multiple local and international television, film, and stage roles for almost four decades; notes that Bartlett also formed part of a generation of artists and dramatists who produced works that satirised and challenged the apartheid regime at the internationally recognised Market Theatre; and notes that Bartlett will be missed by audiences and

fellow artists across South Africa and the world.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr D AMERICA: I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the opening of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Library in the Swellendam Municipality on 27 May 2022; and congratulates the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport for its support in establishing this library and its continued contributions to the promotion of social cohesion and the celebration of our shared history.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates feminist, human rights activist, and former Member of Parliament, Professor Gertrude Fester, on the launch of her book *Prisoner* V2957/88; notes that Professor Fester, a former Commissioner of the Gender Commission, attended the Harold Cressy High School, the University of Cape Town and later completed her doctorate at the London School of Economics; notes that her thesis was particularly apt for our province, titled: ‘Women and citizenship struggles: A case of the Western Cape, South Africa 1980–2004’; notes

that, in the late 1980s, Professor Fester was detained in solitary confinement for 104 days under the draconian Terrorism Act; notes that she later went on trial with 13 other co-accused for their political activities; notes that, in particular, this book recalls those dark days and her daily experiences in solitary confinement as prisoner V2957/88; thanks Professor Fester for her past contribution to our country's liberation and her continuous contributions in academia even today; and congratulates her on her latest publication.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates a group of seven young and talented people from our province who represented South Africa in Mariefred, Sweden, in this year's World Children's Prize Ceremony; notes that this programme, which seeks to empower change-makers in children, advances the equality among people, the rights of children, democracy and sustainable development; notes that this year, Yanga Sobetwa, Thato Nomungeka, Simthandile Sonamizi, Keethan Jurams, Curtley Cerfontein, Carla Williams and Sesethu Ntikinca performed at the ceremony; notes that it is reported that the 2018 Idols South Africa winner, Yanga Sobetwa, was bestowed with the Young Honorary Adult Friend and Patron Award of the World Children's prize; and notes that, while these young people come from disadvantaged areas in our province, they prove

that circumstances do not necessarily have to condemn one to crime and that through determination anyone, with the necessary support, can reach for the stars.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the Proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual hon members' names as if that hon member had read them out aloud.

Hon members, I will now afford the opportunity to move Motions without Notice in terms of the Standing Rule of 152(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting and just to be reminded that it is 30 minutes per Standing Rule.

I now recognise – well, I am going to follow my sheet, hon members. It is much easier. I recognise hon Xego. Hon Xego, are you there? We will move over to hon America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House recognises the efficient and effective budgetary processes in various municipalities in the province over the past weeks; that the House welcomes the passing of budgets in the City of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Hessequa, Swellendam, Breede Valley, Mossel Bay

and the West Coast District municipalities; and notes that by passing these budgets these municipalities can continue to deliver excellent services to residents and once again, set the Western Cape above the rest in terms of local government excellence and service delivery. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon Xego. Are you there? Your second motion?

Mr M XEGO: Yes. Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. Sorry ma'am, I tried to unmute here, but you could not hear me the first time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright. Let us begin with one of yours and then, we will continue with the other.

Mr M XEGO: Alright. Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that from 29 May to 5 June 2022 marks the

National Child Protection week. Furthermore, notes that this is an important period and a reminder to all of us about the vulnerability of children in this country. In recent times our children have been subjected to physical and emotional abuse, kidnapping and all other sorts of violence directed at all of them. This time calls for all of us to do everything in our power to protect these children with every second that passes. We must also reach out to those who are homeless and make sure that they have shelter, food and that they attend school, and have all the necessary resources that will see them succeed. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Xego, if you can move over to your next one?

Mr M XEGO: Thanks, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House calls on the Western Cape Department of Health to move with speed in renovating and fixing parts of the Vredendal Hospital which burnt down in the early hours of Sunday morning. This incident takes place at a crucial time as we are entering the winter season and during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, where most people will seek medical attention with increasing numbers. We further hope that

