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THURSDAY, 3 JUNE 2021

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

[Virtual online sitting held through Microsoft Teams]

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: You may all be seated.

Hon members, both the hon members who have joined us virtually, and the hon members who are here in the hybrid venue here in the Chamber, you are welcome this afternoon and thank you very much for your presence. I would like to welcome our guests, including the media, our members in the Fourth Estate, and of course I would like to remind the hon members that the Rules of virtual sitting remains the same as per the tradition and norms of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as per the Directives issued by myself.

What I would like to indicate is that this is our sitting, it's our Parliament. Let us do so, understanding that this is the Parliament where the same privileges that the hon members are entitled to, apply. So I would like to ensure that we are cognisant of the fact that the Rules of the House will be effected in the way that we are accustomed to. So we just need to make sure that we are consistent with the statutes as members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

You do not activate your microphone if you are not speaking, and you also do not activate your camera if you are not speaking, just for stability of the network. If you are a guest, please do not speak, do not activate your microphone ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. I was still explaining that we keep our microphones on mute until you have been recognised to speak. If there is a point of order, you indicate by show of hand or you indicate in the chat room. You will be recognised by the Presiding Officer.

So at this point I would like to recognise the hon members and say that whatever that we are going to be discussing here throughout the deliberations, it is in ensuring that we keep the spirit of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament consistent with the Rules of Order, which is our Standing Rules, and the Western Cape Provincial Constitution, and of course

the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Hon members, I would like to request the hon member Brinkhuis to please stand up. Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis, and thank you for honouring my request to join us in the House in person here today in the Chamber.

Pursuant to the adoption by the House, of the report of the Conduct Committee on 10 September 2020, hon member Brinkhuis, on your failure to submit your member disclosure forms on time as required in terms of the Statute, I hereby reprimand you for breaching paragraph 11.2 of the Code of Conduct, for members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The hon members have to abide by the principles, the Rules and obligations set out in the Code of Conduct, and your failure to do so is a serious transgression.

I trust that as members you learn. In fact, in this case, hon member Brinkhuis, I trust that as a member of this House, you learn from this experience, and that you will not be found to be on the contrary to what the Rule is and to what the Code of Conduct prescribes to us as the hon members. I hope that this is the last time, and it is not going to be a norm in future. Will you please take your seat, hon member.

Hon members, thank you and thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. I would like to, as I indicated that, bring to the attention of all the hon members that what I have just done now, I would like not to repeat it to either yourself, hon member Brinkhuis, but I do not want to repeat it for any of the members, but

to make sure that the hon members are reminded on time and that they are able to act decisively to protect the institution and to protect the Code.

I would like to recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

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

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), precedence be given to the Subject for Discussion in the name of hon member Brinkhuis.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections? No objections? Agreed to.

Hon member Brinkhuis, I recognise you.

### **SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION**

(The COVID-19 third wave as the priority to save lives and secure livelihoods)

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, our country is in

a third wave with COVID infections. All provinces have reported an increase in the number of new infections. On 1 June the province recorded just over 4,000 new infections.

Hon Speaker, the Strand community have been hit very hard with new infections during the past week. Six people have lost the battle against COVID-19, including the Imam of the Strand, Imam Moulana Ghosain Rhoda.

We call on the Province to speed up the rollout of vaccinations, especially in areas where infections increased. In the case of Strand all those who have succumbed to the COVID-19 virus were mostly people over 60 years old. Al Jama-ah wants to save lives and also recognises that livelihoods are important, but lives are more important.

The Province must come out clear with how ready it is to prioritise saving lives or livelihoods amidst COVID-19. All our energies should not be focused only on rolling out the vaccines. Like HIV, people who are infected with COVID have become the new under-class and are stigmatised and discriminated against.

Then there is the aspect of poverty when there is a family member who have died, what social assistance are offered to families who have lost more than one member, and in many cases both breadwinners? Do our schools offer psychological services to its staff and learners affected by COVID-19? The Department should not pressurise heads of schools to send threatening letters

to parents to send their children to school.

Why is it that the Department fails to assist schools forced to close due to COVID-positive cases, with online learning? The Province is not reaching the masses on the ground with awareness on the importance to vaccinate. It is well and good to use *tannie* Evita Bezuidenhout, flooding social media, but what about the *tannies* in rural areas? The *tannies* in the townships and on the Cape Flats who do not hear about such important announcements, it is out of their reach to register online or SMS for vaccinations. There must be mass vaccinations on the ground. Use our stadiums for drive through vaccinations, mosques and churches, halls which are within the reach of our people.

One of the most probable causes of spreading the virus is gatherings fuelled by alcohol consumption. We have experienced and witnessed the positive effects of the ban of alcohol during the lockdown. We are disturbed by the DA's apprehension at the call by the South African Alcohol Policy Alliance for the restrictions on alcohol sales, and a complete ban on advertising in order to save lives.

The sales of alcohol are a major contributor to the rising spikes in COVID and place a tremendous strain on our healthcare system. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. Hon members, I recognise the hon the Leader of the Opposition, hon member Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The ANC welcomes this debate today on the state of the COVID-19 pandemic and the vaccination rollout in our province, but, hon Speaker, we also want to sympathise with hon member Brinkhuis, whose original subject for discussion on the situation in Palestine was disallowed. This decision undermines freedom of speech, a key tenant of our Constitution, and we urge Al Jama-ah to take this matter to the courts.

We welcome the debate today because in fact it exposes this DA for what it is; a petty point-scoring party. Its continued adversarial approach towards National Government during the COVID-19 State of Disaster, continues to expose it as a party which wants to demand one thing from National Government, but is ineffective in rolling out the exact same programmes in the province where it governs. The DA demands a vaccine rollout plan from National Government, and we have yet to see a clear time-bound programme for the Western Cape.

