
THURSDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVISIONAL 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 hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, you may be seated. Hon members, as has been our practice to date that hon members will participate in this Sitting via the Chamber as well as our online hybrid system and our Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such Sittings. I trust that members are familiar with the relevant Rules. Let me take this opportunity to welcome those in the gallery. I believe we have guests from my hometown in Mitchell's Plain. I trust that you will feel welcomed into our Chamber but also guests on my left-hand side. Thank you for your attendance here today and also those that are joining online.

Members, before I recognise the Chief Whip, last week I have undertaken to revert back to the House based on a point of order raised by the Chief Whip. I have been very deliberate in order to do this from the onset and I would like to take this opportunity to guide the House on the application of the Standing Rules pertaining to Motions.

Over the past few Sittings, numerous valid points of orders were raised on the contents of notices by members. This was as a result of an unfortunate trend that has developed when notices given by members are inordinately lengthy, contain motivations in the motion itself, contains quotations and statements, not necessary to make a proposed resolution. Also the anticipation of discussion of a matter appearing on the Order Paper and dealing with matters falling outside of the mandate of the WCBP, to name but a few.

In short, certain notices of motions are simply a flagrant transgression of our Rules and of the established practice in the WCBP and the broader legislative family. I have, as I have indicated last week, referred on this particular matter to the recently established subcommittee of the Rules Committee for an in-depth discussion and consideration and possible amendment to the Rules if deemed necessary. For now, hon members:

- Motions should be short, clear and precise and consistent.
- Motions must be short, clear and precise and consist of a clear and succinct proposal for the House to consider.
- Any motivation should be avoided and only put forward when the House debates or considers the proposal.

- Furthermore, motions should be in the form of a proposal made by a member in the form of a draft resolution that the House does something, order something to be done or expresses an opinion on some matter.
- In addition, Rule 64, the Rule of Anticipation and Rule 149, Same Question Rule, applies when it comes to motions.

Rule 153 of the Standing Rules empowers the Speaker to amend or otherwise deal with motions that offend against the practices or the Rules. In the interest of orderly debate and the principle of fair consideration of the proposal to the House, I have requested the Secretary to ensure that our Rules are complied with in this regard and that the necessary guidance be provided to support staff of political parties if such assistance is required.

Hon members, in short, I have indicated the subcommittee has already been established, Motions and Rules will be ventilated and discussed. Our practice moving forward is for us to maintain the Rules as far as motions are concerned. I thus order. I now recognise that I see the Leader of the Official Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, thank you and thank you for your guidance, hon Chair. Just to indicate, I think as you have admitted, the Rules itself are not very, very clear. The guidance that you have given that the subcommittee ought to engage on this matter, I think it is just as a point of, so that we do not stifle each other here. We also do not want frivolous objections, because simply when you put a motion, you say, do you object or do you support?

We do not want to be frivolous, because the way you have ruled now can be open to interpretation in terms of how members are now going to interact with motions. Even if those criteria of yours have been met, I can guarantee you they are going to still be members saying, no, it is still out of order. I am just putting that out there. How you have ruled, we understand, we take it. I am not opposing the ruling, but I am indicating that we might just be careful that we do not stifle debate and that the subcommittee is empowered to really do its work in this regard, like on many other issues where the Rules are a little bit loose. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Before I recognise the second point of order, in order to deal with this effectively, today, the motions that were submitted will be read out in the House and the House will make a decision to either approve or to object against it. Moving forward, the work that myself and the Speaker and the Table Staff will do, is to engage political parties beforehand. Beforehand, so that we can then inform the relevant member that because the motion is worded in a certain manner, we will rather give advice and guidance in that regard, but we will then provide you with the relevant Rules as well.

Hence, I have indicated earlier on that if it is deemed necessary, the Rules in that regard could be amended. I trust that members find this in order. No, I do not need to recognise you, member Nkondlo. Thank you. I now recognise the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker, and in that same spirit, I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all the guests in the gallery, specifically the community members joining us, as well as the leadership of the various traditional groupings. Deputy Speaker, like you have said, I am a student of procedure, so I am going to take this opportunity to use this as a learning opportunity and introduce a motion using your Rules. So, therefore, I would like to rise on Rule 22:

That, notwithstanding those two Rules, that precedence be given to the subject for discussion in the name of hon G Marais from the Freedom Front Plus. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I put the question to the House, allow me to indicate it is not my Rules, it is the Rules of this august House that all members have agreed to, but thank you so much, Chief Whip. Members, I put the question to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved? There are no objections, agreed to. I now recognise the hon Marais, who has put forward our Subject for Discussion for today, that:

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Mr G Marais: The House discusses the possible negative implications of the Traditional Leaders and Khoi-San Act of 2019, vis-à-vis Section 30, 31 and 235 of the National Constitution and the Western Cape Constitution, with a view to adopt a position in the interest of cultural minorities.

I now recognise the hon G Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the House for this opportunity and remind South Africans that as a new nation born in 1994, we were inspired by a coat of arms depicting Khoi-San figures symbolically. But after more than 30 years of democracy, Khoi-San descendants are still in their freedom struggle for justice, recognition and restitution.

The Traditional Leaders and Khoi-San Act fails to expand on the constitutional provisions of Section 30, Section 31 and Sections 235, and it remains constitutionally invalid. Further, it reduces the Khoi-San and Griqua traditional leaders to mere beggars for recognition and denies them any authority over territory. Yet, Section 235 explicitly states “territorial self-determination to any group that shares a common language and cultural heritage”.

Now, the historical heritage of the Griqua people to Griqualand East and Griqualand West is long overdue for restitution, but without formal

recognition by the National Government and by the Western Cape Premier, they cannot pursue a class action in terms of reclaiming ancestral land. Hon Speaker, Section 30 of the National Constitution states that everyone has a right to use their language and participate in the cultural life of their choice. And in reality, the provincial education system denies Afrikaans-speaking children their right to choose Afrikaans because of a lack of opportunities to have an Afrikaans classroom.

The BELA Act is an attempt, Speaker, at cultural and linguistic genocide of Afrikaans, the Anglicization of our country. It was Afrikaans speakers who died in the Anglo-Boer War. They died fighting the British imperialist domination. Therefore, all Afrikaans speakers deserve their independence again, because they died not as terrorists, but as soldiers. Hon Speaker, despite the repeal of the Registrations Act, Registrations Population Act of 1950, they continue to be called Coloured, which is a derogatory term and should be declared a crime, just as the K word.

Coloured people, by definition, it states you are not White nor Black. It does not say who you are. It is a racist term that places Malays, the Khoi, the San, the Griqua into one category. This is a grave injustice and a denial of cultural diverse identities. The Freedom Front Plus calls for the provincial referendum to be held, to allow for self-identification of those who identify themselves as Khoi or San, as Griqua or Malay, whatever they may decide their cultural heritage to be.

Now, the Western Cape Cultural Commission has largely been ineffective, hon Speaker, to address the needs and the concerns of the Khoi. They hardly mention Griqua, San or Khoi in any of their documents, but they are a department focussing on cultural minorities. Hon Speaker, the Group Areas Act dumped our people into the Cape Flats. There has been no restitution, no restoration of the Coloured people to lands that they have lost. Their right to be restored, their right to self-determination, their right to claim their identity has not been acknowledged in this House.

And I want the Government of the Western Cape and the parties here present today to make it clear: Does the DHS fight for individuals or do you fight for cultural minorities in South Africa whom have put you in the power seat for the past few years? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I recognise the Minister, Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, Premier, members of the Cabinet, Hon members of the House, citizens and those who are from the traditional community of the Western Cape, physically present here but also online. We have had a tough and at times passionate debate on the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act in the previous term. And allow me therefore to reflect on what has emerged so far and I think which may well play itself out in these Chambers today.

This House is united in recognising the deep historical injustices suffered by the Khoi, the San and the Griqua people and in affirming the importance of protecting cultural communities in our province. There is no disagreement in this House that recognition of the Khoi, San and Griqua leadership is long overdue. The real question before us is whether this Act, as drafted by the National Government, delivers on that recognition in a way that is consistent with our constitutional order or whether it actually undermines it.

As highlighted in past debates and we may well see so here too today, the Act places recognition almost entirely in the hands of the National Executive. It risks imposing a centralised uniform model, when in fact our Constitution, both the national and provincial one, envisions diversity, subsidiarity and community-driven cultural expression. The National Constitution in Sections 30 and 31 safeguards the right of individuals and communities to practice their language and culture.

Section 235 recognises the right of cultural communities to self-determination within a united South Africa. The Western Cape Constitution goes even further, explicitly requiring this Province to promote cultural diversity, cultural heritage and the protection of minorities. But importantly, we in the Western Cape already have mechanisms such as the Western Cape Cultural Commission and the Cultural Councils which are designed to give expression to exactly these values.

These institutions exist to promote and protect the cultural rights of

communities, advise on heritage policy and ensure that the voices of cultural minorities in our province are heard. National legislation, like the Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Act, should be working with these structures, not against them, complementing their role rather than duplicating or actually eroding it. The Democratic Alliance's position in our province has always been clear.

We support the recognition of traditional and Khoi-San leadership as part of correcting historic marginalisation, but we cannot support recognition that comes at the cost of genuine autonomy or that side-lines existing provincial structures that already safeguard cultural rights. Recognition must empower our communities, not reduce them to subjects of centralised bureaucracy. The DA believes that cultural rights are not privileges conferred by the State, but fundamental human rights that the State must respect and protect.

Where the Act undermines this principle, we must challenge it in this province and we must actively use institutions, like the Western Cape Cultural Council, to champion the rights of all cultural minorities in our province. Hon Deputy Speaker, let us all be clear in this House. Unity in South Africa is not about forcing sameness or similarities, but about respecting and recognising our differences as a society.

The Khoi-San, the Griqua, and all cultural minorities must know that this House, unlike the National Government and its toying around with this issue, stands with them in word and in deed to actually ensure their rightful place in

our constitutional order. And it is time that the National Government now starts finalising the process of recognising all our minorities. I say this because as a Griqua, I am proud of my cultural heritage, but I also want my own nation to get the recognition they so rightly deserve. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, the indigenous people of our land present here today and the people of the Western Cape at large. Today, we debate an important matter in our province and country, the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act. Hon Speaker, it must be noted that we are having this debate in a province that still has public facilities and spaces carrying the most degrading colonised slur, the H word.

How can we talk about justice and the recognition of Khoi-San people when we have the Hottentots-Holland High School and the HH Hospital in Somerset West? And how can we talk about dignity when the very mountains of this province are still called the Hottentots-Holland Mountains and the Hottentots-Holland Nature Reserve, which are advertised proudly on the Provincial Government website?

This is an insult to the indigenous people of this land. †Die ANC doen 'n beroep vir die dringende benaming van hierdie plekke. Geen volk kan in

waarheid herstel word, terwyl hulle onderdrukkers se skelwoorde verewig word in die geografiese instellings van hierdie provinsie nie. Agbare Speaker, die armoede waarmee die Khoi- en San-gemeenskappe gekonfronteer word, is diep. Baie woon in werkersklas woonbuurte, met oorvol skole, swak infrastruktuur, geen toegang tot grond nie. Erkenning sonder regstelling, is leeg.

Verder doen ons 'n beroep op die inheemse volke van ons land om te verenig. Die Khoi en San het eenheid nodig. Vir te lank het die verdeeldheid hulle gesamentlike stem verswak en vir enige leierskap sal hierdie wet 'n lewende instrument maak en verseker dat die Regering hulle nie kan ignoreer nie. Die ANC sal ook voortgaan om te druk vir die volle implementering van die Wet op Tradisionele en Khoi-San-leierskap as 'n instrument van erkenning en bemagtiging.

Ons eis dat die Provinsiale Regering ophou sloer, ophou wegkruip agter tegnikaliteite [sic] en begin om Khoi- en San-leiers weer formeel te erken. Ons sal voortgaan om te pleit dat erfenisterreine bewaar word, dat tale soos Nama herleef word en data-rassistiese oorblyfsels in hierdie provinsie verwyder word. Ons kan nie hierdie debat voer sonder om oor hierdie geskiedenis te praat nie. Die Khoi en San was die eerste wat teen onteiening weerstand gebied het.

Toe Jan van Riebeeck in 1652 aan wal gekom het, het helde soos David Stuurman opstande gelei, Krotoa het 'n kulturele brug in onstuimige tye

gedien, tog is hulle grond afgeneem, hulle beeste vernietig, hulle take onderdruk en hulle leierskapstrukture ontken. Die armoede, werkloosheid en die onderdrukking wat ons vandag sien, is nie toevallig nie, dit is die direkte gevolg van hierdie onteiening. Artikel 30 en 31 van ons Grondwet waarborg die reg van elke individu en gemeenskap om hulle taal te gebruik, hulle kultuur te beoefen en hulle tradisies uit te leef.

Artikel 235 bevestig die reg van kulturele gemeenskappe tot selfbeskikking binne ons demokratiese raamwerk. Hierdie regte is nie teoreties nie, dit is bindend. Die Wet op Tradisionele en Khoi-San Leierskap was bedoel om dit te verwesenlik deur leierskap te erken, toegang tot hulpbronne oop te maak en deelname aan regering te verseker. Tog in die Wes-Kaap, het die DA-geleide Provinsiale Regering erkenning vertraag en belemmer. Die proses om die Wet op Tradisionele en Khoi-San Leierskap in te bring is pynlik stadig in die Wes-Kaap.

Hierdie provinsie het hierdie wet behandel asof dit opsioneel is en nie dringend is nie. Dit is 'n skande vir die Wes-Kaapse Regering. Die eerste nasie wat 30 jaar na demokrasie steeds wag vir die formele erkenning van sy leiers in hierdie provinsie.

[The ANC calls for the urgent naming of these places. No people can be reinstated in truth while their suppressors' derogatory words are being immortalised in the geographic institutions of this province. Hon Speaker, the poverty the Khoi and San communities are confronted with, runs deep. Many live in workers class neighbourhoods, with over-capacity schools, poor

infrastructure, no access to land. Recognition without restitution is hollow.

We further call on the indigenous peoples of our country to unite. The Khoi and San need unity. For too long the division has weakened their collective voice and for any leadership this Act will create a live instrument and ensure that the Government cannot ignore them. The ANC will also continue to press for the full implementation of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act as an instrument of recognition and empowerment.

We demand that the Provincial Government stop delaying, stop hiding behind technicalities and start to officially recognize Khoi and San leaders again. We will continue to plead that heritage sites be conserved, that languages like Nama are revived and data racist remains in this province be removed. We cannot have this debate without talking about this history. The Khoi and San were the first to stand up against expropriation.

When Jan van Riebeeck came ashore in 1652, heroes such as David Stuurman led revolts, Krotoa served as a cultural bridge during stormy times, yet their land was taken away, their cattle destroyed, their tasks suppressed and their leadership structures denied. The poverty, unemployment and the suppression that we see today, is not a coincidence, it is the direct result of this expropriation. Section 30 and 31 of our Constitution guarantees the right of every individual and community to use their language, exercise their culture and live their traditions.

Section 235 confirms the right of cultural communities to self-determination within our democratic framework. These rights are not theoretical, it is obligatory. The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act was meant to be realised by recognizing leadership, open access to resources and ensure participation in government. Yet in the Western Cape the DA led Provincial Government delayed and obstructed recognition. The process to bring in the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act is painfully slow in the Western Cape.

This province has treated this act as if it was optional and not urgent. It is a disgrace to the Western Cape Government. The first nation that 30 years after democracy is still waiting for the formal recognition of its leaders in this province.]

Worse, still, hon Speaker, the DA Government has been complicit in the destruction of sacred heritage. We must condemn the strongest term in the building of the Amazon headquarters at the sacred confluence of the Liesbeeck and Black Rivers. This land is sacred to the Khoi and San people. It is the site of the Battle of !Urill'aekua, commonly known as the Battle of Salt River, which happened on 1 March 1510.

Building this project on such a sacred ground is an insult to the Khoi and San people. The DA put profit and foreign cooperation ahead of indigenous dignity and heritage. Hon Speaker, as I conclude, I draw the House's attention to the demand of the traditional leaders in the Western Cape,

specifically the San leadership of South Africa and the AmaXesibe Diversity Traditional Community Leaders in the Indigenous Khoi.

They demand the immediate establishment of a Provincial House of Traditional Leaders in the Western Cape, as is the case in other provinces. They also call for constitutional and legislative clarity, explicit recognition of their identity, restoration of land rights, guaranteed representation in decisions affecting them, and the preservation of their languages, culture and knowledge.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time to conclude, member.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Similar, the AmaXesibe Council has formally complained about the DA Government's refusal to recognise them. This House must loosen an extensive promise of democracy to all who call this land home without exception.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, member Stoffel. Let me also welcome the leaders that have since joined us. I trust that you will feel welcomed. Hon members, we will proceed via the online platform. I recognise the hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and good afternoon, everyone. Today we deliberate on a matter that should long have been debated in this House. This is not merely a technical or administrative

question. It is a constitutional, cultural and moral one. Section 30 of our National Constitution guarantees everyone, every person, the right to use the language and participate in the cultural life of their choice.

Section 31 goes further, affirming the right of cultural, religious and linguistic communities to enjoy their cultural practice, their religion, and use their language together with other members of that community. Section 235 recognises the right of self-determination of communities sharing a common cultural and language heritage within the framework of the Republic. The Khoi-San and other cultural minorities in this province have for generations carried the scars of exclusion.

Their languages have been eroded, their practices side-lined, and their contributions too often ignored. The Western Cape Constitution itself places an obligation on us to recognise the province's cultural and linguistic diversity, and to promote its expression as a fundamental part of our heritage. Hon Deputy Speaker, the interests of cultural minorities cannot be questioned, delayed, or treated as a matter of convenience. Their constitutional rights must be implemented with the same urgency, energy and passion as those of any other cultural group.

Equality before the law demands nothing less. The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act of 2019 must therefore be interrogated against these constitutional provisions. We must ask: does it truly empower, or does it inadvertently silence? Does it preserve language and cultural rights, or does

it risk diluting them into a bureaucratic process where recognition is at the mercy of political gatekeepers?

Hon Deputy Speaker, this House must adopt a position, one that safeguards the rights of cultural minorities, honours our constitutional framework, and ensures that no community, however small, is denied their rightful place in our democratic tapestry. The time for silence has long passed. The time for recognition, implementation, and justice is now. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Constable. I recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. There comes a time when words are no longer enough, when recognition, long-promised, long-delayed, must be turned into reality. And that time for the Khoi-San and the Griqua people of South Africa is now. Today I stand not just as a member of a political party, or as a representative of the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape, but as someone who believes deeply that our democracy is only as strong as its ability to include those who were for too long excluded.

Now, the work being done through the Traditional Khoi-San Leadership Act, and more specifically the drafting of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Bill of 2024, is about one simple and powerful idea: dignity. Dignity for communities who are South Africa's First Peoples, and yet for centuries were made to feel like strangers in their own land. Dignity not just in words or

gestures, but in real constitutional recognition.