this incident will not have a huge negative impact when it comes to service delivery to the already struggling health system. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House condemns the recent increases of gender-based violence and homophobia in institutions of higher learning. This comes after 11 students were removed from one of the UCT residences as a result of allegations pertaining to gender-based violence and homophobia. Institutions of higher learning are a platform for students to learn about these social ills and come up with solutions that will assist society. Now, when we have students who are supposed to be future leaders as perpetrators themselves, then society will lose all hope. Hon Deputy Speaker, we call on the University to investigate these incidents as a matter of urgency and expel those students should any wrongdoing be found on their part. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I object, it is moved without notice as we cannot decide for the University.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is an objection. There is an objection, my apologies. That will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon Makamba-Botya, your second Motion?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that today marks 32 days since baby Kai-isha Meniers was snatched and kidnapped out of the hands of her mother on 30 April 2022 at a supermarket in Bishop Lavis. What is more devastating about this ordeal is that sitting here today, there are still no leads as to the whereabouts of the child and this is taking a huge toll on the mother. As the EFF, we call on the police and all law enforcement institutions to leave no stone unturned in finding baby Kai-isha. I so move.



*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. †Julle kan maar [You can *maar*] object and advance. I move without notice:

That the House notes the drop ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): I object to ...[Audio distorted.].

...in the unemployment statistics in South Africa.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, if you can just allow the member to finish their motion? You may continue, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you. I move without notice:

That the House notes the drop in the unemployment statistics in South Africa. Statistics South Africa has revealed that the unemployment rate in South Africa has decreased by 0,8% of a percentage point to 34.5% in the first quarter of 2022; we welcome this development, it may seem like a drop in the ocean, but a family out there has restored hope and that is

the goal of the African National Congress, to restore hope in South African. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objection ...[Interjection.]

Mr D AMERICA: Object!

An HON MEMBER: Objection, it is just lies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will be printed ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Audio distorted.] †Dankie. [Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon Lekker. You may move onto your next one.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: But just let me finish my sentence. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the month of June as Pride Month; since 1990, the month of June has been recognised for political advocacy protesting against discrimination against LGBTI people, the political advocacy against LGBTI hate crimes and for the celebration of equality before the law, also stands with the LGBTQI community in fighting against all prejudice and discrimination against the community. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

The House notes the ongoing turmoil and disruptions at Heathfield High School as a result of the WCED's unfair targeting of Principal Wesley Neumann who has since been replaced by caretakers; notes further that protests at the school by parents and learners erupted as the school community demands the reinstatement of Principal Neumann; notes further that no amount of deflection and shifting of goal posts will help

exonerate the WCED and its former MEC from this crisis, as what transpired at Heathfield High School is of its making and a self-orchestrated chaos, which should be placed squarely at the WCED's doorstep; and again calls on our new MEC to immediately drop all the charges against Principal Neumann and reinstate him. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Object!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection.

Mr D AMERICA: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon Sayed, would you like to read your next motion?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House welcomes the decision by the Justice and Correctional Services Minister Ronald Lamola to reopen the inquest into the 1969

death of Cape Town anti-apartheid activist, hero and religious leader, Imam Abdullah Haron who died in police detention on 27 September 1969 in Caledon Square Police Station in Cape Town, after he was held without trial for 122 days under the terms of Section 6 of the Terrorism Act. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. Hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes that Mr Farrell Payne, the Traffic Chief, facing sexual harassment charges against his subordinate, will appear on Friday, 3 June 2022, which is tomorrow; and notes further that Mr Payne was charged with sexual assault, crimen injuria, and attempting to commit a sex act in October 2020, yet he remains in his job while the victim is at home; and calls on the courts to expedite the process to give justice to the victim; and further notes that the ongoing refusal by the HOD of the Department to act against Mr Payne with the full backing of Premier Winde; and that this stance is a major setback ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:

...for the fight against GBV, given that all officials should step aside when they are facing criminal charges. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. One minute. On a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): In the Programming Authority meeting there was an agreement that the Motions without Notice that would be read out in this House, is the Motion that has been submitted to the staff. So, this is not the motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, I have ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): So, I object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, if I can just? I will tell you what I am. The last part of the sentence which I have been following ...[Interjections.] Hon members, just one minute? [Interjections.] Hon members, can I just finish my remarks? So, I am following on my paper of motions that I did receive. The last part of your sentence, hon Dugmore, was that:

“...he remains in his job while the victim is at home; and calls on the courts to expedite the process to give justice to the victim.”