The DA-led Provincial Government made a huge noise about launching its own vaccination programme and procuring their own vaccines. It even budgeted a whopping R800 million and more for these purposes. These announcements, hon Speaker, have come to absolutely nothing. Instead *tannie* Evita is employed, who is now casting aspersions on former President Mbeki, while not saying, for instance, that, “You do not need a degree to get a vaccine.” So the humour needs to be even-handed, through the hon Speaker, to *tannie* Evita.

While the ANC welcomes the report on an average of 6,000 jabs per day in the last week and a proposed 12,000 jabs per day this week, and an envisaged 24,000 jabs on average next week, we will be watching these figures closely to ensure that we expose the DA for what it is: a party of petty pointing and scoring political points.

Again, launched with much fanfare by the Premier, the challenge of the Department of Health's dashboard on vaccinations has no indications of how many vaccinations and when and where these have been done. When we hear of an average of 6,000 a day last week, we want to know where these jabs have taken place exactly. Even worse still, the current stats on the dashboard show that only 45% of our elderly in the province have been registered. Nothing from this Provincial Government on how it will ensure more people over the age of 60 will be registered and get vaccinated.

Hon Speaker, only 6% of senior citizens over the age of 60 in Philippi have been registered. There are 15,500 people in Philippi over the age of 60. Only 9% of citizens over the age of 60 in Delft have registered. There are nearly 16,000 people over the age of 60 in Delft, but only 20% of over 60-year olds in Blue Downs have registered. There are over 14,000 people over 60 in Blue Downs; 23% in Kraaifontein and nearly 21,000 people over 60, and we may go on and on about registrations, never mind the actual vaccinations.

It has taken the Province two months to register only 50% of the over 60 population. It will take another two months to ensure that a considerable



amount of people are registered let alone vaccinated. The ANC remains deeply concerned about the registrations and rollout in areas outside the Metro.

For example, this week we were alerted to the fact that on 1 June a total of 129 people only were vaccinated in Riversdale. While this may certainly not be the total number of people vaccinated in Hessequa, the ANC remains concerned that there are over 1,700 people in Riversdale alone, that are over the age of 60.

We are further informed that the Riversdale Civic Centre, which was to be used a vaccination site, will not be open today because of so-called vaccines not arriving, yet all those vaccinated so far are only white senior citizens in the old age homes. Not a single over 60-year old in the historically disadvantaged communities.

Seemingly the strategy which seems to be an ad hoc one made up as this Provincial Government goes along, is to vaccinate residents in old age homes and retirement villages, and while we welcome this, we have to ensure that particularly our seniors from disadvantaged communities, we need help with registration, but also to actually have the vaccination sites in community centres and accessible venues.

We were further informed that, and again I quote:

*“The strategy is generic and aims to roll out the vaccination plan to all people across advantaged and disadvantaged areas.”*

In other words, there is no recognition that those in old age homes and retirement villages mostly are those from the privileged and advantaged communities mostly. In fact, they are even now being advantaged in being registered and vaccinated.

Again, those privileged and previously advantaged have Department of Health officials coming to them. The poor must find their own way at this point in time, to identify a site. This must change, hon Speaker. Yet again when things go wrong like this, the DA-led Provincial Government will quickly point out that it is a National Department of Health strategy but glaring exposing that this province has no strategy of its own.

While we welcome the 75 Cape Access Centres across the province to help residents register for free and zero-rating of the EVDS portal on public WiFi hotspots, we remain unconvinced, based on this Provincial Government’s track record, of service delivery in poorer areas. That priority is being given to this challenge. We will want to know how many registrations these 75 Access Centres are registering every day.

While the ANC welcomes the fact that the challenge of queue-jumping has been attended to and we salute Dr Cloete and his team, we look forward to ironing out all issues related to the electronic vaccination data system. Every

life of our seniors is valuable, and what we want to see is practical innovative steps to actually reach the seniors, especially those who do not have cars, who do not have access to WiFi. Why can we not have our health workers actually going directly to the houses of the elderly in the disadvantaged communities?

This is what we expect from a government that says it thinks out of the box but continues to do things in the same old way. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Leader of the Opposition. Hon members, I now recognise hon the Minister of Health, [Inaudible.] Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, hon Speaker. I will switch off my video, because I am on loadshedding. Thank you very much.

Hon Speaker, let me first thank hon member Brinkhuis from Al Jama-ah for sponsoring this debate. Inasmuch as that Western Cape is not on the third wave yet, practically speaking yes, we are trailing behind the Free State, the North West, the Northern Cape and Gauteng are already in the third wave.

The year 2020 was probably the single most tumultuous year in the history of our country from a health system and broader population health perspective. The Western Cape currently is in resurgence and we already see some sporadic increases in some areas across the province. Hence our first response is to reduce the size of a third wave strongly and quickly and thus

we can dramatically reduce the number of admissions and deaths.

Having experienced two distinct waves and now on the threshold of a potential third wave, all systems are ready. The Western Cape approved – I mean Cabinet approved our third wave advisory for a transparent pre-defined [Inaudible.] for a whole of society response in advance, to reduce transmission and prepare health services.

In that advisory we find that we have got the first warning, that is in yellow, up to the second; the third warnings, and the red warnings when our health services capacity is threatened, and we use these landmarks such as daily case increase over a time, overall positivity rate, percentage of hospitals with increased bed occupancy, usage of the oxygen, the high-care intensive care beds occupancy.

These triggers are accompanied by recommended restrictions, for example like limited gatherings and travel when it is in yellow warning; curfew and alcohol when in red, for example. Every intervention should be and is data-driven.