And this is the point, hon Deputy Speaker. The Western Cape is not waiting for recognition to come from on high. We are preparing for it – proactively, thoughtfully, and thoroughly. Because we understand that if we want inclusion to work, we have to make it work. We have to build the frameworks, write the legislation, establish the systems, and do the work. And that is exactly what the Western Cape Government is doing.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have already received 117 applications for recognition. It is nearly half of the entire country's total. From Cape Town to the Winelands, from the Garden Route to the West Coast, communities are stepping forward and saying, we are here, we matter, and we will no longer be invisible. And our responsibility as legislators, as leaders, is to say with clarity and with conviction: Yes, we see you, we hear you, and we are ready.

But let us be honest, hon Deputy Speaker. There are those, and we see them, who would take this moment and twist it. Who would exploit the pain of the past for the politics of division. Who use the language of identity not to include, but to exclude. And this is the danger of populism. It offers the easy answer, the comforting slogan, the quick applause. It tells communities what they want to hear, but it delivers nothing that lasts. It takes genuine grievances and turns them into political theatre.

Populism does not build, it burns. And in the process, it undermines the very

democracy it claims to protect. We have seen it elsewhere, across Europe, in America, now increasingly at home. And we must say clearly, firmly, and without apology, not here, not in the Western Cape. We are not interested in performative politics. We are not interested in using minority communities as pawns in a larger ideological game.

What we are interested in is building, governing, and delivering. And that is why we will place emphasis on putting in place functional councils, local and provincial Houses, fair elections, dispute mechanisms, and partnerships. And we are doing it not to grab headlines ...[interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ...but to get things done. And we are doing so grounded in the Constitution of South Africa. And yes, in the spirit of the Western Cape's own Constitution too. Because hon Deputy Speaker, you do not build a united country by ignoring difference. You build a united country by recognising it, by respecting it, and bringing it into a shared democratic space.

It is about saying you can be Khoi-San and South African. You can celebrate your heritage and still belong in a modern democracy. In fact, your presence makes that democracy richer, stronger, and more complete. Because a democracy that only works for the majority is not a democracy at all. So yes, hon Deputy Speaker, this is about justice. But it is also about leadership.

Leadership that listens, that plans, and governs. Not for the moment, but for the future.

It is about cultural and historical justice. But it is also about strengthening communities across the province. That is what the DA stands for. Not the politics of protest, but the politics of progress. Not division, but delivery. Not populism, but principle. And above all, a belief that South Africa belongs to all who live in it. Not as a slogan, but as a contract.

I thank member Marais for bringing this matter to the House and for the debate. And I am sure that he would agree that as the saying goes, if you wish to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together. So let us ensure that the focus remains on giving the much-deserved dignity to Khoi-San and Griqua communities, so that we can build a more inclusive society and not a more divided one. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER Thank you, hon Bryant. We proceed via the hybrid system. I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity and thank hon Marais for initiating such an important discussion relating to the First Nations, who are indeed the original inhabitants of this land and the landowners of the Cape. And who instead of being embraced and protected by both the Provincial and National Government, are rather being marginalised and excluded in major

decision-making matters of their interest.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Economic Freedom Fighters in its founding manifesto not only acknowledges that it was the Khoi and the San people who started the glorious resistance when they rebelled against the settler colonialists, but also the EFF reiterates its position that the traditional leadership and the Khoi-San Act need to be reintroduced as a matter of urgency, but doing so following due public participation processes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this takes us back to the backdrop of the 2023 decision of the Constitutional Court in Mogale and others versus the Speaker of the National Assembly and others, which found that due process was not followed in passing that legislation, more so when it comes to the aspect of public participation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we live in a country where everyone has the right to self-determination as captured in Section 325 of the South African Constitution and this also extends to the Khoi-San community and its leadership structures. The fact that this community, which is made up of the people of the First Nations, is declared a minority group today in South Africa, does not make them minor to an extent that other dominant groups can now go out of their way and create laws governing them without their own input.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the first thing you do when making laws that will have

any sort of impact on a particular group, and no matter its size, is to approach members of that group and hear them out as to their needs, aims and aspirations and then weigh them against the provisions of the Constitution and other laws and provide them with what is good and right for them, whilst acting within the four corners of the law.

Section 31 of the Constitution states that people belonging to a particular group or culture cannot be denied the right to enjoy the culture by other community members living side by side with them. It is clear that the Constitution makes such a move unlawful from inception. Hon Deputy Speaker, the position in the Western Cape is even worse, as one can easily come to the conclusion that this important group made up of, once again, the people of the First Nations, are not even adequately recognised by those running this province under the governance of the Democratic Alliance.

These are the same people whose ancestors arrived in 1652 with the evil intentions of destroying and dispossessing the great nation made up of the Khoi-San for evil ulterior motives, and the very same people who continue to forcefully remove and evict our Coloured people from their homes here in the Western Cape. It is now sad that the people of the First Nations are not only still fighting against the intruders alone, but also against those who form part of the descendants, who today makes laws against the people of this great nation without involving them.

And as the EFF, we say this cannot be right and will never be right. The

people of the First Nations also needs to be heard, as captured in the Latin phrase, *audi alteram partem*. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. We remain on the hybrid system and I recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Al-Jama-ah believes that the protection of minorities and accountability of majority institutions must go hand in hand. Traditional leadership has a place in our democracy, but never above the supremacy of the Constitution. For that reason, we cannot support a motion that paints the Act as wholly negative. Rather, we call for genuine consultation, stronger safeguards, and legislation that reflects the full diversity of our country. One nation, many cultures, united under the Constitution.

All parties must accept that the Khoi-San is South Africa's First Nations people and have a right to their traditional laws and restitution of ancestral land. What is happening in Theewaterskloof Municipality is gross violation of people's rights to basic services. Withholding basic services from people because they are on land not earmarked for human settlements is in fact negatively impacting on their lives and in contravention of the Constitution.

Many of our people living on Knoflokskraal have established themselves as small-scale farmers, creating and making sustainable livelihoods for

themselves and their families. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I also want to thank hon Marais for this debate this afternoon. Deputy Speaker, as previous speakers have already said, the Constitution, Section 30, says “everyone has a right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice” and that is subject to the Bill of Rights. Section 31 also says it “protects the rights of persons belonging to a cultural, religious and linguistic community to enjoy the culture, practice, religion, use of language and form associations”.

And it goes on, hon Deputy Speaker. But hon Deputy Speaker, if I can say, we must appreciate the rich, diverse and cultural heritage that makes us all proud South Africans. As was said previously, unity in diversity is our strength. We might debate here today, but ultimately we will have to take hands and ask ourselves, how can I contribute, and I am talking about political parties with different persuasions, how do we contribute to make this work?

Because we must bring people together. We must build a stronger South Africa, a stronger Western Cape. But we cannot use this debate to exclude, but rather to include. More and more, hon Deputy Speaker, we see the First

Nations protesting outside of Parliament, walking the streets, and they must be heard. They must be heard, hon Deputy Speaker, so that justice can prevail subject to the Constitution of this country and this Province. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Christians. I now recognise the Minister, Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am honoured to be part of this important discussion. The constitutional and legislative protections afforded to cultural communities are essential for the preservation of cultural identity and promotion of our beautiful cultural diversity. These protections are echoed by the Western Cape Constitution, which affirms the value of cultural diversity and the imperative to protect cultural minorities.

These are not decorative words. They are binding values that must be upheld equally across all communities without fear or favour. Yet we are now witnessing how legislation intended to protect and uplift cultural communities, is at times being cynically misused by some political actors for opportunistic gain. There are worrying instances where the language of culture recognition is being twisted into a tool for land grabs, for a promotion of violence, and for dangerous misguided calls for independence from the South African State.

This is not only unconstitutional, but also a betrayal of the cultural communities we ought to uplift. Cultural identity must never be weaponised, and no party, no leader, should ever exploit legitimate historical grievances to inflame division or instability under the guise of cultural justice. Let us remind ourselves what the Constitution says. Section 30 guarantees the right to participate in cultural life, but not in contradiction to other constitutional values.

Section 31 protects cultural, religious, and linguistic communities, but not at the expense of minority groups. And Section 235, which acknowledges the right to self-determination, is explicitly bound by the broader framework of national unity. It cannot and must not be interpreted as a doorway to separatist's agendas. Cultural identity is not a licence for anarchy. It is not a cloak for criminality.

Moreover, we must ensure that this Act does not become a tool to silence or exclude other cultural communities. Cultural practices that violate the rights of others cannot hide behind tradition. The Constitution is clear. Cultural rights may not be exercised in a manner inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights. As lawmakers, our task is to ensure that legislation aimed at affirming culture, does not unintentionally deepen inequality or enable abuse, and we must stand firm against attempts to hijack cultural identity for political agendas.

The spirit of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act of 2019 must not

be a licence for parallel governance, nor a legal loophole to challenge the sovereignty of the Republic. There can be no misunderstanding. The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act exists within the broader framework of a unitary, democratic South Africa. It does not create autonomous states. It does not override the Constitution. Any suggestion otherwise is not only misleading but also dangerous.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we must call on all cultural leaders, political leaders and community actors to act with dignity and respect for the Constitution. We must ensure that the recognition of indigenous communities uplifts and empowers, without undermining the rule of law or the unity of our nation. Let us honour cultural identity by not weaponising it, but by protecting it, and by guarding against those who would distort it for personal or political gain.

No law, not even one passed with the noblest of intentions, ought to give one cultural community more rights than other cultural communities, or the right to grab land unlawfully, to incite violence, to intimidate other cultural communities, or to claim extrajudicial authority under the banner of traditional leadership. Yet we are seeing such trends emerge under the guise of cultural existence or legitimate cultural identity. That, hon Deputy Speaker, I call opportunistic manipulation.

We have seen how individuals claim traditional leadership status overnight, set up parallel structures, different factions within a particular cultural community fighting for control, even lay claim to land and other rights

without legal process, often leaving vulnerable people at risk of eviction, fraud or exploitation. We have also seen a disturbing trend of political parties aligning themselves with these self-proclaimed leaders, not out of cultural solidarity, but in pursuit of short-term political gain and power. That is not leadership, that is opportunism.

And I repeat, it is a betrayal not only of the Constitution, but of the very cultural communities we are meant to protect. In conclusion, let us honour the protection afforded to all cultural communities by the Constitution. We owe it to all cultural communities. We owe it to the rule of law. And above all, we owe it to the integrity of this nation. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Marais. I now recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, one of the strongest reasons to support the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act is that it will create a pathway for representation for Khoi and San leaders, particularly here in the Western Cape. Until now, our province has had no formal voice in the National House of Traditional Leaders, because traditional leadership here has never been recognised.

The absence has meant that the Khoi and the San, the First Peoples of this land, were excluded from national decision-making structures that directly affect traditional communities. The Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act

proposes a formal framework for recognising traditional structures, leadership structures, particularly for the Khoi and San communities, enabling them to safeguard their language, culture and land rights.

But, hon Speaker, we must also ask: how is it that the Western Cape, of all places, has not done more to recognise its First Peoples? Are we to believe that there are none, because we know that this is not true? How does this Government and the City of Cape Town trot out First Peoples to cut ribbons or to make public comments on planning and heritage applications, whilst not doing anything to formally recognise any of them? The Khoi and the San lived here long before Jan van Riebeeck arrived, and important heritage sites in this province bear witness to their presence, yet we see little evidence of formal recognition.

Section 5 of the Act, for instance, would empower the Premier to receive and process applications for recognition, but we hear very little about this. This Act is not centralising power away from minorities. We are bringing them into the fold of national representation, ensuring that the Khoi and San and other indigenous leaders of the Western Cape have the same standing and dignity as traditional leaders in other provinces.

For too long, the absence of recognition meant silence. This Act turns silence into representation, participation and empowerment. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Herron. I recognise the hon

Nkondlo. We will only commence once you have the podium.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the debate comes at a time when we have just celebrated Heritage Day, a day meant to recognise and celebrate the cultural worth of our nation. The Heritage Day plays an important role in promoting cultural diversity, social cohesion, reconciliation, peace and economic development. Now, while we celebrate our cultural diversity, we cannot ignore the deliberate exclusion of traditional leaders in this province.

The Western Cape has failed to allocate land to indigenous groups to practice their cultural rituals and customs. Indigenous groups such as the Khoi and San, affected by historical land dispossession, face exclusion from governance and economic spheres in the province. Indigenous groups have long faced economic marginalisation and social disadvantage. However, provinces such as KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape, to mention a few, have long adopted a stance of recognising and working with traditional leaders, while the Western Cape continues to dispossess land to indigenous groups.

Luckily for us, we have a guided document that this Government must implement and is a signatory to – the Medium-Term Development Plan, which gives us a framework for the role of traditional leaders, it identifies five overarching goals aligned with the National Development Plan. Traditional leaders have been custodians of culture, mediators of social disputes and

protectors of communal land. In provinces such as KZN, Traditional Houses are formally established, integrated into local governance and resourced to influence development.

Yet here in the Western Cape, no such Cultural House exists. This leaves the Khoi-San and traditional leaders marginalised, denied a formal seat in governance structures where decisions about land, about development, about resources are made. The MTDP itself recognises that strengthening local governance required enhanced participation of traditional and Khoi-San leadership.

This Government is involved in current reforms of Local Government, including the recent Bill this DA used its majority to bully into approval, even when rejected by the public, that is the Local Government Municipal Support Bill, which was quiet on inclusion of traditional leaders and Khoi-San that exist in these very municipalities. As we listen to Minister Simmers and as a Griqua himself, the question is, did you even whisper to your own party to include the Khoi-San leaders in the affairs of the municipalities?

We understand the statement by member Bryant of not being interested in what he terms politics of protest, as indeed privilege protects those privileged by the pain muted by colonialism and apartheid. We remain unashamed to stand in protest and call for the DA to establish the Western Cape Traditional House, to give a voice to the many leaders, invited here today and sitting in the gallery, to be given their rightful place to govern as custodians and

traditional leaders of the people.

I would like to acknowledge Dr Mallet's contribution to this topic, including other scholars and researchers. Mallet's contribution to an all-inclusive South Africa is significant, particularly in addressing the historical injustices inflicted upon indigenous people like Abantu and Khoi-San, the lie of 1652, which refers to the false narrative that Jan van Riebeeck, a Dutch coloniser, was the first person to settle in South Africa and did a discovery, erasing the presence and history of indigenous peoples.

In rural Namaqualand and Cape Flats alike, Khoi-San communities sit at margins of our economy, watching mining companies, developers and municipalities make decisions in their name but without their voice. Recognition without resources is tokenism. The MTDP speaks of developed traditional and Khoi-San communities as a strategic outcome. That outcome will remain a pipe dream unless leaders are given the means to uplift livelihoods through enterprise, agriculture and tourism.

Agriculture is an economic backbone of this province and stands on a painful reality of land protections under property rights, whilst the very generations of Khoi-San descendants are lying in inhumane conditions as farm workers evicted daily without shelter and children forced to stop schooling. How is the DA's nice words about recognition going to resolve the daily reality in the Witzenberg Municipality and De Doorns, which are hotspots of evictions? It is our ANC Parliamentary office that have invited Minister Nyhontso, who

held a successful stakeholder engagement and this coming Monday, I must invite you, an Evictions Forum is being established to sit for the first time to find solutions to this carnage.

We invite the traditional leaders sitting here in the gallery today and the DA to join this meeting that is going to be taking place this coming Monday. We cannot debate Khoi-San recognition without confronting land justice. The Constitution Section 25 demands redress for past dispossession and Section 235 recognises the right of cultural communities to self-determination, yet the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act does not address land redistribution.

It recognises leaders but leaves them without jurisdiction over the very land that defines identity and enables development. In the Western Cape where Khoi-San communities were the first to be dispossessed, this omission is especially painful. Land is not only an economic resource but the foundation of cultural survival. Chapter 1, Section 5 of the Western Cape Provincial Constitution must be amended to include the Khoi-San languages that are represented in our province.

Further, Section 5 and Clause 3 mandates the Government to actually ensure that the languages of the province are given real meaning and are supported. The WCED must be forced to pull up their socks in implementing the drive as called by the President Ramaphosa and launch for implementation Minister Gwarube, the mother tongue teaching to give the currently recognised languages of the Western Cape an equal recognition – English, Afrikaans,

isiXhosa and add the Khoi-San languages of the Western Cape.

A major milestone is planned for October 2025 with an all-inclusive African dialogue and the establishment of the House of Traditional Leaders in the Western Cape. This initiative is being undertaken in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, CONTRALESA and Western Cape Khoi-San Forum on indigenous issues. We must demand that any revised Act truly aligns with the Constitution by empowering cultural minorities rather than confining them to symbolic roles.

In doing so, we will not only honour the Khoi-San and other traditional leaders, we will build a more just, inclusive and developmental Western Cape. That is the spirit of the MDTP, the promise of our Constitution and the duty we owe to our people. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Nkondlo. I recognise the Minister, Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you for the hon members for this debate. Hon member of the Freedom Front Plus and also welcome to all the guests in the gallery. Hon member, hon member Marais, †hierdie debat ingestel deur die Vryheidsfront Plus, bied ons die geleentheid om oor 'n fundamentele vraag te besin: hoe beskerm ons kulturele regte op 'n manier wat ons demokrasie versterk, eerder as om te verswak? [this debate instituted by the Freedom

Front Plus, provides us with the opportunity to consider a fundamental issue: how do we protect our cultural rights in a way that strengthens our democracy rather than weaken it?]

Hon members, before this House started, I did the hon Marais a courtesy, I tried to get hold of him and he was sadly not available. The reason I did so was to get a better understanding of the debate. Because if you look at the debate question, “that the House discussed the possible negative implications of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act of 2019 vis-à-vis Section 30, 31 and 235 of the National Constitution and the Western Cape Constitution with a view to adopt the position of the interests of cultural minorities”.

That is the reason I called the hon member as a sign of respect and decency because I respect the Khoi and San leaders who came out here today. Now, there is nothing positive about what has transpired in this Act because fortunately, I was a member of that Standing Committee. I was a member of that Standing Committee where we begged ANC members of that Standing Committee, including the National House of NCOP to stop with this negative Bill that they are busy with.

So, I am going to deal with all the members individually because it actually boggles the mind how ANC members think we forget about yesterday, because I have been a member of this House from eleven years and I was very privileged that I chaired the Standing Committee, who begged them, do not support this Bill because it is going to disenfranchise the leaders who are here in this House.

Let me start with hon Stoffels. Hon Stoffels made a very bizarre point. She said the Khoi and the San leaders must unite for this, which she asked the same thing of the Xhosa and the Zulus – to form one clan, to form one leader. The disrespect and disgust for Khoi and San leaders of the ANC, they are leaders in their own right. They are from different clans. They have a right to represent ...[interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...themselves. It continues to show how the ANC hates people of this province. She will never go to the Zulus and the Xhosa and say form one leader and to be elected. It is disgusting for hon Stoffels to start her input like that ...[interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon members, the second point she made ...[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members? Hon members, the Minister is the final speaker in this subject for discussion. We have traditional leaders, we have young people, and we have a number of citizens that are watching online. I sincerely trust that we will respect the decorum of the House. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: So, when she talks about they must unite, they do not have to unite. They are leaders of their clans. They have a right to represent themselves and not be formed into a kraal again like it was done hundreds of years ago to speak on their behalf. The ANC must change their behaviour.

The second point is, so arrogant was the ANC in the Standing Committee that they sent us an invitation on the Thursday to be in Hermanus on the Friday for a public hearing on the Leadership Bill for the Khoi and San. I said to them, how could you do this? We cannot book accommodation. We are supposed to invite Khoi and San leaders in Hermanus, give them appropriate notice, not in the afternoon to be at a public hearing the next morning. That is how they treated and continue to treat people in this process.