So, that is what I have and for the order of fairness, hon Dugmore, I am going to only take that into account. You may respond to me.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, if I could address you. Sorry, hon Deputy Speaker, could I just read out the motion once again so that there is no doubt and then, I will leave out that last paragraph. I would like to read it into the record.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Dugmore ...[Interjection.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Objection!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...has got a point of order.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, there is an agreement in the Programming Authority and a decision has been made. So, can we stick to the decision of the Programming Authority? The ANC was present in the Programming Authority. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, hon Dugmore, you have read this motion into account, alright, into the record. I am just saying to you that it has to stop at ‘victim’.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I just check with this Table staff: this motion was received as is? So, I am going to accept that the motion was passed at the time during Programme Authority, hon Chief Whip. Hon Chief Whip, you may stand up.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, please be reminded that these motions that are read out aloud now, did not come to Programming Authority.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, I understand. So ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: If I could just conclude then, hon Chair? I would like to propose that all the words starting from:

“This House further notes...”



Be removed and that the motion as read out without those words, stands.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, so this motion can be decided now in the House whether you will accept or not accept. That is your right.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the agreement in the Programming Authority meeting was the following, that the written motion without notice is the one that is submitted and therefore, if it is not, it will be rejected in totality.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, I am to? Can the Table staff, Mr Poggenpoel, can you help me here for a second? I understand that this motion was brought to the Programming. No, it was not, but then, we should be allowed to read it, correct? At 11 o'clock this was received. Ah! Unfortunately, and hon members, I have to now – Hon Chief Whip, I have been given this with the motion here, so I can only rule on what is in front of me and it was exactly as is, but with an extra word, an extra sentence. Hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, if you allow me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): There are parts of this motion that have been added ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, yes.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...after it has been submitted in a written form.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, alright. So, hon Dugmore, I understand the point because we are going to get this detailed when it comes to further motions in the future. If the motion is not exactly as it is on paper, it should not be accepted. The hon Chief Whip and the hon Opposition parties have their rights to rule against the motion, but the rule is that the motion has to be exactly as it was agreed to in the Programming Authority.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to apologise to those members of the, I think, the Programming Committee for the addition of that sentence which starts with: 'This House further notes.' So, in that spirit in terms of apologising for the addition, I would like to formally propose then that the motion as printed and appeared in front of you and everyone else, is proposed in that form and that I request that you then ask if there are any objections to that. Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, there has been a decision made in the Programming Authority. The responsibility was of the representative of the ANC to take that decision to the ANC. Therefore, on the decision made, this motion cannot be read here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Hon members, you know what? I am going to be strict here because when I have a problem with the Opposition in another instance. I am just going to say unfortunately, hon Dugmore, let us just be clear because then we do not have any grey areas, because there might be other grey areas and it will become a huge discussion. Hon Dugmore, my apologies. In any case, it is going to be rejected for now. So, that is my ruling. My ruling stands. Okay, thank you very much, the ruling stands. Thank you to both of you for contributing to that. Over to you, hon Dugmore, with your next one.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes President Ramaphosa's appointment of a BBBEE Advisory Council, that is that appointment of that Council, and congratulates the Western Cape social justice activist, transformation proponent and business professional Kashif Wicomb, the PPF President, on his appointment to this collective. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection.

An HON MEMBER: Yes, we object.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Object!

HON MEMBERS: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon Sayed ...[Interjection.], your motion?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. You know, in the midst of all of these issues, I almost missed that I have still got two more motions. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the DA's hypocrisy when it instructed the hon Speaker of the Western Cape Legislature in their letter suspending him from party activities, to vote according to party caucus decisions; notes further that this is really hypocritical coming from the same DA who expects ANC MPs at the National Assembly, to vote with their conscience' and to not follow party line; and calls on the hon Speaker to ignore the DA hypocrisy and stick to his conscience. I thank you.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection.

Mr D AMERICA: Object!

HON MEMBERS: Object!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:  
Objection!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon Sayed, your last one, I understand.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the extremely high number of learners who have not been accepted at schools in the Western Cape for the 2023 academic year, a number of parents applied timeously and correctly, yet their children were rejected in all schools they applied to, without being given any reasons for the rejection; notes further that this

is an indication of the crisis we will deal with at the start of 2023; calls on the WCED to provide parents with reasons as to why applications have been rejected, without having to enquire further from the WCED or schools; accepts that there are serious technical challenges with the online application system as the technical glitches experienced earlier in the year, resulted in many parents not being able to apply timeously; and calls on the new MEC to urgently lead us in resolving these challenges and to present a plan to this Legislature. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Objection, only the SGBs give the reasons for rejection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted. There are objections ...[Interjections.]. Order hon members. There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. We will now end the meeting and all hon members be exited from the meeting. If you could just wait so that I could leave the Chamber. Thank you very much, hon members. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:16.