Hon Speaker, in summary of the overview, in case probably the hon members do not understand what we are talking about, the overview of the third wave response:

1. It is about change community behaviour to prevent infection, which is

the non [Inaudible.] interventions will always be there as the first response, and also to re-emphasise so that you do not delay – I mean we delay the further resurges.

2. Surveillance and the outbreak response, where we work with the municipality as well to test water wastage so that we ensure that we do know in advance if there is any outbreak in that area without necessarily [Inaudible.] people went to do, to test for themselves. In regard to the outbreak response, we have seen how we have responded swiftly, like when we found about some clusters, like in the weddings, after weddings, or the school hostels.
3. The scale-up of a health platform COVID capacity, which I will explain later.
4. Maintaining of comprehensive services because all other non-COVID cases, they are not on holiday. People still want to make use of our emergency and all other services.
5. Safeguard and protect the wellbeing of healthcare workers. I can confirm that the Western Cape has enough bed capacity to respond to the resurgence in COVID-19 cases, through previous investments during this pandemic we can bring [Inaudible.] additional bed capacity where and when needed. Throughout the first and second wave we have ensured that our internal infrastructure can respond accordingly. This

strategy of enhancing of infrastructure at existing facilities means that the facilities remain on standby. For example, all the field hospitals, except ICC, are still operational, and also some of them area-attached to the existing hospital besides Brackengate, Sonstraal and Lentegeur and Mitchells Plain Hospitals. Also, whilst always a last resort, we remain ready to deescalate the service and create additional acute-care capacity when in need or short notice. We also continue to closely monitor the usage of beds across our province through a central coordinated and professional operational, known as “Bed Bureau Management System”. Currently our bed occupancy is 83% for general and 12% so far for the COVID. The first and second wave showed us the healthcare workers play a critical role in our response to pandemic. Hence it is crucial that we have to extend the contracts for the most critical post. We have also established a recruitment database for additional COVID necessary medical staff that will allow us to bring online additional healthcare workers capacity. Psycho-social and wellness support for staff is available at their doorstep. A large proportion of health workers have already vaccinated [Inaudible.] this means that we should be able to operate at a greater capacity.

At this point, hon Speaker, because I have to respond on the vaccination part of it, as a country we need urgent mass production of vaccinations at a reasonable price. Also, the availability in the mass vaccination without interrupting the programme. The start, stop and go approach that we find ourselves in may create vaccine hesitancy if there is a short supply of

vaccination that we see it is coming up.

At this point the vaccine is the solution to protect the citizen, while also opening up the economy.

Hon Speaker, I am proud to inform you that the Western Cape is on on track with the vaccinations. We have vaccinations about 150,000 plus. Our approach on gradual increase and scaling up will ensure equitable access to reach out and prevent start, stop and go – just to respond to hon member Dugmore about the equity. Our objective is to vaccinate about 12,000 and then move to 60,000 and then 120,000 every week throughout.

About the *tannie* Saries who are in deep rural, farming areas or also even the backyard or shack-dwellers, we make sure that they have got access in regard to our registration drive that has been taken all over all the provinces.

Our centres, where they could be specially assisting the families, there are centres in the rural areas, and also the libraries in the Metro are available.

We have been to – because hon member Dugmore also again talks about the issue of inaccessibility - we have been to Imizamo Yethu, we have engaged with the churches in Khayelitsha, we have been to Nomzamo in Strand, we have been in Durbanville, Morningside, to the farmworkers. Tomorrow I will be in Belhar, next week we are in the Central Karoo, to ensure that we are leaving no one behind, and we have also accommodated those people who can

be able to be walk-ins, where we create the percentage; for example, we were in Wesbank in Malmesbury where they could be able, although they might have the 400 allocation of the doses, at least for them they can take 70% of those who have already got the SMS, and then they can take 30% who are the walk-ins.

The members are talking only about *tannie* Evita, forgetting that our first people to vaccinate are Bishop Tutu and Mama Leah, and also others, but we do not want to create a situation that each and every personality or celebrity is being celebrated, because there are many of those, the 104-year olds from Delft who have also been part of the people who need to be vaccinated. The 100-year olds from Gugulethu and everywhere, they form part of the vaccination process.

I am proud to inform you that yesterday we exceeded this target and vaccinated 14,744, inasmuch as that we are saying that we want to go to 16,000 vaccinations per week, and then we go to the 120,000.

Hon Speaker, having said that, I still maintain – yes?

The SPEAKER: Just hang on, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Ja. The non ... [Inaudible.] interventions, they are very crucial whilst we are waiting for the whole of the community ... [Interjection.]



The SPEAKER: [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: ... to be vaccinated. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. It is important to stick our time, but I understand the Minister was sharing something that we all want to hear, but thank you very much, hon Minister, thank you.

May I request the hon member Makamba-Botya to address the House?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thanks to the Minister, and I also want to commend her on the statement that she has mentioned that yesterday she has exceeded some target in terms of the vaccine. So I want to commend her on that.

Number 1, with the Western Cape Province not far away from entering into the third wave of COVID-19 infections, the only way to describe the planning and preparedness of this eventuality of their part, is by using the word “failure”. For starters, this is the province which failed to procure and acquire an adequate amount of vaccines relative to its population, which the Premier promised will be done before the winter season.

It has now transpired that such a promise was nothing other than a political statement aimed at mocking our people, as everything in the eyes of this Government is nothing but a joke. It was very clear from the Premier’s

keynote address in the SOPA earlier this year, that the Province does not have a proactive plan against the possible third wave of COVID-19 infections. This became apparent when you mentioned that the Province will use the tried and tested hotspot approach, which we all know failed under the first and second wave of infections, and did not produce any results other than being a reactionary useless strategy.

This is a government that does not inspire confidence in all levels as it has failed to deliver on its transitional residential housing project, which was aimed at dispensation of overcrowded informal settlements in order to mitigate against the spread of the COVID-19.