Hon members, the hon Stoffel went further and she used wonderful words. Where is justice? Justice? †Kom ons stap Distrik Ses toe, dan wys ek jou hoe lyk *justice*. [Let us walk to District Six, then I'll show you how justice looks.] People living, not moving to their homes since 1994. People coming to public hearings saying where is land restitution? Hon Nkondlo, I am coming to her now, but just on that line, talks about the National Minister, they are forming and announcing something on the 25th.

She was a member of that Standing Committee when member Maseko, sitting right there, begged them to invite the National Minister here to come and

address the issue of District Six – †niks nie, niks nie! [Nothing, nothing!] Now they come here today and say they want justice and they are launching something on the 25th of October. †Waar was hulle, [Where were they,] when we begged them to do the right thing? They did not do so. So I will not be lectured here by ANC members about justice. They do not know what justice is.

Injustice is the Khoi and San leaders not having land, not being recognised, not being in leadership positions. But in other provinces, the king in KwaZulu Natal [indistinct] ...[interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...is 173 million a year.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Minister, please take your seat. Hon members? [Interjections] Hon members? [Interjections] Hon members! [Interjections] Member Nkondlo and member Barnes, can I request the Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip of the Official Opposition to please maintain order on my left-hand side. Hon members, I did not want to stop the Minister, because we wanted the debate to flow, but also for those that are in the gallery to listen.

People came and took time off in order to listen to this particular debate. I

would want to caution members in the gallery as well. Members in the gallery are not allowed to participate in the debate in any way or form, and that includes the clapping of hands. I would request that members in the gallery refrain from clapping hands. Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon members, it is easy to go to Hansard, it has been publicly available documents for the last 11 years. So the hon member can do herself justice and go and listen to how we begged them in the Standing Committees to listen to us, listen to the community, listen to the leaders, so that people of this province have the same or similar benefits to traditional leaders of other provinces. But they did not listen.

So the hon members, we have now been, the Court has even found the same thing. The Court has thrown that initial Bill out of court since 2019. Now it is still in limbo. Still in limbo. I think they have got two years' time for Parliament to fix that until 2027. That is what they have done over decades. Decades we have asked the ANC in this House, support us, help us so that leaders in this province can have similar benefits and status as leaders from other provinces. But we will continue to fight that fight. We do not stop.

Then the hon member used the name Krotoa. The ANC should not dare even use the name Krotoa. Last week Saturday, last week Saturday, not one of them, not one of them was in Robben Island when the statue of Krotoa was unveiled. †Skande! [Disgrace!] Not even the National members, it was the

National Government, it was Krotoa, it was Toivo ya Toivo, it was Nelson Mandela, five statues were unveiled last week by the other Mackenzie, if I were to say that, at Robben Island. And not one of them was present.

That disrespect that they have for Krotoa and the history of the Khoi and the San, that they should have done this 30 years ago. They should have recognised Krotoa 30 years ago because they had the national funding, they had the national laws, they had the national budget, but they failed to do so. So they cannot stand here and talk about Krotoa. She should not even mention the name in her sleep.

The hon ANC then talks about, and I will come to hon Marais now about Afrikaans, because Hon Marais, let me just start hon Marais. †Agb Marais, die jaar is die honderd jaar van Afrikaans. Ons het twee weke terug saam met die Kaapse *Malay* kore 'n konsert gehad by die Kaapse Stadion, met 50,000 mense. Waar was jy? [Hon Marais, the year is the hundred years of Afrikaans. Two weeks ago we had a concert with the Cape Malay choirs at the Cape Town Stadium, with 50,000 people. Where were you?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak to the Chair! A point of order! A point of order, please take your seat. Please take your seat, Minister. I recognise the hon Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as a rule in this House, no member may address another member

directly. I would like you to caution the Minister, out of respect, thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Seeing that member Marais raised a point of order and a debate, I am going to caution the Minister twice and I will caution him again. Please speak to the Chair.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you. Thank you, Hon Speaker, I will address you. But via you, †waar was die eerbare Marais toe ons voor 50,000 mense hier by Kaapstad Stadion *Afrikaans Is Groot*, met die Kaapse *Malay*-kore, 'n wonderlike Afrikaanse fees gehad het? En *hon* Marais en *hon* Stoffel, die Wes-Kaapse Regering belê in taal. Op julle tafels sal julle 'n wonderlike boek kry – *Leer Jouself Nama*.

Die eerste regering in die land, toe Zizi Kodwa kom geld steel het in die Wes-Kaap, toe maak ons al die boeke – *Leer Jouself Nama*. So as julle hier uitstap, eerbare mense, en ons wil, oor 'n paar weke gaan ons 'n toets kom doen om te sien wie kan 'n bietjie Nama praat, so ons sal sien wie van die mense kan 'n bietjie Nama praat, want ons belê in ons taal en ons belê in die geskiedenis van die Khoi en die San.

So eerbare mense, op julle tafel is 'n boek en die manier hoe dit gebeur het en dit is die baie belangrike punt. My kollega, Minister Marais, en baie dankie, kollega, het Upington toe gegaan. Toe die ANC besig was om te steel, toe het sy vir Ouma Katriena gaan sien. Vandag hou hulle vir Ouma Katriena soos

ornaments voor 'n event. Hulle, ons in die Wes-Kaap, belê in ons Nama-taal en as jy biblioteek toe gaan, ek het 'n hele klomp boeke gebring uit ons biblioteke, so enige persoon hierso kan biblioteek toe gaan en in enige van ons 367 biblioteke is daar Khoi- of San-boeke, want ons belê in ons geskiedenis.

En laas jaar, eerbare mense,

[where was the hon Marais when we, in front of 50,000 people here in Cape Town Stadium, held *Afrikaans Is Groot* with the Cape Malay choirs, had a wonderful Afrikaans festival? And hon Marais and hon Stoffel, the Western Cape invests in language. On your desks you will find a wonderful book - *Leer Jouself Nama* (*Teach Yourself Nama*).

The first government in the country, when Zizi Kodwa came to steal money in the Western Cape, then we already made the books – *Leer Jouself Nama*. So when you walk out here, hon people, and we want to, in a few weeks time we are going to, come and do a test to see who can speak a bit of Nama, so we will see whom of the people can speak a bit of Nama, because we invest in our language and we invest in the history of the Khoi and the San.

So hon people, on your desk is a book and the way it happened is the very important point. My colleague, Minister Marais, and thank you, colleague, went to Upington. When the ANC was busy stealing, then she went to see Ouma Katriena. Today they keep Ouma Katriena like ornaments before an event. They, we in the Western Cape, invest in our Nama language and if you

go to the library, I brought a whole lot of books from our libraries, so any person here can go to the library and in any one of our 367 libraries there are Khoi or San books, because we invest in our history.]

And last year, hon people, a month after my appointment, there were three invitations on my desk. One was to the Olympics, one was to Flanders, and one was the UNESCO World Heritage Site to recognise another World Heritage Site. Discussions with the Premier in his house, and he agreed that I go to UNESCO to preserve the history of the Khoi and the San. And right now, we have a new World Heritage Site in this province, Mossel Bay, Diepkloof, and including the KwaZulu Natal, Sibudu Cave.

So a World Heritage Site to preserve the history and the Khoi and the San and we will invest in them more. We have just given them, Premier, a few months ago, another R500,000 to preserve the Khoi and the San history. So our leaders can go and visit that site, visit Diepkloof, but the land and the leadership issue, that document, ANC leaders, is now sitting with your President, Deputy President Mashatile, who was tasked by the President.

So please WhatsApp him and help him to finish the recognition of these Khoi and San leaders, so we can recognise them ...[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...and ensure they

deserve their rightful place in history. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you! [Interjections] Thank you, hon members! [Interjections] Thank you, hon members! Minister Mackenzie, I have not received my book. If you are able to facilitate one to the desk in front as well. Hon members, as you are fully aware that a debate not only influences policy and legislation and accountability and education and awareness and public opinion and even consensus, I want to say at this particular time, thank you to all the traditional leaders that have joined us today.

The debate is concluded at this particular point, but if you wish to remain for the remainder of the Sitting, you are more than welcome to do so. Members, we will promptly proceed in terms of Rule 197, and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Baartman.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr F C Christians to ask Ms D Baartman, Minister of Finance:

Whether her Department has plans to improve financial, management and governance in poor performing municipalities; if so, what are the (a) relevant details and (b) timelines?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. In

response to member Christian's question on the interpellation, the Provincial Treasury is actively supporting all municipalities in the Western Cape to strengthen and improve their financial management and financial good governance. Our approach is rooted in the Provincial Treasury's mandate in terms of Section 5 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, or the MFMA, to monitor compliance with the standards for financial management and governance set in the Act and to support municipalities to approve.

In response to subsection A, the Provincial Treasury, in collaboration with the National Treasury, uses various tools to monitor, assess, analyse and report on the municipal finances and financial maturity, including monthly reports in terms of Section 721 of the MFMA, the online e-monitor and GoMuni reporting systems and the Financial Management Capability Maturing Model. The monthly monitoring reports also allow the identifying of municipalities at financial risk and respond accordingly.

The MFCMM, or the maturity model, as we call it, measures compliance and performance on a scale of 1 to 6. Levels 1 to 3 measure compliance, whereas levels 4 to 6 measure performance. The Provincial Treasury can thus tailor appropriate responses to municipalities, depending on their different levels of governance maturity. Our medium-term target is to ensure that the Western Cape municipalities progressively improve the maturity model scores, with particular emphasis on moving municipalities from level 3, which is compliance, to level 4, which is performance.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Municipal Standard Charts of Accounts, also known as MSCOA, is a central pillar of good financial governance. MSCOA standardises municipal financial transactions across all municipalities, thereby improving transparency, comparability and accountability of financial information. The Provincial Treasury continues to provide technical support and capacity building on MSCOA implementation.

As part of our response, we have adopted a Municipal Budget and Treasury Talent Management Framework, which guides its support and capacity building initiatives. To this framework, adopted in March this year, the Department has been supporting and providing training to impacts, Disciplinary Board Committees, municipal councils and officials on the requirements of the UIF and W expenditures, reduction and prevention strategy and implementation of consequence management, specifically focussing on the 10 municipalities with the highest UIF and W expenditures.

Other capacity building programmes include, amongst others, Risk Champion Training, Support to Internal Audit and Audit Committees. Formal training is complemented by a network of intergovernmental forums and platforms, including the Provincial Budget and Governance Forum, with Municipal Committee Members of Finance, the Chief Financial Officers Forum, Municipal Accounts Forum, the Chief Risk Officer Forum and Supply and Chain Management Forum, Smart Procurement Conference and Revenue Management Masterclass.

Through this integrated and comprehensive approach, the Provincial Treasury assists poor-performing municipalities to achieve full compliance with MFMA, then to move from compliance to performance, ultimately improving financial management and governance. With regard to subsection B, the Provincial Treasury Alliance supports municipalities with the annual accounting cycle of municipalities. This includes the Strategic Integrated Municipal Engagements, or SIME as we call it, to provide analysis and recommendations on municipalities' budgets, with changes proposed that they can incorporate into their adopted budgets.

Technical Integrated and Municipal Engagements, or TIME, offer a review of municipal governance maturity with recommendations timed to allow municipalities to make improvements before the audit process begins. The Annual Financial Statements Consistency Workshop, which assists municipalities to improve the quality of their annual financial statements, and we are proud that this initiative started by the Western Cape has now been picked up by the National Treasury and rolled out nationwide.

We are also pleased to also note the significant progress that our municipalities made in terms of budgets they adopted for the current financial year. Whereas 24/25, six municipalities adopted unfunded budgets, in the current financial year, only three municipalities adopted unfunded budgets.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much. Just to conclude that the remaining three that had unfunded budgets are all in financial crisis, and the Province has formally intervened in terms of Section 139, subsection 5. Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister for that comprehensive reply. Hon Deputy Speaker, we know that we have, most of our municipalities, more than three quarters of them have clean audits, because we know we always talk about clean audits, but clean audits is a strong indicator of financial and governance control. But some municipalities still experience service delivery problems, and when people look at local government, they look at bread and butter politics.

This is where Government makes a difference, and that is why the question to the Minister on governance and improving financial management. But hon Deputy Speaker, if I can just also ask the Minister in her reply later, the municipalities that are assisted at the moment by the Province in order to improve their financial management and governance, which municipalities are they, and are we expecting a better Audited General Report when we will report on municipalities for this current year?

Because last financial year, 23/24, there were four or five municipalities that were struggling when it comes to financial management, and I heard what the Minister said. The Minister said that they put quite a number of plans with the National Treasury. They put quite a number of plans in, in order to monitor monthly reports to monitor municipalities.

But can the Minister share with us, are there still concerns when it comes to improving financial management and governance in municipalities? Are there still concerns? And what is her projection? And we know we are not asking opinions, but does she see in her term that we will have the 30 municipalities in the Western Cape having clean audits? Because we also know when it comes to, there is also political leadership.

There is also leadership in municipalities that makes it extremely difficult. But from my side, hon Deputy Speaker, the last is that the reason for this question is people live in areas and they expect services. And that is why this is such a critical point, that we get the finances of our municipalities in order, so that the poor and the vulnerable will not suffer going forward. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Christians. I recognise hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Minister, as our national finances continue to tighten, it is increasingly clear that municipalities cannot rely solely on traditional transfers and grants to

meet the growing infrastructure and service delivery demands. And we have seen many municipalities really creaking under the pressure, not only of the financial challenges, but also, sadly, governance challenges, in particular, some under very unstable coalitions, such as in Knysna, where very recently, there was an attempt made by Minister Anton Bredell to assist that municipality by placing it under administration.

And unfortunately, that was rejected by the NCOP in a vote of seven to nine. Interestingly enough, the KZN representative also voted against it. But that vote against was led by the DA, because we want to see Knysna thrive, we want to see Knysna fixed. And sadly, that has not taken place. And we are now going to see another year of terrible leadership, hopefully no more bodies in the water. But certainly, there is going to be further decimation of that local lagoon, of the seahorses that live there and the people who now have sewage running through their streets, popping out of manholes, it really is a terrible situation and it is very sad.

So, Minister, from your side, I would like to know, if possible, are there any other financial mechanisms that can now be implemented in Knysna, taking into account that Minister Bredell really had used this as a last resort in anticipation of the pending year that will still need to take place before the next Local Government Elections? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Hon Bryant. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hands off Knysna! As the National, as the African National Congress, we view the inability of this Department to improve underperforming or struggling municipalities as a persistent crisis. Across the Western Cape, we see municipalities edging closer to collapse with financial mismanagement, weak governance and political instability eroding service delivery.

Communities are on the short end of the stick as management issues reflect in service delivery. What we are saying is not something new. The challenges are the well documented over many years poor financial control, inadequate revenue collection, political infights and administrative paralysis. Yet, despite this, the Provincial Government has failed to step in with decisive, sustainable intervention before these municipalities reach a state of near collapse.

This failure to act timeously has left communities in a crisis. Residents now face taps that run dry, uncollected refuse, deteriorating infrastructure and municipal administration that are unable to provide even the most basic service. The Constitution is clear. Provincial governments have a duty to support and strengthen the capacity of municipalities to manage their affairs and deliver service effectively and not want to bully municipalities.

Hon Speaker, I ask whether the Department has plans to improve financial management and governance in poor performing municipalities and the

timelines for their implementation. The people of these municipalities cannot afford more delays. Urgent action is needed before collapse becomes permanent.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stoffel. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I wanted to touch on Knysna, but member Bryant did that and I did not know about the vote because I know we are very concerned about Knysna. You know, that is one of the areas I think that the Minister and the Department have their job cut out. But hon Deputy Speaker, if I could just ask, with things being tough and with people living in hard times, I just heard one municipality.

Municipalities are starting to write off irrecoverable debt. That also affects, I believe, the sustainability of municipalities because of people not able to pay. What is the Minister doing in this regard? Is there strong revenue collection? Are we, with everything happening in the Western Cape and with the budget tight, do we see, is there money even available in municipalities when it comes to capital investments and so on?

A major concern, of course, is electricity and we do not know if our electricity is sorted out. But I am talking about these things because this is what is affecting our communities out in large. But lastly, hon Deputy

Speaker, if I can say, there were a few municipalities that are continuously in the headlines with what is happening in certain municipalities when it comes to finances, when it comes to service delivery every year.

And when you read the Auditor General Report, you see these municipalities come to the fore. I did mention it in my first question, but if the Minister can tell me specifically with those municipalities, will we see a turnaround? And as I said previously in my previous question, it is a lot to do with leadership when it comes to the municipality, political leadership and taking accountability for certain things.

So, if the Minister can just elaborate on those types of things. My question is really to address the citizens struggling at this time, and if we have our municipalities, have their finances in order, and get clean audit, it helps us to those people that voted for political office bearers see the difference on the ground. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I recognise the Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker and hon member Christians for bringing this interpellation. So, I will try to pair some of the respective questions because some members asked very similar questions. In terms of do we still, member Christians asked do we still have some service delivery problems despite a clean audit, and you can sometimes

even bring this into funded budgets because, for example, in some municipalities, you can have a funded budget, but you do not necessarily have a credible budget.

And you will still see, for example, bodies floating in water. And the Knysna question that was asked is an exact example where what is happening in the books and what is happening on the ground are very different things. And in terms of Section 139 of the Constitution, member Christians, the Western Cape Government attempted to have a provincial intervention in Knysna because there is no clean water, hon Deputy Speaker. There is no clean water. We must be honest. There is no clean water in Knysna.

The NCOP, the National Council of Provinces, voted down a provincial intervention in Knysna for that intervention. So, by tying the Western Cape Government's hands, you are also saying actually that you do not believe the residents of Knysna deserve clean water. And we must know that in any and all policy matters in government, all governments, whether it is national, provincial or local, the money follows the decision. So, the NCOP has chosen not to help save clean water for the residents of Knysna.

In terms of which municipalities do we help, member Christians, we help all municipalities. Over and above the systems and structures that we have put in place that I have mentioned in the original question, any municipality can contact us for assistance. I will also just quickly have, he also asked us, will all 13 municipalities get clean audits within this particular term? Member

Christians, we are working very hard to help municipalities wherever we can with their respective audit questions. Sometimes it is very technical matters that come from the ...[interjections]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, running commentary is not allowed. I am unable to hear the Minister. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. We work very hard with municipalities with audit questions, in order to assist with them not getting findings from the AG. In this regard, I would love it if all 13 municipalities would get clean audits, but it always is the response and the work and the cooperation you get from municipalities.

I also want to speak a little bit about Kannaland and Theewaterskloof, and I have brought the FRP of Kannaland with me, and I brought the draft FRP of Theewaterskloof that I received from National Treasury a little while ago with me as well, because some of the members asked about service delivery and governance matters. Some of the things, and these are documents drafted by the National Treasury, pages 10, 11, and 12 for Kannaland, things that they listed, recurrent unfunded budgets, current liabilities exceeding assets, data management failure, diversion of capital grants to operations, inability to service Eskom debt, absence of infrastructure master plans, high electricity losses, poor water and sanitation quality scores.