The poor people of this province continue to live in poverty and hunger as the Province continue to fail in creating enough job opportunities, following a huge loss of jobs since last year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon Speaker, with COVID-19 third wave right at the door, the economy will continue to be affected negatively, and unfortunately more people will continue losing jobs and this will be as a result of lack or proper planning on the side of the Government.

Moreover, as we enter the winter season, a part of our population which has been totally neglected by this Government, is the poor people in the streets. The Government is not extending a helping hand to these vulnerable people in trying to make sure that they are properly accommodated in shelters,

vaccinated and well-fed. A government which fails to help the poorest of the poor is nothing but a failed government. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Makamba-Botya. Hon members, I now recognise hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker.

There of course is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on both the lives and livelihoods in the Western Cape, but also of course across South Africa.

Some people think that we have to choose between saving lives and saving livelihoods, but that, in my view, is a false choice, because we have to save lives and we have to save livelihoods in the Western Cape.

We have, from the start of this year, identified a possible third wave as being a risk to economic recovery, which is why in my Budget Speech, I announced that as part of our R2,17 billion War Chest to defeat COVID-19 in the Western Cape, we have allocated R832 million to respond to a possible third wave, which would be spent variously on expanding testing, on providing personal protective equipment and of course on ensuring sufficient supply of oxygen and critical care capacity in the Western Cape.

Premier Alan Winde's commitment to procure vaccines was not a failure, as the hon member Makamba-Botya suggests, but in fact a response to a failure by National Government who woke up too late and procured, began to procure vaccines only towards the end of last year, which has compromised the vaccine rollout programme, and compromised our ability to save lives and save livelihoods in the Western Cape.

Now, hon Speaker, we have also done more than any other province in South Africa to support businesses, especially small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic, so that we can save lives and that we can save the economy in the Western Cape.

We have taken a number of measures. We have set up a COVID-19 Content Centre, we have set up the COVID-19 Support Finder to help businesses navigate and access the many financial relief packages available. Our Red Tape Reduction Unit has assisted businesses to navigate the complex regulatory landscape and we have assisted businesses to implement COVID-19 workplace safety protocols across the Western Cape, to ensure that the employees and customers notify us when businesses are not following the necessary health guidelines to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Hon Speaker, to ensure that we continue to save lives and save livelihoods, we must continue to make decisions that are evidence-based. We must apply, I think, a differential approach to restrictions that are proportional to the threat. Provinces are experiencing surges in infections at different times.

Applying blanket restrictions across the country is a blunt approach which of course will have a detrimental effect to business.

If restrictions are too heavy-handed or they lack common sense, or if restrictions are implemented too early or held in place for longer than necessary, this can of course have a devastating effect on the economy, and of course nothing illustrates this more than the restrictions on alcohol, which of course is a prime suspect in the killing of nearly 119,000 jobs in the agricultural sector in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, the fact is that in the end economic recovery, and I have said this before, depends on vaccinating as many people as fast as possible, because with more jabs there will ultimately be more jobs.

We have to mobilise every institution to support our vaccine registration and vaccine rollout, which then ... [audio connection lost.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, I am sure it is the loadshedding story. We are unable to hear you now, there is a, your system froze there. We will give you a minute and see if it improves. If not, then we go to the next speaker for now.

Alright, hon members, I am going to request that we move to the next speaker. I now recognise hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, with only 1% of our population fully vaccinated, our biggest risk right now is pandemic fatigue.

South Africans, like the people of every other country in the world, have endured an unprecedented and unplanned cultural change, imposed upon us in order to save our very existence.

The health protocols have prevented natural human instincts to connect with other human beings physically and socially. We may no longer shake hands or hug when we greet, we must keep our distance from each other, we must avoid gatherings for social events, cultural events, religious events and even to do our jobs. We must cover half of our faces at all times with a mask, and we clean and sanitise our hands on entering everywhere.

On top of the loss of our cultural and social habits, we have seen a decimation of businesses and jobs, storefronts boarded up, favourite restaurants, bars or taverns shut down, businesses teetering on the brink of insolvency or liquidation. Family, friends, colleagues unemployed.

Hon Speaker, we entered our summer season, the season which many industries and businesses were relying on to recoup some of their lost revenue, with another lockdown as the second wave swept across our country.

Fatigue and complacency played a mayor role in the magnitude and severity

of the second wave. The third wave is looming and we are under slightly adjusted restrictions which allow most businesses to trade. We must all dig deep and not allow complacency and fatigue to overcome us. If our third wave is not contained, we could face another shutdown of our economy and our lives.

The virus is transmitted by our behaviour. As hard as it is to maintain the health protocols and adhere to the lockdown rules, we implore the people of the Western Cape to rise to the occasion so that we may mitigate the loss of life and the loss of livelihood. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Hon Speaker, these are the words of President Ramaphosa when announcing lockdown last year, and I quote:

*“We expect all South Africans to act in the interest of the South African nation and not in their own selfish interest. We will act strongly against any attempts at corruption and profiteering of this crisis.”*

If the President was serious about corruption in this country and actually delivering to the nation, he would have asked Minister Mkhize, for one, to step aside or be fired. Instead, the President is in conversation and at the

same time [Inaudible.] serious and disturbing. The nation has got no trust in the ANC to do what is right for this country, and the President is found wanting on his promises.

This is another ANC sponsored promise and ANC delivered lie. More than R2,2 billion worth of corrupt PPE deals have had to be investigated, straight out of the pockets of taxpayers and at the height of the pandemic, where many lost their livelihoods and lives. Yet again residents had to sit back and watch State coffers be plundered.

Hon member Dugmore, through you, hon Speaker, this stolen R2,2 billion could have vaccinated over 3,5 million South Africans against COVID-19. The President's pledge, like the Zondo Commission of Inquiry, was nothing more than a talk show.

The ANC-led National Department of Health is once again unable to account for a R150 million tender, as party cadres and family members allegedly appear to be the beneficiaries of the Digital Vibes contract.

Hon Speaker, this ironic tenderpreneurship of a communication programme by the ANC comes at a time when residents do not know the where and when to receive the vaccines, and it does not stop there. The pandemic and corruption opportunities compete equally for the ANC's attention. Under another essential service we note how the SAPS was found to have looted R1,6 billion from the State coffer.



Hon Speaker, we know that in the Western Cape we have been begging for additional policing resources for years to fight gangsterism, another pandemic plaguing our communities, but instead of using these funds to govern well and provide for the safety needs of all, residents in the Western Cape received a temporary deployment of police officers in response to a longstanding concern.

Hon Speaker, the lack of boots on the ground has also threatened lives and livelihoods in the Western Cape. It is gravely inaccurate for Opposition members to paint the Provincial Government as uncaring towards the poor. There are gaps in national competencies in the Province that are filled by the Provincial Government nonetheless. Such supplementation through the Western Cape Safety Plan, the mitigation strategy to procure vaccines where National failed and the supporting mechanism to ensure registration for COVID-19 vaccines when the national system proves out of touch.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government is capable, but the extent of corruption comes at a cost of every hardworking South African who pays taxes diligently but receives mere talk shops on promise to end corruption and how funds will be recovered, instead of good governance. All this during a State of Disaster *nogal*.

Hon Speaker, we would be able to save both lives and livelihoods in this country had we put a stop to the mismanagement of the public purse for years under the ANC's leadership.

In closing, now that words like “COVID-19”, “lockdown” and “stay safe” have become household terms, we have to drive home the message that vaccination saves both lives and livelihoods most effectively, but we cannot do so if the funds meant to support these vital Government programmes are handed out to a notoriously well-connected few of those in green and yellow.

Hon Speaker, there is simply not enough urgency from the National Government on the only effective way to save lives and livelihoods. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, on Sunday night past we saw that the President announced the country is returning to Adjusted Level 2. This is in response to the provinces of Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and North West experiencing a third wave of infections.

Now, hon Speaker, we know that what happened previously, that South Africa is the worst-hit country on the continent, with 1,6 million cases and 56,711 reported deaths. We are heading to the third wave; it is believed to be in the next couple of weeks, and we heard about the restrictions placed on the province, and yet again I want to agree that blanket restrictions are

not advisable for the country, and blanket restrictions hurt the economy.

We know that certain businesses, especially small businesses, are still struggling to recover and from the ACDP's side, we want the President and this Province to say to the President that not one glove fits all, and that we must think yes, of protecting lives, but we must also think of protecting livelihoods and yet again we must ask the people of the Western Cape to adhere to the safety protocols, and we as elected members, as public office bearers, must really, we are urged – we had a meeting yesterday, we are urged to go out and ask people to register to be vaccinated.

The one concern was that in certain areas, especially your disadvantaged areas and communities, people did not register.

So, in closing, hon Speaker, our plea as public office bearers must be to go out and tell people to register to vaccinate. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. Hon members, due to the connectivity challenges in Minister Maynier's address, I am going to request that he now uses the opportunity. Are you back, hon Minister Maynier?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon

Speaker, I am, and I appreciate the opportunity to re-engage in the debate.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Before you proceed, is there a point of order, hon members?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Who is the hon member speaking?

Ms N D NKONDLO: Hon member Nkondlo. My apologies to interject to the Minister, hon Speaker. I just want to understand, I think between the connectivity issues, I am not sure, I did not hear the ANC being called into the debate. Unless I am making the mistake, between the connectivity.

After the Minister I think you then called the next speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. There is a speakers list, hon members, and the order that I have read is the nature of the speakers list before me at this point in time.

The ANC was hon member Dugmore, and the next speaker from the ANC will be hon member Windvogel, and that will be the eleventh speaker in terms of this speakers list. I hope that clarifies the point.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order as well, hon Speaker.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you ...

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. I see there is a point of order, hon the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Not to belabour the point, but my point of order is whether the same Rules here in the Legislature would apply in a committee where a member has had connectivity problems. In other words, whether they would still be allowed to speak.

I will give you the example, that yesterday we had a meeting scheduled from one until two in a committee, and then I had connectivity, and by the time we came back, I got back into the connection, and even though we were half an hour away from 2 o'clock, the chairperson in that particular situation did not want us to actually contribute to the meeting.

So do the same Rules apply in a committee, like say where now hon member Maynier has had to leave the meeting or lost connectivity. I just want to check that, thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Dugmore. We have been in the House accommodating members who would be lost and came back. That is the principle that I have been following.

In fact, both myself and the hon Deputy Speaker as presiding officers, we have been consistent in that regard. What happens in the space of the committees, the members of a committee must make that determination at the time, but the Rules are clear, especially with the fact that we are connecting virtually and some members may be in a hybrid space, there is no perfect environment when you are connecting virtually.

So the chairperson in the committee may determine how they manage that situation. I hope that clarifies the point.

May I then, hon members, recognise hon the Minister of Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Finance, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Before I lost connectivity, I was saying that in the end economic recovery depends on vaccinating as many people as fast as possible, because of course with more jobs there will be more jobs in the Western Cape, and in order to achieve that goal, hon Speaker, I think we have to mobilise every institution to support not only vaccine registration, but also the vaccine

rollout.

So the question then is what is the hon member Dugmore doing himself to register plus 60s? Surely, surely rather than delivering suboptimal speeches, he should be rolling up his sleeves and registering our plus 60s for vaccinations in the Western Cape.