Which is ironic, hon Deputy Speaker, that water is being raised in the Kannaland FRP, but we are not allowed to help save clean water in Knysna. Maintenance expenditure ratio under the 8th per cent, underutilisation of capital grants, ageing fleet and infrastructure, intermittent water supply and poor water management, persistent disclaimer, I am still on Kannaland, hon Deputy Speaker, the things that National Treasury wrote here, historical leadership instability and oversight failures, and this specifically relates to impact as well, inadequate contract management and SCM non-enforcement, inadequate legislative competence.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there is a whole other page there, but I quickly want to mention a few things of Theewaterskloof that [indistinct] ...[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Is my time concluded? But, hon Deputy Speaker, what I would do is I would encourage the member to actually make sure that once we finalise this FRP for Theewaterskloof, that he must come with Theewaterskloof to tell the people ...[intervenes]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, that concludes Interpellation 1. I have

already during Interpellation 1 cautioned members with the running commentary. I sincerely trust that I did not notice a member actually put their mic on before being recognised. Our members are fully aware of our Rules and to maintain the decorum of the House. We will now proceed with Interpellation 2, and I recognise the Premier.

2. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

Regarding the review process of the Western Cape Safety Plan (WCSP) that is underway, and the persistence of the high murder rate in the Western Cape and in the City of Cape Town specifically:

(a) Which additional interventions, if any, are being explored to reduce the murder rate drastically to the target of the WCSP and (b) which new interventions have been targeted at the communities surrounding the police stations with the highest number of murders?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Herron for the question. Obviously, for this House, it is probably a repeat of what the Standing Committee dealt with yesterday, but thank you for the question. Various interventions are being explored and implemented to coordinate and monitor the Western Cape Safety Plan programmes and projects and drive achievements of outcomes, and these include the establishment of a Western Cape Safety Council to provide strategic oversight and high-level coordination across different entities and

spheres of government.

As the highest governing body for safety in the province, the Provincial Safety Council provides strategic leadership. It provides the oversight of the programmes in the Western Cape, but these include municipalities, and that is like the City of Cape Town, it also includes provincial initiatives. Crucially the South African Police Services also included.

The Council convenes quarterly, followed by the release of the South African Police Service crime statistics to assist with trends, evaluate the effectiveness of ongoing interventions and refine strategic priorities to enhance public safety.

It also has the establishment of a Provincial Safety Council Centre (PSCC) to serve as an integrated hub for intelligence sharing and inter-agency collaboration and emergency response coordination. The PSCC will coordinate the following:

- All safety-related data across departments, municipalities and agencies;
- The portfolio of projects implemented throughout the province;
- The rollout of administration and integrated community safety and development programmes; and
- All the Safer City cooperation agreement interventions.

Then (b), new interventions are being explored as it relates to targeting

communities in precincts with the highest homicide rate. The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety is in the process of finalising the Western Cape Safety Plan, which will develop integrated community safety and development plans, and establish the community safety and development forums in 21 targeted communities affected by severe levels of violent crime and economic and infrastructure decay.

The forum will serve as a multi-sectoral platform to provide strategic direction, oversight and coordination of all activities as contained in the safety and development plans. It will ensure alignment with the principles of a whole of society approach and a whole of government approach.

It is also the implementation of the cooperation agreement, which is included as one of the programmes of the Safety Plan, and it focuses specifically on the 21 police stations recording the highest number of murders and attempted murders.

It also is concluding safer district collaboration agreements between the District Municipality, SAPS and the Western Cape Government to enhance safety and security through joint initiative programmes and strategies. In addition to the above we will continue to work resolutely towards better resourcing support and collaboration with SAPS, especially in our most troubled precincts.

I frequently inform this House that the number of SAPS members in the

Western Cape has consistently failed to keep pace with the needs of our population in a human resource crisis that now spans more than a decade, but even among the SAPS members currently deployed in the Western Cape, we see a vast disparity in the resources allocated to low crime areas and those allocated to areas where crime is higher. This is a decision that is made by the leadership of SAPS and is a decision that could be rectified tomorrow.

We will continue to advocate for the needs of our communities in high crime areas where one SAPS member may be responsible for the safety ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ...of more than 800 people. In recent weeks we have been fortunate enough to have the police engagements with the new Police Minister, and we look forward to working with him in the development of this, and finalisation of this plan.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Premier for the reply.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we had 490 gang-related murders in just six months.

That is nearly three murders every single day or one gang-related killing every eight hours. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to these numbers. They are not abstract, they represent lives lost, families torn apart and communities living under siege.

Yet yesterday when we sat down to hear the so-called review of the Safety Plan we did not hear urgency, we did not hear honesty, we did not hear accountability. The review we were promised did not happen. A review, by definition, means assessing whether a plan has worked, what has failed and what must change. It means testing claims against evidence, admitting shortcomings and facing hard truths, but nothing of the sort happened.

The evidence is clear, hon Deputy Speaker. The central promise of the 2019 Safety Plan was to reduce the murder rate by 50% over 10 years. After five years we should already be seeing the results, but the murder rate remains stubbornly high and even the draft Safety Plan 2.0 includes a chart showing the actual number of murders has increased over the last five years.

In the original Safety Plan there was mention of the Bavarian model and its approach to collecting data, analysing patterns, targeting interventions where they can have the most impact. In other words evidence-based policing, but no evidence-based policing review was presented to us yesterday as part of the five year plan review. Outcomes were never evaluated and lessons were not learnt. I know this because we are now left with a plan that has no concrete objectives. The only thing that has been changed is the abandonment

of the original aim.

The hon Premier said it is difficult to set targets and objectives, yet we must hold people accountable to them. Yes, it can be difficult, but the Safety Plan, the hon Premier himself set the target for the 2019 Safety Plan, a 50% reduction of murders. We did not impose it and so we must hold the hon Premier accountable for failing to meet it, and at the time the hon Premier said if we were not to meet it his head should roll.

So what happens when you abandon the objective of the 2019 plan halfway through? How do we hold him accountable and his head should roll?

A Safety Plan is not a box-ticking exercise. It must be a living, breathing framework, constantly monitored, adjusted, and evaluated, but, hon Deputy Speaker, 490 murders in six months, that is the price of inaction and it is far too high. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank the hon Premier for stepping up on safety where SAPS is consistently failing our province.

The people of the Western Cape deserve to feel safe, to travel to work, to

school, to hospitals and to other institutions, without fear, while supporting efforts to ensure that criminals are convicted and face the full consequences of their actions.

The persistence of violent crime, especially the unacceptably high murder rate in Cape Town, remains a grave concern, but what sets the Western Cape apart is that we do not simply accept this reality, we act.

Yesterday the Western Cape Government shared the updated Western Cape Safety Plan. This plan sets out innovative, evidence-driven and groundbreaking initiatives to ensure that crime is dealt with decisively and lays the groundwork for the province to take on a bigger role in safety.

Already we have seen results. In Tafelsig, Mitchells Plain, targeted hotspots policing cut violent crime by 20%. This model will now be scaled to other murder hotspots. We are also expanding LEAP officers, canine units and surveillance technology into both rural and metro areas.

For the first time in South Africa an anti-extortion structure will directly protect communities and small businesses from criminal syndicates, and the establishment of a new provincial safety coordination centre is a major step forward.

In light of this may I ask the hon Premier how will the new provincial safety coordination centre assist in coordinating safety efforts across the province? I

thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Minnen. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. The Western Cape is a crime scene especially after your departure as the MEC.

Mass shootings, gang wars, extortion rackets and a soaring murder rate have left communities living in fear, particularly in Cape Town, and yet the Western Cape Safety Plan, which promised safety, has largely failed.

We conducted a poll amongst residents. The results are damning. Out of 200 people surveyed only one said they feel safer because of the Western Cape Safety Plan. One in 200, hon Deputy Speaker. That is not a shortfall in delivery, it is evidence that this plan does not connect with the lived reality of our communities.

Yesterday, during the Standing Committee on the Premier, the Executive admitted that there was no public participation in the drafting of the Safety Plan. This is deeply concerning given that the hon Premier's own provincial strategic plan message commits to listening to the needs of the people.

In the same meeting the ANC proposed that the public be given the chance to

participate in the drafting of the Safety Plan through written submissions. The Committee resolved to adopt this proposal and we thank the Chairperson, allowing input to be submitted to the Procedural Officer and the Chairperson. I want the hon Premier to tell us does the hon Premier support this resolution for public participation on the plan's review?

Further, how will the plan review integrate station and CPF-based community plans as the building blocks of the strategy, so interventions are locally owned and context driven? What mechanisms will ensure CPF and station level plans are resource budgeted for and linked to both municipal and provincial funding streams? How will monitoring and evaluation turn CPF Safety Plans into local scorecards for the implementation with timelines, measurable outcomes, rather than abstract targets?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, our residents cannot survive on pipe dreams or top-down promises. They need urgent, decisive, community-based solutions. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Sayed. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, draft Safety Plan 2.0 was born out of failures, but did not address

them.

The Safety Plan 2.0 claims to involve multiple departments, but have we forgotten that the 2019 Safety Plan had safety priorities, which was also multi-departmental? Because as far as I can tell this is not just a failure resting on the shoulders of one department, it is a systemic failure, a failure of a government as a whole.

Where is the Minister of Education? Safety is not only about policing, it is about keeping children in schools that are safe, properly resourced and free from the recruitment pipeline of gangs. What has been done to strengthen after-school programmes, to expand psychosocial support, to give learners real alternatives to the streets? Empty promises do not protect our children.

Where is the Minister of Social Development? Because no child is born a gangster. They are shaped by poverty, by hunger, by the collapse of family support systems. What has been done to scale up interventions that reach vulnerable youth before gangs do? Where is the safety net that prevents despair from hardening into violence?

Where is the Minister of Mobility? Because when learners are forced to walk long, dangerous routes through gang territories just to get to school, we cannot pretend that transport is not a safety issue.

Where is the Minister of Infrastructure? Because spatial justice matters. When

communities are left without dignified housing, abandoned public spaces, decaying basic services, the ground is fertile for gangs to control, exploit and recruit. Infrastructure is not only about bricks and mortar it is about dignity, belonging and reclaiming space from criminal power.

Safety Plan 2.0 hides behind interdepartmental language, but the draft plan fails to turn coordination into action. It requires every arm of Government working urgently and effectively together if we are going to make this a success. Right now that is not happening and until it does communities will remain under siege, families will remain mourning and this new Safety Plan will remain what the current one is today, a plan in name only and a failure in practice. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Herron for the question once again.

First of all, the Safety Plan was not abandoned, it has not been abandoned, it is still in place. We were speaking about the revised new plan that will take over from this plan, and I am sincerely listening to him again now and noting that he obviously did not listen to anything that was said in two and a half hours yesterday, [Interjections.] but listening to him now I state in this House I really look forward to his contribution to what we made open to this

Committee in this very House yesterday to say, “Make your contributions,” whether it is from the public through the Committee, whether it is directly as political parties, I look forward to your contribution in influencing 2.0, but 1.0 is still in place and in actual fact 1.0 has got lots of reports on 1.0.

If you go back to when 1.0 started, this was the murder capital in South Africa. The Western Cape is no longer the murder capital in South Africa because we have seen a reduction, and of course when you get a reduction of a few percentage points here and there, it does not make a difference, because we have still got 4 500 people every year, not 450, but 4 500 people every year in this province that gets murdered. 27 000 people in this country get murdered every single year.

The money and the mandate sits with the South African Police Service. Our constitutional mandate is one of oversight. What we are doing here is saying let us go above and beyond our oversight mandate, and let us actually start trying things that are going to make a difference, and that is where you get what works in hotspot policing patrols in Cape Town.

This document is a report on the Safety Plan and it is interesting, because Minister Cachalia now says to me, “I have gone through this report. I have come to the province to have a look at how things are going here in the province, and I actually do like this concept. I will come back to this province in the next month or so and we will include that in this updated Safety Plan.”

He asks about how the other Ministers are involved, and yesterday we actually even gave the budget numbers:

- R91 million from Education in the Safer Schools Programme;
- R148 million in the Mobility Safety Programme.
- We are looking at Chrysalis, R25,2 million;
- Social services in the Parenting Programme, R45 million.

You cannot say – he comes here and he says this is a rubbish piece of work and has not done anything. It is absolutely untrue and he obviously does not listen whenever he asks questions, he never reads these documents, the gang monitor. He never reads these documents, because if he did he would not be able to come here and make the statements that he makes.

I say once again I really do look forward, because this is the opportunity. We are saying this is what we did in the last five years, this is how we have changed it, the murders per 100 000. Go to stats, go to the police stats and have a look at those differences that our small interventions in the hotspots have made and that is what is influencing decisions now at the national level of policing, and the national level of the Minister of Police. We brought about change and that change now needs to be accelerated.

That is what 2.0 is about and I look forward once again to the inputs from the individual members so that they come and put inputs. Of course crime is a

massive thing and I see the poster that has been put up on the other side talks about how the City Manager has now taken investigations into what is happening in the municipality, and he has taken it to the police and there are actions.

It is unlike what is happening in these other places where we have got to deal with fraud and corruption, we have got to deal with murder, we have got to deal with these things ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: ... decisively in South Africa and in this province.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we will proceed with Interpellation 3 and I recognise hon Minister Simmers.

Tafelberg site: rental housing

3. Ms A P Bans asked Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

With regards to the Tafelberg site:

What concrete steps are being taken to prioritise affordable and low-income rental housing on this site?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy

Speaker, and thank you to hon member Bans for the question which pertains to the Tafelberg site, which again speaks to – and she asks, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, what concrete steps are being taken to prioritise affordable and low-income rental housing on the site.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I must say that the three elements of this question I have actually answered more than once during the course of this year in various formats, but I do not mind answering the hon member again, because the facts will not change again.

Just as a reminder to the House, the first time I received the question was on 7 February in written format. I responded to hon member Herron, who focused on point number 4 on the affordable component of our usage of the site.

On 11 September, and clearly the ANC are not caucusing anymore or they are not caucusing consistently, the hon member Lekker asked a similar question focussing on the affordable component of the site. It was under sub-section (1) and sub-section (3) of her question. It was an oral question I answered in the House.

So indeed, hon Deputy Speaker, the facts will not change, I will just reaffirm them to the House. The Department appointed a multidisciplinary team which commenced with several essential studies to guide the Department and our professional team to achieve the requisite development rights that would facilitate the provision of affordable housing on a portion of the property.

The preliminary stakeholder engagements with the interested and affected parties commenced in May 2025 and we concluded that in July 2025, and these were successful in terms of attendance, valuable inputs were received of those interested and affected parties who registered to be part of our process, and positive engagements among our stakeholders and with our project team and Department occurred during this period.

Our professional team is currently in the process of finalising a viable and feasible conceptual design, which it aims to release actually in this month, and which will be shared with stakeholders who registered as interested and affected parties, hon Deputy Speaker.

Following the release of the preferred viable and feasible development concept, my team will prepare for the submissions of the statutory applications, and here I am referring to the land use planning application and the heritage impact assessment processes. Our stakeholders will be notified via our project webpage once the applications have been submitted. Further stakeholder engagements will take place during the statutory processes managed by our respective statutory bodies and the submission of our applications are targeted to commence or do occur in March 2026. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, again.

You see, hon Deputy Speaker, when you are asked the same question again and again then it means there is again a problem, although you are going to get the same answer. Three different people cannot ask you the same thing, you must again ask you what is wrong with you again.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Tafelberg site stands as a damning monument to the DA's hypocrisy on spatial redress. For 15 years this prime piece of land in Sea Point has stood empty, while families are trapped in the peripheries of Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Atlantis and the rural hinterland, forced to travel hours to work to cheap labour in the city.

Since 1994 not a single affordable housing development has been completed in central Cape Town. That is apartheid, deliberately maintained by the DA to protect the privilege and profit.

We must remind this House that in 2015 the DA Government attempted to sell Tafelberg site to a private elite school for R135 million. It looped the courage of organisations like Reclaim the City and Ndifuna Ukwazi, as well as the ANC, to an extent to stop this betrayal.

In 2020 the High Court ruled that the sale was unlawful and ordered the Provincial Government to develop a plan for spatial redress. Yet instead of

acting the DA has dragged its feet with excuse after excuse, launching nine feasibility studies over the decade, all of them on the viability of affordable housing. This is not due diligence, it is deliberate sabotage. Each new study is a delay or a tactic to block transformation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while over 400 000 people languish on Cape Town's housing waiting list, the DA Government protects the interest of the wealthy White people and of course the Ratepayers' Association, who fear that African and Coloured working-class families might live in Sea Point. That is the ugly truth. That is why it is called again.

The question that we put to the MEC is simple: when will the DA stop playing politics with the people's lives and build affordable housing at Tafelberg? Or must we accept that the DA's true commitment is not to spatial justice, but to apartheid geography in a new form? I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. I recognise the hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. In the words of hon member Bans, I would again like to thank the hon Minister for his leadership for the progress made on this site and again, as the hon Minister previously noted, large housing developments often face delays which can be frustrating, but again today we see that this is a clear

commitment by the Department to move this important project forward and to prioritise affordable low-rental income housing for residents.

In this week's PERO it was also confirmed to increase spending in human settlements. This is encouraging because despite the national budget pressures the Western Cape Government continues to invest in the housing delivery and actively drive big projects to the benefit of our people.

We want to congratulate the Department for pushing ahead and ensuring the opportunities that are created, even in this challenging environment.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, through you, hon Minister, can you please outline the various types of housing opportunities that are currently facilitated by your Department, and the education and the outreach methods that are being used to ensure that residents know how to access them? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Wessels. I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I have been attending the public engagements on the planning process for the Tafelberg school site, which is going to be packaged for a housing and commercial development.

The most recent presentation of the 353 On Main project, as it is now called, made it clear that if all goes according to schedule the planning applications required to build this development, would only commence in March 2026, and if we are optimistic, it will be 2030 before we see a resident move into social housing on that site.

This means it would have taken this Government 20 years from when the site first became identified for social housing, to when the first social housing is actually delivered. We know that 20 years is as a direct result of dogmatic anti-poor ideology that dominates the Democratic Alliance leadership.

It was the former Premier, Helen Zille, herself who told me that using well-located and thus high value land for affordable and social housing, would amount to over-subsidising the poor. This dogma has led to where we are today. 20 years of DA government in the City of Cape Town, 16 years of DA government in the province, but not a single affordable home or social housing unit delivered in the Cape Town city centre.

Unlike many failures in government this is not a systemic failure, but both the City and the Province are claimed to be well-run with sound finances and properly qualified administrations, and all of this good governance can deliver these types of projects much, much faster.

The only reason this has not happened is the lack of political will linked to a resentment of transformation and a deviant view of who public land belongs

to, and what role it can play in addressing both our housing shortage and spatial transformation.

It is shameful, hon Deputy Speaker, that lots of public land which has been available for social housing for decades, is being toyed with. The games being played have denied people their right to housing and to redress for decades. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron, and again I see the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you again, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Tafelberg site is only one example of the DA's betrayal of the poor. The truth is that Western Cape Government controls 303 hectares of provincially owned land, much of it well-located, yet refuses to release it for human settlements. Instead of building houses for the people the DA plays a waiting game, holding land back, stalling and in many cases preparing it for private market and profit driven developers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the provincial public land does not belong to the DA. That we must make clear. I believe that needs to be made clear. That the land belongs to the people of this province. Nearly 17 500 housing opportunities could be unblocked if the Provincial Government had the political will, but

will they? No, they do not, because the DA does not want any working class families near Camps Bay, Sea Point, Constantia or Cape Town CBD, that is a fact. They want them confined to the Cape Flats, far away from opportunity in unsafe, overcrowded communities plagued by gang violence, unemployment and poverty. This is not accidental, it is by design.