Now, hon Speaker, to achieve the goal of vaccinating as many people as fast as possible, we have in recent weeks been engaging extensively with the private sector to build a strong partnership to increase the take-up and rollout of vaccines in the Western Cape, and to this end I have hosted a number of engagements with business leaders from multiple sectors and have followed up with one-on-one engagements, and I am pleased to say that there is extensive support and buy-in from the private sector to support the rollout of vaccinations in the Western Cape.

Businesses want to partner with us to distribute our vaccine campaign messaging in workplaces. Businesses are partnering with us to set up vaccination sites at their business premises, and of course businesses will be partnering to help people, especially the elderly, to register on the EVDS system, but of course there is a significant gap which has emerged in these engagements, and while it is a credit to National Government and to business for South Africa, that they have worked together to enable private sector workplace vaccination sites, the system to register businesses is still too complex.

Businesses are frustrated, they want to help, but they are being asked to navigate a spider's web of regulations which are being inefficiently implemented, and we think this requires an urgent review to simplify and clarify so that we can speed up the process.

An excellent example where businesses are already assisting with the vaccination rollout is the Shoprite Checkers, who are working with the City of Cape Town to raise awareness about vaccinations at stores at SASSA pay-out days and to help the elderly register for their vaccines. It is an excellent initiative where all the role-players, including the private sector, are working with Government to ensure the vaccine rollout happens as quickly as possible and reaches as many people as possible in every corner of the Western Cape.

In the meantime, I hope that each of us does everything we can to flatten the curve and delay the peak of a potential third wave in the Western Cape. Please, wear your masks, sanitise, practice social distancing, avoid gatherings as far as possible for the next couple of weeks, because together we can beat the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Maynier.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]



The SPEAKER: Hon members, order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order. Point of order.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order, hon member Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order. Thank you. The point of order is hon member Mackenzie clapped his hands. My understanding of the virtual, the Rules for these virtual and hybrid sessions are that people, members are not supposed to interject or clap their hands.

Could you just rule on that point, please, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Because I would also like to clap my hands, especially when Al Jama-ah had spoken, and now when hon member Windvogel speaks, I would also like to clap my hands, but I am having to restrain myself and I am finding it quite difficult.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Leader of the Opposition.

An HON MEMBER: Can we clap for you, Cameron?

The SPEAKER: I was inclined to believe that you wanted to clap hands for hon Minister Maynier. [Laughs.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Leader of the Opposition. Hon members, yes, it is correct. Hon member Mackenzie, will you please desist from that and withdraw that hand?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Withdraw your clapping of hands. [Interjections.] [Inaudible.] thanks.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, hon member Mackenzie has withdrawn the clapping. Thank you, that is very important, thank you. Thank you, hon member Dugmore.

Hon members, I now recognise hon member Fernandez, the Minister of Social Development. Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Speaker, good afternoon, am I audible to the House?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you are loud and clear, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I am experiencing

connectivity problems, so I am connecting on my phone.

Hon Speaker, hon members, as the Western Cape faces a third wave of COVID-19, we must draw lessons and insights from the first and second wave we have experienced. It is important to review the lessons learned so we can better manage future disasters in a way that reduces the socio-economic, employment, medical and humanitarian impact, amongst others, on society.

One thing that has underpinned all our efforts in mitigating the impact of the pandemic is how we as a society have to come together in the spirit of ubuntu to provide humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenging period for many South Africans, with many losing their jobs, relying on TERS or a R350 social relief or distress grant, and many citizens requiring food aid and relief. This is confirmed by the Stats SA recently published Quarterly Labour Force Survey for the first quarter of 2021.

Throughout this challenging period, hon Speaker, civil society, the NPO sector, CBO, faith-based sector and many individuals, ordinary South Africans, have stepped forward to assist with providing much needed humanitarian aid.

The Provincial Department of Social Development has acknowledged the

need for humanitarian aid since the initial announcement of the Disaster Management Act and introduced a series of measures to protect the wellbeing and livelihoods of residents in the Western Cape, in particular the most vulnerable.

Although SASSA remains the lead agency charged with social support to the poor in terms of Chapter 3 of the Social Assistance Act, I recently announced that DSD had made an additional R25 million available for food relief to assist the many vulnerable who find themselves without any form of State support, as a result of the termination of the special R350 COVID SRD grant on 30 April 2021.

The Department currently provides daily nutritional support via 104 community nutritional development centres, and currently funded sites have also strengthened to address food insecurity within vulnerable communities.

The Department has upscaled our footprint. We have partnered with NGOs to complement existing service delivery by providing support to 353 community kitchens. We have also partnered with an established service provider to pilot a voucher system to 250 identified community kitchens to provide food. We will assess the need for food aid on an ongoing basis.

Hon Speaker, to this day the uncaring ANC National Government has left thousands of vulnerable citizens waiting for their temporary disability grant to be paid, which is sad and distressing to say the least.

In line with addressing lives and livelihoods, we also focus on our older persons in old age homes. We will continue to ensure that the COVID-19 vaccination and registration are rolled out and implemented across our 300 homes across the province.

We will continue to provide the following support, amongst others:

- We monitor and support outbreaks in old age homes on a weekly basis.
- We monitor COVID-19 registrations of client and caregivers in old age homes on a weekly basis.
- We will facilitate the deep cleaning of old age homes with a focus on homes in vulnerable communities and hotspot areas and provide additional relief staff if and when needed.

Hon Speaker, I must thank the management team, the carers, the staff, the officials [Inaudible.] family members, for their ongoing commitment and devotion in helping us to contain the spread of the virus at all old age homes. We are grateful and appreciative of all your efforts during this challenging time.