When poor African and Coloured families occupied vacant land during the COVID-19 pandemic, the DA-led Government responded with a violent and illegal eviction, depriving the people of basic services instead of compassion and solutions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if the DA was serious about tackling the housing crisis, they would release the 303 hectares of provincial land immediately, not to private developers, not for luxury flats disguised as mixed-use, but for genuine affordable and social housing, integrated into the city where opportunities exist, where everyone can meet.

Our demand is simple for the hon MEC and the hon Premier. Stop the endless feasibility studies, stop hiding behind heritage and bureaucracy, and stop blaming National Government. The Western Cape Provincial Government must release its land now and commit to building houses for the people.

History will judge the DA harshly. They have protected privilege at the expense of justice and in doing so they continue the legacy of apartheid. I repeat, hon Deputy Speaker, this is apartheid number two.

We demand affordable houses at Tafelberg, we demand the release of 303 hectares of provincial land, we demand an end to apartheid spatial planning under the DA Government that pretends to care, but never delivers to its promise. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you for the three members for the inputs in terms of this debate.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we need to understand that as a country we have the rule of law, statutes and processes which outlines how land is released, how land is zoned, how land is utilised at the end of the day. We must comply in terms of that process so that statutory processes, somehow within ...[Inaudible.]

Three weeks ago when I responded to hon member Lekker I did touch on that specific aspect of the processes of law which was in our control. Other aspects which are in the other spheres of government responsibilities I cannot be held accountable for, I must respect those processes.

Then added on to that, and I want to thank the hon member for giving us a history lesson pertaining to the old Tafelberg site, it is now called 353 On

Main, had it not been for court cases up until the Constitutional Court, we are still awaiting a judgement, who knows how far this Provincial Government could have been on site, but we do respect the rule of law.

The hon member herself alluded to it, hon Deputy Speaker. Many of the land invasions during COVID was fuelled, amongst others, by her own party in this province, taking away opportunities for people who are legally waiting on the waiting list. So again thank you for affirming on record that you support the illegal invasion of land where people are trying to jump the queue ahead of those who have been waiting for decades for a housing opportunity.

To the hon member Herron. Again thank you for your inputs and thank you for attending these sessions. Again there are statutory processes which we must adhere to as a department and as a Provincial Government, but at least you are the only Opposition member in this House who actually attends these sessions and you can hear that we are really earnest and committed to seeing through and to see a realisation on the portion which we have earmarked for affordable housing on that site.

Again, hon Deputy Speaker, affordable housing is social housing, which is a rental option, which is State subsidised. We are looking at FLISP, or the First Home Finance Product, and other formats. We are doing all of this. We need to ensure that there is an optimal product delivered, taking note that SHRA, who is responsible for social housing, is actually reducing their funding to all provinces. [Inaudible 2:07:39] such as the Western Cape and Gauteng have

got a number of projects implementation ready, but the funding to accelerate the delivery is not there from SHRA. They have all but admitted this.

Hon member Wessels, again thank you for your inputs. Affordable housing in the Western Cape means that we are focussing on developing and utilising our State-owned land to ensure the optimal usage so that we can see the creation of affordable rental options in its various formats, open market formats, and, yes, ownership modalities on our portions of land.

The hon member Bans speaks of the 300 hectares. As I stand here, and I have reported to this House already, hon Deputy Speaker, we are assessing our land, we are packaging it in terms of its value purposes, it will go to Cabinet and then it will go to market, but what we have said we do recognise our social responsibility in how we optimally utilise that land in the interest of our people, but unlike the ANC and unlike what we saw in Knoflokskraal under the ANC, PA and GOOD, we do not encourage land invasion, we encourage legal ownership of land through legal processes which do adhere to the statutory processes which we all are sworn to protect in this House. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. Hon members, before we proceed, please allow me the discretion to say the following. We are all aware that we are unable to be in two places at the same time.

The hon Speaker is currently representing us at the P20. I am needing to leave

in the next 20 to 30 minutes, but I have engaged the Chief Whip, the Deputy Chief Whip and the Deputy Chief Whip of the Official Opposition.

I will commence with questions. Thereafter hon member Kaizer-Philander will be the House Chair. She will then be relieved during Members Statements by hon member Nkondlo, and after Members Statements hon member Kaizer-Philander will then deal with Motions at the end. I trust that you find this in order.

Maybe that time there will be – during Members Statements I foresee it will be less talking, because hon member Nkondlo will be taking the seat. I trust that this is all in order, hon members. It is an appointment that I could not [Interjections.] – it is an appointment I could not get out of and that I could not amend, but I trust that the decorum of the House will be maintained, because we are all hon members.

In terms of Rule 202 we proceed with Questions for Oral Reply and I recognise the hon Premier. Before I see the hon Premier, hon member Kaizer-Philander?

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. May I address you on the Questions for Oral Reply as per the Order Paper?

There are a total of five questions, hon Deputy Speaker, that will stand over

by consultation with the hon member that posed the question, as well as the hon Minister, and those question are under New Questions; Question 2, Question 5, Question 6, Question 12 and Question 13, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] Question 2, Question 5, Question 6, Question 12 and Question 13, hon Deputy Speaker. I thank you.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Questions to Premier standing over from Thursday, 18 September 2025, as agreed to by the House:

1. Ms A P Bans asked Mr A R Winde, Premier:

In the light of the ongoing crisis facing the province, such as unemployment, food insecurity, taxi violence and housing backlogs:

(a) How does he assess the performance of his Cabinet Ministers in addressing the urgent challenges facing the province, and (b) what measures are in place to hold each Minister accountable?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the hon member Bans for the question.

As has been stated previously in similar questions and replies, accountability remains the foundational principle of the Western Cape Government's success, being one of six key values upon which we base our behaviour as

employees of the Western Cape Government and as servants of the Western Cape residents.

As hon members of the Western Cape Government, or the WCG, Executive, Provincial Ministers and the Premier are expected to adhere to these values of their work. My Provincial Ministers and I are held accountable in the following ways:

- The Western Cape Government Cabinet is collectively responsible for the policies it adopts and the decisions that it makes.
- Members of the Western Cape Government Executive are accountable to Chapter 9 and 10 Institutions in terms of the Constitution.
- Members of the Western Cape Executive are accountable to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament through firstly the Budget Committee and Standing Committees, including the Standing Committee on Public Accounts; Parliament's consideration of the Appropriations Bill, Adjustments Bill and the Individual Budget Votes; replies to written and oral parliamentary questions and interpellations. The Western Cape is also unique in allowing regularly scheduled questions without notice to the Premier.
- Members of the Western Cape Government Executive are accountable to residents and communities for their performance in their portfolios and may be voted out of office.

In addition to these measures I meet regularly with this Cabinet or my

Cabinet members and relevant senior ministerial and departmental staff, to discuss progress on ministerial priorities, responses to urgent crises and overall progress towards the realisation of the goals set out in the 2025-30 Provincial Strategic Plan.

These discussions also include the accounting offices of each budgetary Vote and we continue to make use of the Annual Performance Plans, the Budget, the Annual Reports and accountability instruments, in assessing the financial and non-financial performance of each department and ministry.

If an area of underperformance is identified action is taken to identify measures through which underperformance might be rectified, and through which our service delivery offering might be improved.

Additionally I frequently conduct oversight to various parts of the province to observe the performance of our Government, and the findings from these visits will in turn form part of discussions with the Ministers at the Cabinet level.

In part, as a result of these measures, as well as rigorous oversight of the House, our provincial Ministers are typically well-equipped and motivated to proactively and tirelessly accomplish their respective mandates and to respond to the challenges faced by the Western Cape.

- Among other initiatives in recent months we have seen the Western Cape

step up to firstly continue to lead South Africa on employment, boosting not only the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa, but also broad unemployment rates that are 5% lower than the next closest province's narrow unemployment rate.

- Partner with civil society and private sector to launch the innovative Khulisa Care Project, which directly responds to food insecurity, childhood stunting by providing free access to healthy foods, and targeted medical support to critical groups, or should we say to those critical moms.
- Take extraordinary measures to work with the taxi industry to reduce violence and criminal incidents affecting commuters, including the closure of certain routes and increasing the law enforcement in the taxi ranks and surrounding areas, to make sure that our citizens are kept safe.
- Launch several landmark housing initiatives to deliver affordable, well-located inner-city housing developments such as the Founders Garden and Leeuloop Precinct, and deliver more than 6 000 title deeds, greatly exceeding departmental targets for housing delivery.

We take our commitments to the people of the Western Cape and the House, which represents them, seriously. Only by holding ourselves accountable can we ensure that we get the basics right and demonstrate the highest standard of governance, the President recently observed, as DA governments in this province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, let me thank the hon Premier for his response and I am sure that the hon Premier might have noticed that the question that I have asked was mainly based on the mid-term development plan.

Said so, hon Deputy Speaker, one would want to know how the hon Premier would ensure inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living strategic priorities as realistically incorporated into the performance targets of departments and performance agreements of each MEC, and how they are monitored by the Premier? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, there is one follow-up to the initial question being posed. I see the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Of course to the hon member Bans, thank you. It is about the MTBP, the National Plan, but it is also about our Provincial Strategic Plan, as I have said in the answer.

Primarily if she is speaking about how do we reduce poverty, how do we make sure that we build safer communities, those are all those strategic plans

that are laid out in the plan itself, and then of course they get measured each and every one of them, and – so, for example, the apex project of this Government, is growth and jobs, and as I said in the answer, quite frankly we are so far ahead of the other provinces on those it is quite amazing. When you go to the National Lekgotla, which I was there just two days ago, where we have the Medium-Term Development Plan reported on, and we have a look at the reporting there at the national level, you see every single one of those reporting matrix. You always see the Western Cape coming out as the best performing province.

Of course not all of those indicators are good enough, we have got to keep pushing, we have got to keep 21% unemployment rate. It might be by far the lowest in South Africa, but it is still way too high and that is why it is our number one objective, how do we make sure that we create more jobs?

As a government our job is the enabling environment, removing red tape, making sure that we are investing in infrastructure, making sure that those budgets are spent in the right place, making sure that we have good governance. I mean that is surely the basics of any government, and, hon Minister of Finance, again with the release of our audit outcomes and where every single department in this province has an unqualified audit three years in a row. I mean that is unbelievable. It is way better by miles than any other province.

That is where you have got to start and then you have got to build on top of

it. That is why those indicators come back and show us that we are on track, we are doing well, but of course we have just had a whole discussion on crime and how it affects our citizens. Those are things where we have got to relook at our plans, we have got to say, “What do we do differently? How do we engage differently with National Government? Where are we going to get the budgets from?” Because we are still the province that gets the fifth most money, the fifth most money, but we are the third biggest province with one of the fastest growing populations. That puts huge pressure on our Government.

We have got to fight for our fair share and of course that all comes in to those measurements, and how we engage at National Lekgotla, how we engage in our own Cabinet level discussions, or one-on-ones with Ministers and Heads of Departments, accounting officers, that I conduct, or on top of that, like we are going into the Annual Reports now, where this Parliament and the Standing Committees have the opportunity to again also ask those hard questions, “Why are we not moving the needle in this place, in this space?” You report, “This looks good, but this is what we are picking up on the ground.”

That is what this Parliament's job is. We put the plans together, we get measured both internally as Government, but we also get measured through the parliamentary process.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Premier, you made reference to the fact that the Western Cape is the best province according to all indicators that we have, but in your opinion can the Western Cape with its established and well-deserved reputation of good governance, as endorsed by President Ramaphosa ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Get to the question, hon member ...[Interjections.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...play a role to assist other provinces ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, get to the question, please.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I am busy asking my question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members – please take your seat, hon member.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Oh.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am currently still chairing. I have already alerted the hon member and the hon member will get to the question, but also the previous person that asked the question, please, it is one question as a follow-up. [Interjections.]

Yes, so I am just telling hon members again. Hon member Walters, you may proceed.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Let me ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Oh.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I recognise hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, just on a procedural matter. Can hon member Walters speak through you to the hon Premier, not address the hon Premier directly? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed.

Mr T C R WILLIAMS (DA): I will continue where I left off. As endorsed by President Ramaphosa, play a role to assist other provinces ruined by corruption and mismanagement? In this regard, specifically in terms of Cabinet management?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon member Walters for that follow-up question.

I think first of all, yes, I mean we all heard it loud and clear, the President addressing municipalities and councillors within his own political party, saying, “You guys need to learn from the City of Cape Town and Stellenbosch on how to run a proper government and how to give proper services to your citizens,” but that is not the first time that the President has said that.

I remember standing next to the President at the gates of Parliament when Parliament was burning down, and the President said then again he has been here, he has had a look at the response of the fire teams, and he said this happens in a province and a city that is well-run.

It is not – he does not say that he said that more than once about the Democratic Alliance, but your question is about our assistance to other provinces, and absolutely, we have assistance to other provinces. In actual fact I think the meeting that we had at the Convention Centre not so long ago with our whole Government alongside the whole of the KwaZulu-Natal Government, saying, “How do we work together to improve and learn from each other?” There are things that KZN do better than us and there are things that we do perhaps better than them, and we sat down together, we spent two days with that whole Government.

I can just give you one example that was amazing. It was when Minister Baartman's team and the [Inaudible 2:23:32] team were presenting on accruals and we said we do not have accruals, and they said that cannot be. We said, "No, we do not have accruals." They have got R7 billion in accruals. R7 billion. That means that the next year's budget, the chances are that you are not going to end up paying salaries that year, but I must say the interesting thing is straight after the two days meeting their Treasury went back, and there is just over R2 billion in the Education Department, and it is in these Education and Health Departments that the accruals really bite, because they are very personnel heavy, and of course straight away the Treasury in KZN pulled back the management and control of the budgets in the Education Department, specifically to make sure that they are going to make it to the end of the year.

That was very interesting, because that came out of our engagement together and a really good discussion, and of course we are open to that kind of discussion. Perhaps I should add that it was very interesting at the Lekgotla two days ago, is at the end of the Lekgotla when the Deputy President ended the meeting he said – he ended the meeting and it was like the first approach that I had was with Premier Lesufi, and he came to me and he said to me – and we were speaking about some of the crime issues, and he has asked that we actually look at areas that we can work together, specifically around fighting crime.

Of course that we are totally open to those kind of working together, because

at the end of the day, what we have to do is build a better country and we might have responsibility to the residents of this province, but what we do here and how we operate, and where we can we have got to show that we can deal with the big issues that are facing our country, and I noticed that again the hon member Nkondlo still has her R1,6 billion City of Cape Town issue that she has made her little poster and she is holding her little poster up, and she is all excited that there is a R1,6 billion investigation going in the City, and of course it is a serious investigation.

The interesting thing about that investigation is the City Manager and the forensics team in the City were the ones that actually initiated the investigation. [Interjections.] Once they found the fault [Interjections.] they are the ones that actually handed it over to the police. [Interjections.] It was led by the City. This is called good governance, but of course that R1,6 billion pales into insignificance when we look at one thing in the Tembisa Hospital where R2 billion has disappeared into luxury houses in Camps Bay and apartments up in the top of the City here and fancy motorcars and – it was not the ANC led, let us try and fix this. In the City it is actually good governance that ...[Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, and specifically ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER:and [Inaudible.]... crime in our country.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members – thank you, hon Premier. Hon

members and specifically the current hon member that is speaking without being recognised, you have an opportunity. As soon as the hon Premier has concluded [Interjections.] – as soon as he has concluded you will have an opportunity to be recognised.

Hon Premier, you may continue, or did you wrap up? Now is your opportunity, hon member Nkondlo.

†Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Enkosi, Sekela Sihlalo. [Thank you, Deputy Speaker.]

My question, hon Premier, is related to food insecurity in the province and I am just interested to know, the University of Western Cape actually did a study in January 2024 and found out that the lack of access to food security is reflected in the Cape Flats and particularly, which is what I am asking, hon Premier, highlighted 45% of households in the township of Gugulethu are food insecure, and the figure for Khayelitsha stood at 36%.

Now what exactly are you doing as your Cabinet, as you said that you are involved and you are monitoring these type of crises in the province? So what can Gugulethu and Khayelitsha people do in as far as those programmes are concerned for food insecurity? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, I see the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. The hon member speaks to data points specifically in poor areas of our region, and that is correct, but in actual fact the 45%, if you take the data in South Africa, 45% of households in our whole country are food insecure and do not have a meal guaranteed in a full month.

In addition to the study that she is speaking about, our own policy team actually went and did a further study, and that is where we identified areas like the stunting issue amongst children and how it was getting worse. That example is the Khulisa Care Programme.

So we get the data from our universities, or even our own policy departments, we have a look at what it is and we say, "Well, then how do we expand it?" That is the Khulisa Care. We have spoken about it in the House, but perhaps for those that are tuning in for the first time or listening for the first time, that is where children are stunted and we saw that the stunting of children was getting worse.

So that is a project of where we give, as I said earlier in my initial answer, where we give high protein foods to the mom and the child in those first formation months. That is part of a violence prevention programme, that is part of a sustainability of opportunity programme, and that is dealing with the stunting number, and we are doing that in partnership. It is not only our departments in the province, we are doing it in partnership with the D G Murray Trust, and we thank them for their role in this. We are doing it

with Shoprite, where they are helping with a voucher system that we get these nine products of high protein, that we get them to those moms. Or perhaps it is the 500 000 learners in our province that get a meal every single day at school.

The discussion in our teams is how do we expand that and how do we identify where there are pockets of poverty that are not getting food, even in adults? Those are the kind of programmes that we are looking at, what is it? Is it a school child that can take a meal home?

So we are very seriously looking at all of these things. It is a major problem in our country and it is a major problem here. We show that we have got these effective programmes that come in. We measure them and let us see the difference that they make, because obviously if 45% of households in our country or in this province, those 45% are shown in places like Gugulethu, if we cannot move that needle how on earth are we supposed to give people opportunities to build a better life for themselves or their families?

So absolutely and I agree with it 100%.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The final questions, the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I think part of my question was asking the hon Premier on how he keeps Ministers accountable, and sadly part of the response was more in comparing one province to another province, which we are anyway used to, but in this case, hon Deputy Speaker, one would also want to say I would want to take this comparison.

We know that the Western Cape is a gangster's paradise, it is an extortion province. Everything related to crime you find it here in the Western Cape. Hon Premier must start with a comparison there and when he does that comparison also, he is speaking of good governance and values on how the Government of the Western Cape is guided.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: In going to my question. Where there is underperformance, especially in community safety, he must directly tell us, the hon Premier, as to what is the hon Premier doing? Because it is glaring, the community safety is failing. The last time we have seen a MEC was with the hon Deputy Speaker that is sitting there.

What is your plan to address the problem we are having? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Premier.

[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]

The PREMIER: So the plan was discussed for two and a half hours yesterday in the Standing Committee and another interpellation. If the hon member cannot hear that, and that is why she goes time and time again cut and paste.

That is the question she asked, to this hon member, that is the question that I have got again, cut and paste. She asks the question time and time – I think it is laziness, because you just – you need to put a question in. [Interjections.] You have got your [Interjections.], you have got your national leadership and your provincial leadership looking at each and every one of you and your performance. [Interjections.] So you have to put a certain number of questions in, but please come with some original questions. [Interjections.] Do not just cut and paste and ask the same question every couple of weeks. [Interjections.]

Then also just listen to the answers, because when you talk ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER):
Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: ... actually hear the answers. Thank you, hon Chairperson.
[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER):

Order, hon members. The clock is still running and you are jeopardising the question time. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members! Those that have a question to answer, or a question to ask, will have their question answered. Hon members [Interjections.] – order, hon members! Hon members, we are proceeding. I recognise hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair. I hear the hon Premier saying to this House that the R1,6 billion under investigation is insignificant. Does the hon Premier imply that ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, it is a follow-up question [Interjections.] – no, no, no, it is [Interjections.] – wait. Okay. Is the hon Premier allowed – does that imply that the hon Premier is less concerned about the ...[Inaudible.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Hon member ...[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...in the City of Cape Town?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): I cannot allow you to ask the question. We have reached the limit for follow-up questions based on this question. Thank you.

Thank you, hon members. We go to the next question. I recognise the hon Premier.

New question to the Premier:

Irregularities within municipal appointments

1. Mr M K Sayed to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

Whether his Office has investigated concerns about irregularities in municipal appointments, including allegations of nepotism, selective reporting and exclusionary practices; if so, what were the (a) findings and (b) corrective actions taken?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon House Chair and thank you very much to the hon Leader of the Opposition for the question. 1(a) and (b). First of all, the Premier is not given any specific powers in terms of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act to investigate allegations, concerns about irregularities in municipal appointments. However, the hon MEC responsible for Local Government is empowered by the provisions of the law to assess the appointments of municipal managers and senior managers. The powers are

limited only to municipal managers and senior managers.

This said, the hon MEC can also deal with allegations of irregular appointments in terms of the monitoring and support legislation when such information is brought to his attention.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. While we understand and I want to thank the hon Premier for the response, while we understand that municipalities are autonomous, Section 139 of the Constitution empowers provinces to intervene where there is maladministration, and we have seen some of that happening.

But in light of widespread complaints of nepotism in municipal appointments, can the hon Premier confirm in this House, whether his Office has ever had cause to intervene and whether there is documented evidence, such as audit findings, HR investigations or reports of failures to advertise posts nationally, enforce minimum competency requirements, disclose past misconduct, or deviations in the selection panel's composition and processes. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you, hon member. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: I am not actually sure how to answer that. I mean, of course, if you give me some detail, I can probably give an answer. I mean, I get thousands of emails every single day. [Interjections.] So, I do not. Give me the ...[Interjections.] give me the ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): He is lazy.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Order, hon members! ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You are lazy.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Would the hon members please allow the hon Premier to respond.

The PREMIER: The hon member, in her interjection, says I am lazy. ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You are lazy.

The PREMIER: I mean, what has that got to do with this? But anyway, if the hon member really wants, and this is a serious question I presume as the hon Leader of the Opposition, if we really need to deal with that issue then give me the detail of that issue. I will have a look. I can even probably look now

because I have my laptop here and see exactly if I do have an email or a complaint. Then, I can actually say to you what I did with that complaint.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): *Ja*, mine is not office gossip. Hon Chair, through you, hon Chair, I would like to ask whether the Constitution Section or the Section quoted that the hon member said, the Section 139, I think it was, whether you agree with the hon Leader of the Opposition that that Section is entirely justified to be used in the utter disgusting mess that we have in Knysna. [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Walters. I recognise the hon Premier. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon House Chair and thank you to the hon member for the question. I must say, I will actually repeat some discussion that was had amongst the Premiers at the PCC, probably about a year ago, where across all Provinces, we have got a lot of questions about Section 139 and how Section 139 does not really empower Provinces to do what they need to do.

I mean, there is no doubt that there are huge problems in Knysna, and they

have been coming on for years. This Province now has been spending millions on trying to help that municipality, whether it is removing the rubbish piles, whether it is helping them get the dead bodies out of the water system, whether it is charging them with the Green Scorpions because of the not just higher than admissible rates of E. coli in the system. I mean, we are talking about hundreds of thousands of parts per million more than what are permissible. Whether it is the sewerage that is running down the streets in Hornlee. I mean, there are some serious issues in that municipality.

We have done the initial Section 139. We have asked for the plans on how they are going to improve. We have sent engineers, we have funded programmes, we have looked at the water pumps that are sitting at some repair shop that have not been paid for and cannot be inserted again. We have looked at all of that.

Of course, when we got to a stage where we said let us try Section 139. Section 139, it has been said no, it is not necessary. The town is running well. The Speaker and the Mayor said yes, no, we are all fine and gave the NCOP the power to say we do not want a Section 139. Well, that is fine. That is what the NCOP have chosen. That is what the town have chosen, and they must continue to run their town. Obviously, they do not want the Province to come and help or intervene in any way and that is fine. You know, there will be an election up in a year's time and the citizens must decide once again.

But I do and I do want to say that I do not think Section 139 is working in our country. There are similar comments from MECs of Local Government and Premiers in all Provinces saying we need to relook at that Section in our Constitution because there are many, many failed local authorities in South Africa that are just not giving the services that our citizens need, and we do need a revamp of that legislation.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon House Chair and thank you to the hon Premier for also bringing in the Knysna matter because in a sense, it is also... I am seeing a bit of a contrast. I am reminded of when the current Mayor was elected and the hon Premier's tone and approach around the working together and the inter-governmental relations aspect was very different to his tone now. So, I wonder who is really leading this particular Cabinet: hon MEC Bredell or the hon Premier. But that is beside the point. [Interjections.]

Leadership is not about shifting blame. Will the hon Premier, given the facts that the hon Premier has raised, will the hon Premier commit today in this House, to table before this House a list of all the allegations of irregular municipal appointments that have been reported to his Office in the last three years and the action taken?

Given that formal complaints have been lodged with institutions such as the Public Protector, the Information Regulator, the South African Human Rights Commission, regarding the Municipal Manager of Hessequa, Mr Albert de Klerk, how does his Office reconcile its oversight role with such serious allegations that point to a systemic pattern of nepotism, jobs for pals and selective practices in municipal appointments? Thank you.

The PREMIER: So, House Chairperson, well, those were two questions in one and considering the previous ruling, I probably should just elect to answer one, but I will answer both.

So, first of all, I think referring back to Knysna and the Section 139, I think I have said what I needed to say, but I mean, the side remark about who runs this Cabinet. I mean, he can say whatever he wants to say, but I can tell you, I do.

I was chairing the Cabinet when the Section 139 decision was made, and it is a tough decision to make to go through a full Section 139. You do not take it lightly. It is interesting because even the words of the hon Leader of the Opposition said oh, we are trying to play politics with the town. Well look, the interesting thing about this town and the playing politics with this town is at the end of the NCOP discussion and the statements that were made, and it is decided that no, the Province cannot intervene.

Within hours, the Mayor and the Municipal Manager then approached hon

Minister Bredell and say, 'okay, now that that is out of the way, please can you come and help our municipality.' I mean, what on earth? [Interjections.] How is that possible? [Interjections.] How is that ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: We offer to do full interventions and in ...[Interjections.] and in actual fact, many of those officials were the ones that were saying, 'please, you need to follow through with the interventions because we give up in the management of this town.' But at the end of the day, a decision has been made. We will abide by that decision. [Interjections.] We will continue playing our role ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Hon Premier, can I please ask you to take your seat, and I am sorry to interrupt you.

Hon members, when you ask a question, I assume that you want an answer. That might not be the answer that you want, but that is the answer that is provided. And before the hon Premier indicated about the two questions in one, that is what the Table Staff brought under my attention and which I confirmed, but the hon Premier was already up to answer the questions.

Can I please ask hon members to allow the hon Premier to answer the

questions posed by the hon member. Thank you, hon Premier. Please proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So, then getting to the question about the data about a municipality. I am very happy to give, as we would do in any question, but I would ask the hon member to just put that piece, that you put it in writing to me. Obviously, whatever comes to me is one part, but it is also to Local Government because as I said in the original answer to this question, we have two different, separate roles and obviously, we will give the full answer to all of those questions that he has asked.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you, hon Premier. Can I just confirm with the Table Staff: is there a final opportunity on this question? No questions. Thank you very much. We then move to the following question, which is a question that stood over from Thursday, 18 September 2025, as agreed to by the House. I recognise the hon Minister Simmers.

Question standing over from Thursday, 18 September 2025, as agreed to by the House:

Contractor Development Programme

3. Mr D J Wessels to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

(a) How many opportunities have been created through the Contractor Development Programme over the past five years and (b) what has been the average number of contractors supported by the programme over this period?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon House Chairperson and thank you to the hon Wessels for the question. Again, in terms of my portfolio, context is very important. So, the hon member fully understands my response.

The Contractor Development Programme or CDP is implemented under the Department of Infrastructure's Extended Public Works Programme, or EPWP. It is designed to support the development of emerging contractors in the engineering and built environment sectors.

The Programme focuses on enhancing skills and business acumen to enable contractors to operate independently and competitively in the open market. Although the CDP does not directly create or allocate work or business opportunities to participating contractors, it provides them with the necessary skills and knowledge to pursue opportunities in the broader construction industry. The Programme encourages contractors to apply their training and experience to secure work independently.

Now, to the (a) part of the hon member's question. Over the five-year period from 2021 to 2024/2025 financial years, the CDP has trained and supported

contractors through four key annual interventions which I will unpack pretty soon. The average number of contractors trained per intervention for the financial year, which is your (b) part, is as follows.

Firstly, Intervention 1, which is construction information sessions or expos. In the year 2021, we assisted 43. In 2021/2022, we nearly doubled that to 75. In the year 2022/2023, we nearly increased that fourfold to 234. In 2023/2024, we assisted 290 and in the financial year that has passed, 2024/2025, 360.

In terms of the Structured Training Programme. In the 2021 financial year, 37. In year 2021/2022, 43. In 2022/2023, 35. In year 2023/2024, 20 and in the year 2024/2025, 50 which is the most over this period of reporting to you.

Then, Advanced Training and Mentoring, which does require the SMMEs to reach a certain point before they can get advanced training from us. In 2021, 20 of them. In 2021/2022, 26. In 2022/2023, 41. In 2023/2024, 39. In 2024/2025, 31.

Then, our Customised Training Programme which focuses on the specific fields within our sector, which is unique to our province. In the year 2021, 50 of them. In 2021/2022, 24. We had a bit of a dip in 2022/2023, it went down to 19. It went up again in 2023/2024 to 31 and we are nearly at our peak because in 2024/2025, we assisted 38. I believe in the current year, that will be actually increasing quite substantively.

In terms of Training and Mentoring Interventions because some of them are multiple traverses, multiple financial years, it should be noted that the Department of Infrastructure remains committed to empowering contractors through targeted development initiatives that promote sustainable participation in the construction sector or industry in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers. I recognise the hon member that posed the question, hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much. Hon Minister, so I note the key focus of the Department on the education and the capacity building, particularly ensuring that the contractors gain the knowledge and experience to ultimately become or take part in some of the bigger projects.

So, does the Department have a tracking tool or a system in place that monitors the development and the progress of the contractors after they have participated in the Contractor Development Programme, in order to assess their growth and their potential over time? Thanks.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon House Chair and to the hon member. The Department of Infrastructure's Contractor Development Programme implements interventions that facilitate the potential development of emerging contractors within the engineering and built environment through skills and mentoring programmes. The Department of Infrastructure is therefore committed to achieving growth and transformation within the construction and infrastructure sector as a whole, within the Western Cape.

Now, while the Department's strategic focus is fundamentally aligned with a sustainable long-term growth of emerging contractors, we currently do not utilise a single dedicated digital tracking tool specifically designed for comprehensive post-programme monitoring. Instead, the Department currently uses a phased approach of leveraging existing Government systems and reporting mechanisms to gain essential insight into contractor progress, utilising data available on the Construction Industry Development Board, or the CIDB system and the Central Supplier database as well.

Now, the CIDB grading advancement is a monitoring tool which we use to actually see and track how far they are within the industry annually. So, we do procure this data and these records annually as well. We also do ad hoc follow-ups and qualitative reporting, and we do this by gathering data through engagements actually, with these emerging contractors post the training to gather input on their progress. We also identify areas of further support, such as Advanced Mentoring and/or Enterprise Development, which again, in the current year or in 2024/2025, 31 have been identified for that programme.

Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Minister. Of these programmes that you have mentioned, I note the info sessions, assuming these are just meetings for people to come and listen to information. Out of those 360, which is the maximum, how many of them, if you do track, have actually gotten any contracts even within your Department?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon House Chair, through you, if I can respond to the hon member with the exact data for 2024/2025 in writing. I will need to go back because there are different types of contracts which we do procure and actually, facilitate monthly. So, I will have to look at that because some of the contracts are monthly, some of them are quarterly or even, annual contracts with our Department in terms of maintenance and upgrading. So, it covers various aspects which I will then provide to the House and the hon member in detail.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. Any other follow-up questions on this

question? Hon member Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. I just want to understand from the hon Minister. The participants in these programmes in as far as the grading of CIDB as it stands, at what level, in the main, are some of your participants?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon House Chair, indeed, a fair chunk of those who attend our info sessions tend to be Grade 1 to Grade 3. We have seen advancements where many of them migrate to CIDB Grading 4 and Grade 5 general, specific technical fields. The highest subcontractor who is actually on one of our project sites and comes to mind, is now actually migrating to a Grade 6.

This means that company, because if I get them through all of these processes, went through the various stages of CIDB grading and they are now at a stage where we are actually utilising them at the Van Schoorsdrift site. This is why I can say that they are on their way to becoming a Grade 6 CIDB grade. But in terms of engineering, which means at the moment we are building five bridges, they have actually done two of those bridges for us and they are proudly from the Western Cape.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. Final opportunity for follow-up on this specific question? I recognise hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Have any of these programmes managed to attract successful women contractors?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Again, hon House Chair. I will go beyond the period which I have to answer the hon Wessels to because I have addressed a graduation ceremony for two of them this year. One in the Metro boundary and one on the West Coast in Saldanha Bay where more than 60% of the successful participants to complete were wholly owned, woman-owned construction companies.

So, I am proud to celebrate. I have seen more and more women actually entering this field, utilising the training and some of them again, which will be part of the report I will be handing over through to you and the House, hon House Chair. You will see there are a number of woman-owned companies which have gone into grading statuses as well.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers. That deals with Question 3 that stood

over from 18 September 2025. We will now move to Question 7, also a question that stood over from 18 September 2025. I now recognise the hon Minister Mackenzie.

Question standing over from Thursday, 18 September 2025, as agreed to by the House:

Cultural investment - heritage

7. Mr M B Ngqentsu to ask Mr R D Mackenzie, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:

What specific (a) programmes and (b) initiatives does his Department have in place to preserve, promote and celebrate our rich heritage, particularly in working-class and rural communities that are so often excluded from the Province's cultural investment?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon House Chairperson and thank you hon member for the question, which is what specific programmes and initiatives does the Department have in place to preserve, promote and celebrate our rich history, particularly in working-class and rural communities that are so often excluded from the Province's cultural investment.

If I may just say the last part of the question, is a statement. It is not a

question. Culture in working-class and rural communities are not excluded from the Province's cultural investment. In fact, like many other places in our communities, they get their rightful place in our allocated budget.

Hon House Chairperson, I have given the hon member four pages of answers so that no-one can say I did not give him any details of where the investment is. My hon colleague wants me to read every single ordinance ...[Laughter.]. But I do think I will submit the formal answer to my hon colleague because it is quite data heavy. Like we are, we are a data-driven government.

But I do want to say, hon member, we do invest in our communities to celebrate and promote our diverse culture in the Western Cape, including the wonderful *Leer jouself Nama* (Teach yourself Nama) book that I distributed earlier on. But the full technical details are available, which I will submit to the House. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Mackenzie. I recognise the hon Minister, or rather, the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Unfortunately, yes, it was. I appreciate the material which he is going to send to me, but in the best interest of our people and those who are listening, they will be deeply interested to understand the location, right, of these programmes and the impact the programmes are making. Thank you very

much.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. It seems like you will have to go into your few pages, hon Minister. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Hon Minister, please proceed.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon House Chairperson and my hon Deidré Baartman who said, 'leaders are readers', but I will start with the first one. Let me start with museums on page 2.

Many provincially aided museums are located in small towns and in rural areas such as Worcester, Tulbagh and Beaufort West. They provide exhibitions and education programmes that reflect on local histories. A list of 32 affiliated museums, and I am not going to bore the hon members in the House with all 32 museums, are here for reference on this list. But I will say, hon members, that we do celebrate all our cultural heritage in the museums.

I am very privileged because we recently launched the ALMAL project. The ALMAL project is Archives, Libraries, Museums and Languages where I have participated, myself, at the Bo-Kaap Museum where we invited people and the communities to come and tell their stories. It is not just about a certain storytelling; it is about the capturing of the important histories that I do not want anyone to find on ChatGPT. I want the people who are still alive, to tell

their stories. So, no-one can manufacture these stories.

We have done a similar exercise in Genadendal, and I will certainly invite the hon member to Lwandle where we do the next museum because it is important for these stories to be told by people that are still alive, so that you can hear some of the nuances and the funny jokes that come with these stories. That is how our culture and our heritage benefits us so that in 100 years from now, it is not my version. It is the version of the auntie or the uncle, as in the case of the Bo-Kaap, that told a story as it was told before her. It is an important part of investing in our culture and heritage. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. What evaluation processes are in place to assess the impact of these heritage initiatives on community participation, cultural preservation and local economic development? I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon member, obviously, there is a formal and a technical evaluation process which I can submit the details through to you. But I really find that for me and by my

experience, I was on SAFM, sorry, on RSG (*Radio Sonder Grense*) and people called in that morning to say, †waar kan hulle hul almal se stories bêre? [where can they preserve all of their stories?] Hon Ngentsu, for your benefit: where can they deposit their storie? They want their stories, or they want Government to retain their stories as told by their forefathers.

To me, that speaks volumes that people could call in to a radio station to deposit their stories so Government can safeguard their stories. So, if somebody did not go to the Archive, they called into the radio station. I think that tells me that people want Government to preserve their stories and that, to me from my experience, was a great monitoring tool that somebody can phone into a radio station and say where can Government safeguard our stories and our histories?

But in any process, there is a formal evaluation tool done by the Department of each of these 32 affiliations. Museums have a Museum Board and a governance structure that oversees them. If I can just say something again: †Dit het 'n riem onder my hart gesit [it was really encouraging to me.] When we went to Robertson Museum, hon Minister Marais will be happy to know that the museum, when we went to a meeting there at the Robertson Museum, of all places in this province, Robertson Museum, there were nearly 40 to 50 people waiting for us there. They wanted to know what more we can do to build the museum.