Hon Speaker, in terms of ECDs. The Department continues to work closely with registered ECD programmes to ensure that the necessary measures are in place to protect both practitioners and young children at facilities. We have established monitoring plans to ensure that there is adherence to the health and safety protocols and will also continue to provide additional support in

terms of PPE.

Of the R496 million received by National Treasury, the Provincial Department of Social Development received R53 million. We contracted an intermediary organisation to assist with the processing of payments on the verification of the Early Childhood Development Stimulus Relief in this province. I am deeply concerned, hon Speaker, that of the 3,159 applications made from the Western Cape ECD Sector, the Provincial Department has received a total of 793 approved applications from National DSD. These were the applicants that passed the eligibility criteria set by the National Department of Social Development.

Hon Speaker, in light of the low numbers of approved applicants in the province, I have written to the National Minister of Social Development to reopen the applications for the Early Childhood Development Employment Stimulus Relief Fund, as the industry has been decimated with women bearing the brunt of job losses.

Whilst it is important that we recognise the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are duty-bound as a society to acknowledge that it is also Child Protection Week this week, and I would want to alert the House that we have, whilst we have less contact with each other due to COVID-19, a responsibility as a whole of society to remain vigilant, to take the signs of abuse seriously, and report all pleas for help by vulnerable women, children and community at large, immediately.

I wish to use this opportunity, hon Speaker, to appeal to each and every resident across this province, who is helping us in the fight against the ongoing abuse, neglect and murder of women and children, but also to reiterate our commitment as a department to working with all spheres of government and with a whole of society to safeguard and protect our women and children 365 days of the year, as the third wave affects us all. Let us unite in the spirit of ubuntu to support the most vulnerable.

To the many South Africans who are freely assisting with vaccine registration ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... humanitarian aid, taking care of our women and children, and saving lives and livelihoods, amongst others ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time is up.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ... I say thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you. Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, the next speaker is hon member Marais. I now recognise the hon member Marais, FF Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Good day, hon members.

Hon Speaker, South African stats show that nearly 50% of our youth are unemployed and reports by own Department of Health and the Minister have stated that the highest recovery rate from COVID-19 is also to be found amongst our old people.

Now wisdom and logic require of us to take a step back and to think, and by thinking we will give priority to vaccinating all person between the ages 45 and older simultaneously, instead of only prioritising 60 years and older, because this will greatly contribute to saving the lives of the most vulnerable, and simultaneously saving and stabilising our economy. It makes good sense.

I have objected in the committee meetings when the Department announced that they were going to give priority to prisoners to be vaccinated. I even wrote to Premier Winde, objecting and I said it does not make sense that law-abiding citizens must stand in the queue behind offenders, and this was changed, but I still maintain, I now ask that citizens 45 years and over 60, must be classified jointly as a top priority, and vaccines should be made available to them if they request to be vaccinated.

We are in a crisis and this crisis is driven by people at national level that do not have a licence to drive the vaccine mobile unit; they have not got a taxi licence. They are driving us into the ground. The regulations are weak



legislation.

Regulations only come into effect when Ministers or the Cabinet do not have an answer. They give carte blanche and I want us to respect ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Can I just ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... your time is up.

Mr P J MARAIS: Can I just ... please sir, it escapes Parliamentary oversight and needs continuing legal scrutiny. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon member Marais. I realise if I say you must conclude, it disrupts the hon members, they cannot hear what I am saying, they think I am objecting. So I just decided to simply tell you when the time is almost up.

May I just clarify something before we conclude with the debate, for the hon members' attention? And that is also assisting so that there is consistency here when the Preceding Officers make certain decisions.

Our virtual sessions in a normal environment, as we have been conducting them, we do not take responsibility as Presiding Officers of the hon members

who get cut off for any reason other than when there is loadshedding.

I think we have done so in the past and consistent with that, we have got scheduled loadshedding which we do not control as this Parliament, but it does affect members who are not in the House.

So outside a scheduled loadshedding it would not make sense for us as this House, and of course Presiding Officers, to now take responsibility for members who have poor connectivity based on the location which they could control.

So that is what we would like to - I would like to make clear so that there is no confusion in that regard. Hence I have allowed earlier on the hon Minister Maynier and any other hon member will be allowed and has been allowed in the past, based on that, except on a normal period.

I now recognise hon member Baartman, the new Chief Whip of – oh. I said the new Chief Whip, the new Deputy Chief Whip. I now recognise the ANC, hon member Dugmore. Now I recognise the ANC. That is hon member Windvogel. I do not want to be accused that I did not give the ANC opportunity. Hon member Nkondlo, it is now hon member Windvogel. Over to you, hon member.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon Speaker. †Dit is teleurstellend dat agb lid Philander heelwat afwyk van die onderwerp. Dit is nie wat die inwoners

van die Wes-Kaap wil hoor nie.

Die inwoners wil hoor hoe die *vaccination rollout programme* bestuur gaan word om sodoende lewens te red, en nie net vir die rykes nie, maar ook vir die armes.

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

[It is disappointing that hon member Philander deviated a lot from the subject. It is not what the citizens of the Western Cape want to hear.

The citizens want to hear how the vaccination rollout programme is going to be managed to save lives and not just for the rich, but also for the poor.]

Hon Speaker, the country continues to observe a sustained increase of COVID-19 cases over the past few weeks. Yesterday the country recorded 5,782 cases. The highest number of new infections in more than four months, indicating that we have officially entered the third wave.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases confirmed that four provinces have already entered a third wave of COVID-19 infections: Northern Cape, Free State, North West and Gauteng. The indicator for the NICD is if the seven-day moving average of case incidents has reached 30% of the previous peak in provinces.

Hon Speaker, as we continue to witness the sustained increase in case incidents across all provinces, the Western Cape is not spared. The province has a total of 296,047 cases with 278,897 recoveries to date, and 11,823 deaths. The number of active cases currently stands on 4,327 and is expected to increase sharply as we approach the third wave.