If you ever want a monitoring and evaluation tool, it is not something that we

put in a book. It is through community members coming to a museum for a meeting about the museum. It was not a safety and security meeting, it was not a meeting about food and food parcels or social development, hon Minister Jaco Londt, it was a meeting about a museum. That, to me, was just wonderful that 40 people would come who deem a meeting of social development less important and community safety less important and came to visit me in a museum about a museum. That was the greatest monitoring tool ever. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon House Chair and thanks hon member Van Minnen for that question because I was close to posing it. Given these notable programmes, what qualitative impact are they making to our people in these related communities which the hon MEC has outlined?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you. Let me stick with Robertson Museum. The youngster that came there, hon Ngqentsu, you can go on your Facebook page. They run a radio station from the museum. If you ever want qualitative data, young people using the museum

for the benefit of the community. It is wonderful. If you search on your Facebook page, Robertson Museum, you will find it there. That, to me, is more qualitative than anything else. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister and the final follow-up opportunity. Hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Now, given the few, I mean, the one area you have been concentrating on, then one is deeply interested in the area of most concentration for these programmes, hon Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, honourable. [Interjections.] Can you please repeat your question, hon member?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Ja. One is deeply interested on the area of most concentration for these programmes and activities. Where are they largely concentrated?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Oh, okay, no. Fair enough.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Beyond Worcester or, ja. ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Just wait until I recognise you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Oh, sorry.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The hon Minister is definitely in a hurry, hon Chair.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Statistically speaking, it will be the City of Cape Town because they have got 68% of the population. So, that will be where most of the support is be concentrated, but we are looking at our smaller towns. We are investing more in our rural areas because we know that they get less. But statistically speaking, for the foreseeable future, it will be the City of Cape Town by virtue of the size.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. That deals with that specific Question 7. I was also informed and for the information of the hon members and the procedural staff, that Question 3 that stood over from 25 September 2025, will also be

standing over, as well as previously indicated Question 2. We will then now proceed to Question 3, and I recognise the hon Minister Marais.

Question standing over from Thursday, 25 September 2025, as agreed to by the House:

Confiscated weapons and destruction thereof

3. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

(a) How many confiscated weapons have been destroyed in 2025 and (b) why is weapon destruction reportedly carried out exclusively at a single facility?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon House Chair. Thank you, hon Van Minnen for asking this question.

In 2025, 2 269 confiscated weapons were destroyed and to part (b) of the question. In compliance with the Head Office directive referenced 27521 and dated 21 July 2014, all firearms are to be transported to the designated facility in Silverton, Pretoria, for destruction. The process is undertaken in accordance with the prescribed procedures to ensure full adherence to regulatory and legal requirements.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Madam House Chair. My question is whether there is an audit or oversight mechanism in place to ensure transparency and accountability in the weapons destruction process? I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the hon Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you again, hon Van Minnen. In SAPS's National Annual Report they are required to publish regular reports on their weapons destruction activities: how many weapons have been destroyed and the challenges faced. A comprehensive audit trail is created and maintained, which is available for independent review by internal auditors, third parties and if necessary, international bodies.

Furthermore, a clear chain of custody is important for maintaining accountability. Weapons are tracked from the point they are seized, collected or surrendered to the point of destruction with regular checkpoints for verification. Then, our Police Oversight Community and Safety Monitoring Evaluation team does random investigations or spot checks in the SAPS

stations with their evidence register, SAP30, that is what the register is called, to confirm that all confiscated items, including weapons, are safely locked away in the safe. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Marais. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair. Hon MEC, of the confiscated firearms destroyed, how many were linked to murders in the province or anywhere in the country?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon Ngqentsu for the question. Unfortunately, I do not have those stats. The national stats will be released soon. We are not sure when. The Acting Professor Cachalia must still let us know the date and then we will have the exact number of how many weapons are linked to murders ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

...and then I will give it to you. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. What my question is, is are there any delays or backlogs in the destruction process due to the use of only one facility?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank again, for the follow-up question, hon Van Minnen. We do not have any complaints from the Provincial Commissioner about delays, but what I can mention, †hulle vernietig elke kwartaal vuurwapens [they destroy firearms every quarter] and they call it a 'mass destruction' of all firearms which are due for destruction. A time and date of the transportation is kept secret to minimise the risks.

But as the Western Cape Government, we advocate for a local firearm destruction site and have taken positive steps towards the realisation of such a site in the province. It will be in Atlantis at this moment. They are looking at two places. It will be in Atlantis, and we have also allocated R500 000 towards this destruction site, and this will further minimise the risk of having

to transport firearms to the north of the country for destruction. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Marais. The final opportunity. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair. Hon Chair, you will bear with me. Given the hon MEC's response, one therefore has to give some context. The firearms which were destroyed this year were certainly confiscated years back also, meaning whether ballistic reports are already out and data is available in respect to whether those firearms were linked with murders to the period under review, or what.

We are not talking about the firearms confiscated in the last few months or so. I think it is important that at least I clarify that. I give that context for clarity purposes. Thank you very much.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. I was going to caution you on making a statement, but you did direct your question. Thank you very much. Hon Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. Thank you, again, for the question. As I understand, you want to know if the firearm is linked to a murder. Unfortunately, I do not have that

information. I will ask for our General Patekile to give it to me and I will provide it to you. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. That deals with Question 3. We have a few seconds left for Questions for Oral Reply. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. That deals with the time, and we are just in time. So, that is the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 145, we now deal with Statements by Members. There will now be an opportunity for Members Statements of two minutes each. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, international trade and investment are critical factors that affect the development of nations. South Africa is still a country stricken with immense poverty and hardship, and it is therefore vital that we ensure everything possible is done to attract more investment into our country and that the goods we produce here, have clear access to lucrative international markets. In simple terms, foreign investment and international trade translate into more jobs for our people.

With that in mind, I would like to commend the proactive efforts taken by the

Western Cape Government to make sure that the Western Cape is positioned as an investor-friendly and export-ready region. Recently, the hon Premier visited the USA while the hon Minister of Infrastructure visited Brazil. These visits undoubtedly strengthened relations between these nations and South Africa.

The Western Cape Government is obsessed with creating ...[3:13:03 - Audio distorted.] conditions where job creation can blossom. Working closely with international partners is a key part of that mission. Where the DA governs, we make sure that the issue of unemployment is attacked from all angles and I look forward to hearing in more detail, the outcomes of these visits with our key economic partners and the benefits they hold for the people of the Western Cape and South Africa.

Hon Chair, perhaps if I can add I think this was an exercise where in tandem with the National Government in the spirit of the GNU, effort was made. It was a cooperative effort to really assist one another. So, thank you very much.

[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you. Thank you, hon member. Can I then recognise the ANC.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, thank you, hon House Chairperson. The

ANC is deeply disappointed and strongly condemns the decision of the DA-led Berg River Municipality to impose a mere 10-day unpaid suspension and a final written warning on an employee found guilty of sexual harassment, a sanction that the Western Cape Labour Court itself, described as 'totally unacceptable and wholly irrational in relation to the evidence'.

This lenient and deeply inadequate response is not an isolated incident, but a reflection of a broader and troubling pattern within the Democratic Alliance and its structures of governance. Like those before them, the current DA leadership seems to hold the outdated and patriarchal view that women belong in the kitchen and not in positions of power or respect. We have seen this clearly in the case of Farrel Payne who was shielded by the system until his quiet retirement. We are seeing it again in the mishandling of serious allegations against the HOD of Local Government, a senior official who like others, appears to enjoy political protection despite facing serious allegations.

The latest case in Berg River is part of that same pattern: a culture of impunity, denial and disregard for the safety and dignity of female employees. While we are deeply dismayed, we are neither shocked nor surprised. This is the DA's track record. We have already referred the Western Cape Government's mishandling of GBV and sexual harassment cases to the Commission for Gender Equality.

Today, we call upon the CGE to include this Berg River matter as part of its

ongoing investigation into the DA-led Provincial Government and its municipalities. I thank you, hon House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon member. I rise today that this House notes with grave concern the recent suspension of SASSA grants, which include pension and disability benefits, leaving many vulnerable beneficiaries across the Western Cape without their only source of income.

Hon member, these grants are not luxuries. They are lifelines. The elderly people with disabilities and impoverished families are entirely dependent on these funds for food, medication and basic survival. Yet, instead of receiving care and dignity, beneficiaries are now forced to camp outside SASSA offices overnight desperately hoping to be assisted the following day. Even more alarmingly, many recipients have reported that their grants were stopped because they received external money from family or friends. In most cases, not even significant amounts. SASSA now claims that grant beneficiaries are not allowed to receive any external financial assistance and those affected are told they may only reapply after three months.

Hon member, this is not only unacceptable. It is inhuman. Without the help of family and friends, recipients simply cannot survive on SASSA alone, particularly in the current economic climate which is at its worst. What is

even more concerning is that National has access to private bank accounts and thus, the personal life of beneficiaries, drawing conclusions and making assumptions without properly investigating the facts. This raised serious questions about both the fairness and the dignity with which vulnerable citizens are being treated. To deny people their rightful support, to strip them of their dignity and to leave them in limbo for months is a violation of their most basic human rights.

Therefore, hon member, I move that this House expresses its outrage at the inhuman treatment of beneficiaries. We call on SASSA to urgently reinstate all suspended grants and demand immediate intervention to ensure that no vulnerable citizen in the Western Cape, is left destitute because of ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Your time is up, hon member.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...bureaucratic failure ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Your time is up.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...bureaucratic failure and a disregard for their wellbeing. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon

member. I now recognise the DA.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Dr Jane Goodall, the world renowned primatologist and humanitarian who has left us at the age of 91. Dr Goodall dedicated her life to the study of chimpanzees in the forests of Tanzania, reshaping forever our understanding of the natural world and indeed, of ourselves.

Through her observation and boundless curiosity, she revealed to humanity that we are not separate from nature, but a part of it; that our closest relatives in the animal kingdom share with us not only tools and intellect, but emotion, community and compassion. Her work bridged the gap between science and empathy. She reminded us that knowledge without kindness is hollow and that true understanding comes when we recognise the dignity of all living beings.

Beyond her research, Dr Goodall became a tireless advocate for conservation, education and peace, founding the Jane Goodall Institute and inspiring generations to protect our shared planet. Her legacy is written in scientific journals and in the countless hearts she stirred to care more deeply for the earth and all who inhabit it.

As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate her life of purpose, a life that taught us to look into the eyes of another creature and see a reflection of our own humanity. May her life's work continue to move us towards compassion,

stewardship and understanding, an aspiration that has never been more important than in these trying times. May she rest in peace.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the EFF.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Chairperson. The EFF welcomes the great work conducted by the South African Police Service's Commercial Crime Investigation Unit in its efforts to tackle crime and corruption head on within the City of Cape Town Municipality. This latest probe saw SAPS detectives and external stakeholders execute a large covert operation at 26 addresses across the Metro, which are linked to the City of Cape Town staff members, officials and members of the criminal syndicate who are engaged in corruption relating to the awarding of tenders within the municipality.

The alleged fraud and maladministration graft within the municipality is estimated to be around R1,6 billion with investigators said to have seized documents and electronic evidence relating to matters involving municipal procurement processes. This move is long overdue as calls have been made for a very long time now, for the City to be cleaned up because the money that is at stake belongs to the public and should be used for public purposes to benefit the same public, and not politically linked bodies and criminals in suits, masquerading as councillors and municipal government officials.

This move will also serve as a testament at its conclusion, that this DA-led City of Cape Town is as corrupt as any other municipality in South Africa. The DA has long pushed at propaganda that it runs a clean government until cracks of corruption and maladministration within the administration are exposed as well, as with the case of Malusi Booi and others, and then, the party starts to distance itself from those individuals.

It also raises questions regarding oversight on the part of those running the DA. How are all of these things happening under their watch if they, themselves, claim not to be part and parcel of this whole criminal syndicate? The DA's stance that they are running a clean government is not only a myth, but a blatant lie against those who follow the party and those who reside in areas where this party governs.

In conclusion, hon Chairperson, the EFF calls on the police whistleblowers and like-minded stakeholders who are against crime and corruption to double their efforts in rooting out corruption and arresting all those, including politicians involved in these heinous crimes which continue to rock communities of proper service delivery. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the ANC.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Madam Chair. I rise today to express a deep concern about the escalation of bullying and gang

violence in schools across the Western Cape. According to recent reports, *IOL 2025*, during the first two terms of 2025, 523 children in the province were victims of bullying and 422 cases of assault were recorded on school premises. The most disturbing part is that there were also 32 stabbings. Thankfully, none were fatal.

However, this demonstrates the seriousness of the problem at our schools. Schools are a place for learning and development. It is unacceptable that learners must endure physical threats, emotional trauma, intimidation and bullying in places that should be sanctuaries of learning and growth. Some children are pushed to the brink. Parents have told of learners refusing to attend school, falling behind in their studies and even expressing suicidal thoughts.

We call on the Western Cape Education Department, the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety and the Department of Social Development, and all other relevant agencies to act decisively. We call on the collaboration and coordination in a joint taskforce that places school safety at the centre of planning, with clear roles and accountability across education, policing, social services and community structures. Along with preventative programmes that include learner support, life skill education and conflict resolution training, anti-bullying campaigns and mental health support in schools. ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Your time has

expired.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Every child has a right to a safe and nurturing learning environment. We must not allow gangs and bullies ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Your time is up, hon member.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...to hijack our schools. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you. Thank you, hon member. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon House Chair, as we observe Social Development Month this October, the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape takes this moment to honour and to celebrate the immeasurable value of our older persons, the elders in our families, our communities and our society at large. Every year on 1 October, we mark the International Day of Older Persons. This year, we do so under the powerful theme: older persons driving local and global action, our aspirations, our wellbeing and our rights.

Hon House Chair, this is a reminder that our elders are active contributors to our communities, carriers of wisdom and custodians of our shared values and traditions. Their lived experiences guide us. Their resilience inspires us. Here in the Western Cape, the Department of Social Development continues to

prioritise the wellbeing of our older persons.

With an increased budget from R231 million to R254 million in the next financial year, we are investing in dignity, care and support. Hon House Chair, the Department funds over 112 residential facilities, 25 assisted living centres and 151 community-based service centres that provide not only meals and recreational activities, but also a sense of belonging. Importantly, the Department also acts swiftly on reports of elder abuse because every older person has the right to live in safety and dignity.

We also want to thank the Western Cape Department of Social Development and the many NGOs, NPOs and volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to care for our elders, whether through donations, volunteering or simply showing up to connect. You are making a difference! Let us continue to build a society where older persons are respected, protected and empowered to thrive. I thank you, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, thank you, hon member. I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Madam Chair. Hon Madam Chair, the Freedom Front Plus tabled a subject for debate today that unlocked a lot of excitement, and I have been informed that extra chairs had to be brought in for those who came today to listen to a topic that addressed their needs. Now, the Western Cape Parliament ultimately belongs to the people, and it was

good to see them present here.

I want to address the issue of the Western Cape Cultural Commission, who I believe can do much more to emphasise the needs and the urgent focus that is needed on the Khoi, the San and the Griqua and their heritage and their language.

Now, hon Minister, I want to thank you for what you have distributed today, but my job as the Opposition is to hold you accountable on behalf of my party, and I want to emphasise the importance of mentioning the Khoi and the San and the Griqua, and whichever cultural group you are focusing on in your reports because they do not feature at all in your Strategic Plan for the next five years. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon member. I recognise the Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Hon House Chair, *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim*. The prophet Mohummad may Allah peace and blessings always be upon him said. The best amongst you is those who learn the Koran and who teach it. I thank you very much, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon House Chair. The ACDP has no statement. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon House Chair. Hon House Chair, late on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, police raids were carried out and at the heart of the raids was the City of Cape Town. This is a sobering reminder that while this Government never misses an opportunity to boast about being better than everyone else, the truth may be that they are simply better at hiding.

Because, when SAPS arrives with warrants linked to tender fraud on the scale of R1,6 billion, we are compelled to ask how did the City manage to have all these so-called clean audits? What lies beneath the glossy reports if billions of rands of public money are under investigation?

In this term of office since 2021, the City of Cape Town has had more raids by the HAWKS and Commercial Crimes Unit of SAPS than during all the previous terms combined. We have contracts with gangsters, a former MAYCO member charged with fraud and corruption, the raiding of two current MAYCO member's offices and now, the raids conducted yesterday. In the last two or three years, we have had R1,8 billion housing corruption

scandal, the R386 million waste management corruption scandal, and now, the R1,6 billion urban mobility corruption scandal.

It is the DA that has politicised clean audits by claiming they represent something that most of us know they do not. The fact that the City of Cape Town can receive clean audits while their procurement processes are so porous and the administration is so riddled with allegations of corruption currently amounting to nearly R4 billion, must raise questions about both the claim of a clean audit, but more importantly, what does it actually tell any member of the public about the state of governance?

Clearly, something is either misrepresented about the auditing process, or the clean audit does not equal clean governance. To make matters worse, while an affective SCOPA can interrogate ministers, DGs, HODs, CEOs of State-Owned Entities in full public view ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Your time is up, hon member.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ...the City of Cape Town closes the workings of their MPAC Committee, hiding the corruption, irregular expenditure and wasteful expenditure from scrutiny. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Time up. Thank you. Thanks a lot, hon member. I now recognise the DA.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon House Chair, this week, the Western Cape once again proved why it remains the best-run province in South Africa. For the third consecutive year, every single one of our 14 provincial departments and 11 entities receive unqualified audits from the Auditor-General. That is a hat trick of excellence in governance.

These results are proof that under a Democratic Alliance Government, taxpayers' money is respected, protected and put to work for the people. They show that the Western Cape runs on accountability, transparency and professionalism, the hallmarks of a capable state. The results speak for themselves. The Western Cape has created 89% of all net jobs in South Africa since 2020. Unemployment here stands at 21,2%, the lowest in the country. The business confidence index is higher than the national average and our small business sector has exploded from 330 000 to 404 000 SMMEs in just two years.

Hon House Chair, these achievements are no accident. They are a product of a Government that values every rand, that plans responsibly and that puts service delivery above politics. While other provinces are drowning in mismanagement and corruption, the Western Cape continues to prove that clean governance and economic growth go hand in hand.

To the thousands of dedicated public servants who make this possible: thank you! Your work is setting the standard for what good governance looks like

in South Africa. Hon House Chair, three years of clean audits show one simple truth that where the DA governs, good governance and prosperity follow.

[The Temporary Speaker takes the Chair.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present, an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. I recognise the hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon House Chair. Indeed, as the hon Thomas Walters alluded to, the hon Premier did lead a delegation to the USA, and I was part of the delegation. Afterwards, I then continued on to São Paulo in Brazil. In terms of the hon Premier's focus and on the USA, we visited Washington and also, Atlanta.

In terms of the visit to Washington, it focused on the impact or implications of the 30% tariff noting that the USA is one of our biggest trading partners as a region, but also in our country. But also, to inform them that in focusing on the Western Cape's export into the USA, as much as the impact of jobs are going to be impacted in our province, the impact on the USA side in certain of their states will also be impacted by this tariff. We estimate it is between R30 000 to R100 000 on the USA side that it will be impacted.

Also, to reaffirm that some of their key investments in our province which are active projects, include NASA, Amazon, to name but a few, which we focused on. In terms of Atlanta, again, Atlanta is part of the Regional Leaders' Forum, a forum that was started in 2002. That was also to reaffirm the attendance of the Forum, but also to assess what other sharing of knowledge we can impart with between our two states.

In terms of São Paulo, the focus again was to reaffirm the visit and the attendance of Regional Leaders' Summit which will be the 12th RLS session. The Western Cape is the host, and São Paulo will be the host in two years' time. Also, in order just to confirm the attendance of their delegation which will include what they call a Deputy Governor or a Deputy Premier, in terms of attendance.

The remainder of my visit focused on infrastructure as a whole, but also to learn because this is a region or a state which has a police force, which is one of the aspects I focused on. Also, how infrastructure plays a role in terms of mobility and other elements of infrastructure as a whole, given that São Paulo has 42 million residents as a state and the City of São Paulo which has almost half of the population of the state. Also, to ascertain how, in terms of innovation, they are ensuring that infrastructure and partnering with the private sector through various legal frameworks.

They have managed actually over the last three years to accelerate their

delivery and outputs in terms of infrastructure. And as such, both these visits are crucial for sharing of knowledge and also to ensure that our partners understand that we are a province that is open to investment but also open to sharing our knowledge as feasibly as possible. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers. I recognise the hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. Hon Chair, I just want to clarify something here because maybe people do not understand what a clean audit means.

A clean audit does not mean nothing going to ever go wrong. It means that you are honest about what is happening in your government. It means that you are not hiding information. It means that if something goes wrong, that you are going to report on it and how you are going to deal with the particular matter.

In the City of Cape Town specifically, the City of Cape Town have called the police to come and raid syndicates. City brought the SAPS in to raid and investigate suspected malfeasance by the officials and it demonstrates the actions of a responsible city ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Order,

hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...that will not tolerate crime or corruption. The police raid in and of itself, came after internal investigations by the City of Cape Town which was led by the City Manager and resulted in evidence which was then referred to SAPS.

So, we will congratulate the City of Cape Town for having a no-tolerance stance against corruption, hon House Chairperson. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister Baartman. I saw hon Minister Maynier. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Can we please afford hon members of the Executive to respond. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, to the hon member who raised the issue of safety in our schools. I have, of course, outlined the extensive measures which we have put in place to deal with the matters to which he referred, both in this House and in the Standing Committee on Education.

That includes, of course, the very substantial investment of about R90 million over three years into school resource officers, which we believe will go a long way to keeping schools safe here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank

you very much. Hon Minister Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon House Chairperson and thank you, hon member. Remember, the Western Cape Cultural Council certainly promotes languages in the Western Cape. All our books are published in all three official languages, as we all would have received. But we will certainly, to the second part of your question if I understand it correctly, we will certainly do more to promote all our languages.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. That deals with the time afforded for hon members of the Executive to respond.

MOTIONS

Hon members, we now move to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I will afford the opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d), and as per the compiled list. Hon members are reminded that 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d), will start now. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Madam House Chair, I move without

notice:

That the House notes with alarm and concern the discrepancies between the South African Police Service's (SAPS) initial statement from last week pertaining to the recent Bellville operation and arrests, and the official case docket relating to the incident. SAPS first reported eight suspects arrested and eight illegal pistols seized, yet the docket records only six suspects, six AK-47 rifles, and six pistols, raising serious questions about the integrity of case processing and chain-of-custody procedures; and notes that this incident may be but one example of the current shortcomings in successfully processing serious incidents; further notes that despite the seriousness of the arrests the suspects were subsequently released, underscoring a systemic failure where arrests are not matched by successful prosecutions; acknowledges that illegal firearms continue to circulate freely in communities across the Western Cape, fuelling gang violence, extortion, and murder, in part because the conviction rate for illegal firearm possession remains at a shocking 5%; recognises that without proper follow-through, including thorough investigations, watertight case dockets, competent prosecutions, and strong convictions all the way up the criminal value chain, even the most promising operations will fail to deliver lasting impact and instead offer only short-lived relief; and therefore, as all hon members agreed to in this House last week, we call for urgent police reform, including the devolution of policing powers to ensure provincial oversight and accountability to prevent such failures of process from recurring and to

restore public trust in the justice system. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, object.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: There is no ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon members. I heard it the first time. There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Madam House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern that it has now been 21 days since the Acting Minister of Police, Prof Cachalia, demanded a resourcing plan for the 13 priority South African Police Service (SAPS) precincts in the Western Cape and yet, no such plan has been delivered; further notes that, in this time, additional children have fallen victim to gang-related violence on our streets, as organised criminal networks continue to operate with impunity while critical crime-fighting resources remain absent; acknowledges that approximately 90% of gang-related murders in South Africa occur in the Western Cape, yet SAPS has failed to bolster its presence in the province with police personnel numbers declining from nearly 20 000 officers in 2016 to just 18 000 in 2022, and 12 000 at current times despite a population increase of 11,8% over the same period; and therefore, calls for the following urgent actions: 1. that SAPS immediately tables and implements a comprehensive resourcing plan for the Western Cape's top 13 precincts, as already requested by the Acting Minister; 2. that capable municipalities, with a proven track record in implementing localised safety solutions, be granted the powers and funding necessary to scale their efforts and assume a greater role in local law enforcement; and affirms that this House will not stand by while bureaucratic inaction continues to place the lives of innocent residents at risk. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank

you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Object!

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Madam House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the support expressed last week by the Official Opposition in a motion to the Western Cape Provincial Government; further notes the call by the Official Opposition last week for urgent, coordinated action from law enforcement, Government departments, and community structures to address the safety crises facing the people of the Western Cape; and further notes their call for strengthening police strategies, improved intelligence operations, support for vulnerable communities, and preventative interventions; acknowledges that much of this falls squarely within the mandate of SAPS and the National Government, and therefore outside the constitutional mandate of the Provincial Government; and therefore

welcomes the evident change of heart by the Official Opposition, as reflected in their motion last week, and urges the National ANC Government to follow the lead of their provincial counterparts by clearly supporting the call for the devolution of certain policing powers to the Western Cape. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): ...you are acutely aware that the question will be put to the House, of which you can indicate your objection. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Object.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much. There is an objection ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): ...and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Walters.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I will object in advance.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...[Laughter.] I would like to move without notice:

That this House notes the recent visit by the hon Premier of the Western Cape to the United States of America; that the House further notes the recent visit of the Minister of Infrastructure to Brazil; further notes that these visits have the potential to yield tangible benefits for both the Western Cape and South Africa; and acknowledges that these visits underscores the constructive manner in which the Western Cape Government has worked closely with the National Government to advance opportunities that contribute towards building a better South Africa; and resolves that the House looks forward to receiving a full briefing on the visits in terms of Rule 146, in terms of Executive Statements of the Standing Rules of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Mbombo.

Prof N MBOMBO (DA): Thank you, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes the decisive action taken by the Western Cape Department of Mobility under the leadership of hon Minister Isaac Sileku in closing dangerous taxi routes where violent clashes occurred between rival associations, CODETA and CATA; further notes that the hon Minister acted within his clear legal mandate, as set out in the National Land Transport Act, to prioritise the safety of commuters, and that despite CODETA's claims in court of financial loss, which is understandable, no official complaints have been received regarding commuters being stranded, robbed, or unable to reach work, as alternative safe transport arrangements were swiftly implemented; acknowledges the Department's commitment to putting the lives and safety of commuters first and commends the DA-led Western Cape

Government for standing firm against intimidation, ensuring that the rule of law and commuter safety remain paramount; and calls for continued constructive dialogue between the Department and all relevant stakeholders within the Minibus Taxi Industry to find a long-term, amicable solution, noting that the current route closures are a temporary measure. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Prof Mbombo. Are there any objections, hon members, to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is no objection.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection? [Interjections.] Hon member, please speak into the mic when you do object.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Object.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much. There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Wessels. [Interjections.] Order, hon members.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes the significant progress made by the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure on the R540 million upgrade of Louis Fourie Road in Mossel Bay, the largest road infrastructure investment in the Garden Route District, which remains on track for completion in August 2026; recognises that October is Transport Month, a time to reflect on the crucial role of road infrastructure in moving goods, supporting farmers, connecting communities, and enabling access to essential services; highlights the DA-led Western Cape Government's approach to infrastructure delivery, which ensures roads are upgraded efficiently to boost economic activity, create employment opportunities, and strengthen local and emerging enterprises; further notes that the strategic planning that has allowed critical works, such as dual carriageways, intersection upgrades, new bridges, and pedestrian facilities, to progress while maintaining access for all road users and

local businesses; and reaffirms the importance of sustained investment into infrastructure as a driver of economic growth, service delivery, and regional connectivity in the Western Cape. I so move. Thank you very much.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): ...to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes that access to basic services and housing is fundamental to a dignified life, and acknowledges the strong track record of the DA-led Western Cape Government in delivering these services over the past two decades; further notes that between 2004 and 2024, the Western Cape achieved near-universal access to electricity, which is over 90%, refuse removal over 95,2%, flush toilets 91,8%, and piped water 83,5%, outpacing national averages by up to 31,5%; it further recognises the continuing challenges in rural areas and informal settlements, where ageing infrastructure and insecure land tenure can lead to service disruptions, and commends the Department of Infrastructure for its progress in delivering 132 705 housing opportunities over the past decade, including 74 272 houses and 58 666 serviced sites; acknowledges the pressures of fiscal constraints, COVID-19 disruptions, and criminal interference in the construction sector, and welcomes the recovery signals of a 48% rebound in serviced sites and the issuance of 6 515 title deeds in 2024/2025 financial year; further notes that the surging housing demand, including a 14,6% provincial increase to 643 377 units and a 490,6% increase in the Central Karoo, and encourages the Department of Infrastructure to continue implementing innovative, evidence-based solutions to meet the evolving population and economic needs; finally calls on all stakeholders to support and strengthen the momentum of service delivery and housing provision in the Western Cape, to ensure that all residents can enjoy a dignified life in line with the DA's commitment to efficient, accountable, and responsive governance. I so move. Thank you very much.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We object.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Object.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members. Hon Minister, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon House Chairperson, I rise on Rule 66(3)(a) dealing with operations of the House. It seems like the Opposition is objecting to all DA motions for objection's sake and I would just hate for this House to get to a point where everyone is now objecting simply because another political party brought the motion. Because their motions are also coming up and there might be very reasonable ...[Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...just sit there ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...motions on this Order Paper that we would like to support as well. [Interjections.] But if the ANC is going to act in this manner, then maybe we must act in this manner as well.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister ...[Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): You are out of order now.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): That is not a point of order. [Interjections.] I think hon members are well within their right ...[Interjections.] to object or to agree to a motion that is before the House. Order, hon members. For the sake of progress, we are now at Motion 8, and I recognise the hon member Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chairperson. I move without notice on behalf of the ANC:

That this House notes the release of the report on the George building collapse by the Council for the Built Environment and its partner entity, the Construction Industry Development Board, albeit 16 months after the tragedy which claimed the lives of workers and caused untold suffering to their families; the House registers its concern at this undue delay which undermines accountability, good governance and more

importantly, the humanitarian imperative of providing timely answers to grieving families; the House further notes with disappointment the lack of explanation on the legalities that allegedly prevented the contractor from being held accountable and reiterates the view that treating the full forensic report as 'sensitive' is an attempt to protect the guilty at the expense of the dignity and humanity of victims and their families; the House unequivocally supports the resolutions of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure of 17 September 2025, including: that a multi-stakeholder meeting be convened with relevant departments and agencies to determine the root cause of the collapse; and that the continued absence of the National Minister of Public Works, the DA's Dean McPherson from Committee engagements be escalated to the Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly; the House rejects the position of the National Minister, that the forensic report contains sensitive information to be viewed in camera only, as this undermines transparency and accountability to the community of George and the families of the victims. The National Minister's attitude is no different to that of this Provincial Government who seeks to protect the DA-led George Municipality from any responsibility as the DA continues to play politics with the lives of people; therefore, the House moves that the full report be released and discussed through a public process, led jointly by the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure at a suitably sized venue in George; and that the hon Premier of the Western Cape, within 10 days of this motion, provides the House, the George community and the broader public with a full account

of the actions taken to address the role of the George Municipality, as outlined in the NHBRC Report tabled in April 2025, in failing to implement proper building checks and balances that could have prevented the disaster, while his Government refuses to release the report on the investigation which this Legislature approved funding for. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member Sayed. I see the hand of the hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party, hon member Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Presiding Officer. Hon Chair, are you able to indicate whether I am audible?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Yes, you are, indeed.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Chair, I would like to rise to object to the admissibility of the motion that the hon Leader of the Opposition just read into the record. In terms of Rule 148 read with Rule 159 of the Standing Rules, a motion must concern itself with matters within the legislative authority of this House, not the legislative authority of another House, not the legislative authority of any other branch of the Executive.

In light of what was just read and in light of the ruling that was made by the hon Deputy Speaker at the start of this Sitting, I feel that this is an abuse of parliamentary privileges and I would like us to hold off on putting that motion to the House until this has been ruled on by the Presiding Officers. I think it is a flagrant disregard for the hon Deputy Speaker, as well as the hon Speaker and the Table Staff by putting this motion in at this time.

Hon member Sayed, as the hon Leader of the Opposition and as a former Chief Whip of the Opposition or Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition, knows better. This motion is asking us to do something ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Can you ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...that is not within our scope.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): ...please conclude?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you so much. I so move.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Chairperson.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Just keep quiet.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Keep quiet and sit down.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Hon member Bosman, I have noted your concern in terms of the Rule that you have cited and based on the outcome relayed to the House by the hon Deputy Speaker this morning as well. Hon members, I am going to make a ruling in that regard that we revert back at the next Sitting of the House, in terms of this specific motion based on the Rules cited by the hon Chief Whip. Hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Any points of order, hon Chair?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): On the same ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, on the same matter.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): ...matter?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): What is your point of order, hon member?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, in line with the ruling of the hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Deputy Speaker indicated clearly, and I even took copious notes of that. The hon Deputy Speaker indicated quite clearly that for this particular Sitting, those motions that were submitted will be allowed to be read out and they must either be objected to or supported. And that we will then go into another Sitting, he will then rule. We will then have all these. We will then be assisted by the Table Staff, by the Office of the hon Speaker when we submit.

The hon Chief Whip was present, so I do not know whether he was listening or not. Can we please move and stop with this frivolity. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member Sayed. I have concurrence and confirmation by the Table Staff that that is, indeed, what the hon Deputy Speaker has relayed. For the sake of this Sitting, I will now put the question to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. We move to Motion 9. I recognise the hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I move without notice:

That this House, in the spirit of South Africa's unwavering solidarity with the people of Palestine, calls on the South African Government to demand the immediate release of all international activists, including residents of the Western Cape like Dr Fatima Hendricks, detained by the criminal Israeli forces that include ANC MP or former ANC MP, Mandla Mandela and the award winning journalist, Zukiswa Wanner; this House notes that Mandla Mandela had issued a plea for justice from aboard the vessel *Alma*, part of the Global Sumud Flotilla, before it was unlawfully intercepted while delivering life-saving humanitarian aid to the besieged people of the Gaza strip; the House strongly condemns Israel's actions in international waters, which represent not only a violation of international law, but also an attack on global efforts to provide relief to a population facing genocide and collective punishment; while we positively note the statement issued by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation yesterday, calling for restraint, this House calls on our Government to intensify its efforts and do everything necessary to secure the immediate release of all detained activists and to ensure that the Global Sumud Flotilla, with its entire South African contingent including residents of the Western Cape, continues its journey

unhindered to deliver much-needed aid to Gaza. Now is the time for South Africans to collectively push for the ending of all trade with apartheid Israel, including here in the Western Cape and the closure of the Israeli Embassy. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member Sayed. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? I recognise the hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Chair, I raise in terms of Section 66(3)(b). The hon member changed their motion and included extra information for the House to consider at the end of their motion, and therefore, that should be inadmissible. If it does not seem as inadmissible, then we will use our other methods of objecting to Motions without Notice because we cannot be putting motions that are different to what is on the actual Paper.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon Minister. I put then the question to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. We will now move to Motion 10 in the name of the hon member Ngqentsu. Please proceed, hon member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the prevalence of patriarchy within the Democratic Alliance, as reflected in the conduct of Ian Cameron, Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Police in the National Assembly, whose focus on Cape Town appears unrelated to addressing escalating violent crime, but rather undermines the authority of women leaders; the House condemns the behaviour which diminishes hon Van Minnen, the Chairperson of the Western Cape Standing Committee, and hon MEC Marais, both constitutionally mandated to lead and engage on safety and governance matters. Unless women in leadership are to be relegated to mere political ornaments, it is imperative that they are given full opportunity to exercise authority, engage with hon members of the Provincial Legislature and participate meaningfully in public discourse; the House therefore, calls for recognition, respect, and amplification of women's leadership voices as a necessary step towards dismantling

patriarchal practices and promoting gender equality in governance. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Object.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon member. [Interjections.] Are you done, hon members? Thank you very much. We proceed to Motion 11, hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes the large-scale coordinated search and seizure operation conducted by the South African Police Service's Commercial Crime Investigation unit on 30 September 2025, which targeted 26 addresses across the Cape Town metropolitan area; we further note that

this intervention followed information from a whistleblower and preliminary investigations by both SAPS and the City of Cape Town Municipality, relating to contracts worth approximately R1,6 billion that are now under investigation for alleged fraud and corruption; that this House is deeply concerned that the addresses raided include the residences of municipal officials, business premises, and locations linked to entities that were awarded lucrative contracts by the DA-led City of Cape Town Municipality, confirming that corruption within the City is widespread and systemic; we commend the SAPS and all law enforcement stakeholders for their commitment to safeguarding public resources and for acting decisively to address corruption; this House condemns, in the strongest terms possible, the rampant corruption in the City of Cape Town and calls for all those implicated in this alleged looting of public funds to be held fully accountable, without fear or favour. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Object.

Hon MEMBERS: Object.

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): I hear an objection. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the successful pro-Palestinian protest that took place in Cape Town on 27 September 2025, and applauds the organisers for their commitment, as well as commends the thousands of people who came out in their numbers to raise their voices in solidarity with the people of Palestine; further recognise the courage and unity of all sectors of society who participated, standing against the ongoing occupation, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing being carried out in Gaza by the Zionist Israeli regime; laments the absence of the Democratic Alliance leadership and its hon members of the Provincial Legislature at this march, a shameful omission which clearly demonstrates that the DA is aligned with Israel's apartheid project. Their silence and absence show that they remain lapdogs of blood-thirsty Zionists who are carrying out atrocities against the Palestinian people; and condemns, in the strongest terms, the DA's continued support for Israeli aggression and crimes against humanity, and we declare that both

the party and the Western Cape Government are complicit in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.] Hon members, let us please practice discipline. There is a call to when the question is put, you indicate your objection or not. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

Hon MEMBERS: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. Am I audible?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Indeed, you are, hon member. Please proceed.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. Thank you. I move without notice:

That the House notes and expresses deep concern over the ongoing water shortages in the Downtown informal settlement in Philippi, where installed taps often run dry during the day, forcing residents to collect water late at night or early in the morning. This situation has a severe impact on families, particularly children and vulnerable households. While noting that the City of Cape Town has deployed maintenance teams to address the problem, the House calls for urgent and sustained action to ensure water infrastructure is fully functional and accessible throughout the day; that the House further urges the City to improve communication with affected communities, provide regular updates on water supply, and implement long-term solutions to prevent future shortages, including a comprehensive review of water systems in informal settlements across the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER): There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, according to the time allocation, that then concludes Motions without Notice, and that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now close the online meeting and the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:25.