Hon Speaker, the majority of these cases are concentrated in five sub-districts in the Metro. The eastern sub-district with 411 cases; the northern with 436 cases; Tygerberg with 456; the southern with 493; and the western sub-district with 628 cases. In the non-Metro regions, the Drakenstein is leading with 195 cases, whilst Saldanha has 147 cases and Matzikama with 137 cases.

These are the same trends that we observed in the first two waves. The spread starts in these other sub-districts before they rapidly spread in Khayelitsha, Klipfontein and Mitchells Plain.

As the third wave fast approaches us, it is a cause of serious concern that no progress has been made with regard to the dedensification of overcrowded areas, which was announced by the National Minister of Human Settlements early last year. It is a known fact that highly dense areas make it impossible for people to observe public health regulations promulgated to combat the spread of the infectious COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon Speaker, in response to the question posed by the ANC regarding

progress made on these projects, MEC Simmers confirmed that in the Metro the areas Dunoon, Greater Kosovo and the airport were identified for reblocking projects, forming part of the Province's rapid informal settlement support and upgrade programme. The budget for these areas is Dunoon R175 million; Greater Kosovo R500 million, and the airport area R3,136 billion.

Hon Speaker, in terms of progress Dunoon is currently undergoing planning and [Inaudible.] and Greater Kosovo is at an advanced stage of land acquisition concluded for Phase 1. The development framework was prepared for the entire development expected to yield 10,500 housing opportunities. All planning approvals are expected in 2022 and 2023.

The airport is expected to yield 8,000 housing opportunities. Construction has started in September 2020 for a portion of the development, and completion expected in 2023.

Hon Speaker, what is clear from the above explanation is that no dedensification will take place in the province until 2023. Moreover, the informal settlements that were established during lockdown all do not have access to water and basic sanitation. This is a huge risk and needs to be urgently addressed.

Hon Speaker, the pandemic is well within the second year, which makes it difficult for people to adhere to the safety protocols. I want to appeal to our

people to remain vigilant, especially now. We have to work together to ensure that we all survive the third wave so we could get vaccinated. We can beat the third wave by practising good hand hygiene, wearing masks all time, maintaining social distancing and trying by all means to limit social interaction as much as possible. The people must stay at home and only go out when it is absolutely necessary.

Our vaccine programme started slowly and experienced several setbacks, but we are now building momentum and scaling up the vaccine rollout, †en ek wil sê Suid-Afrika word wêreldwyd geprys vir die *rollout* van hoe ons die *pandemic* hanteer [and I want to say South Africa is praised worldwide for the rollout of how we handle the pandemic.]

As at 2 June, over 1,1 million people were vaccinated in the country. Every member of society has a role to play in combatting COVID-19, especially in remaining patient with the lockdown restrictions and adhering to safety protocols. We need to assist our elderly to register for vaccination. †So help ons oumense, asseblief [So help our elderly, please.]

I am extremely troubled with low numbers of registration in rural communities and other poor working-class communities in the Metro. We have been saying the Province must equip the community healthcare workers with right resources and allow them to assist elderly with registrations in their homes, not at libraries, in their homes.

Now is not the time to be playing politics and the blame game, nor is it going to be of any help to be defensive in hiding mistakes that have been committed. We all need to work in [Inaudible.] minimise the impact of the third wave on both life and livelihood. We welcome the announcement by the President to move the country to adjust lockdown Level 2, and the key consideration that were given to the economic activities. We must all support these efforts and encourage our people to respect them.

I wish to appeal to the Premier and his Government to consider the expenditure for provincial vaccine rollout. The funds could be put to better use in improving conditions at our facilities and addressing staff shortages. The Department must end over reliance on seasonal workers. They are costly and unsustainable.

I wish to thank our frontline workers, in particular the nurses, doctors and all healthcare workers for carrying the country and province on their shoulders. Indeed, they are our heroes and heroines. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Windvogel. Hon members, I now recognise the Deputy Chief Whip of the Democratic Alliance. Welcome to the new role, hon member Baartman, and good luck as you proceed in your endeavours. This is now an opportunity to address us, hon Deputy Chief.

The DEPUTY CHIEF (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you for the congratulatory words.

Hon Speaker, I have to start to say that it is quite a sad day and a sad week also for us as a country, that we also, during COVID-19 have to go through loadshedding, because it is not just this Parliament that is affected by loadshedding and its works and its committees, and some of us have to drive to different areas and different neighbourhoods in order to log on with the sitting, but there are other people in other industries where their equipment would not necessarily come back online, and Eskom is not going to pay for that.

Hon Speaker, I first would like to thank hon member Brinkhuis for bringing this debate. It is a very, very important debate, especially since we are about to go into the third wave nationally, and some provinces have already entered into the third wave essentially.

Hon Speaker, there are some matters that need to be addressed that speakers in this House have brought up. One of the issues has been that hon member Brinkhuis, there has been an allegation that he could not put his original motion, but hon member Brinkhuis was given an opportunity to amend the motion he put forward, and, hon Speaker, when there is no substantial international relations or global affairs competencies within a Legislature, and when the motion is written to ask that particular House for a decision which that House is not mandated to make, then we have to be allowed to amend such motions so that they are put properly, and this was afforded to hon member Brinkhuis.



Further, hon Speaker, in terms of the questions regarding the rollout being late. We have to also ask ourselves, in the beginning when we as a country was supposed to be part of the National Global Vaccine Rollout Programme, when we had to indicate how many vaccines we need, when we have companies in South Africa who also work on vaccines when we were so late, the vaccines were ordered and they were not refrigerated and they were expired.

South Africa was one of the last countries to indicate how much vaccines we needed and to commit money. We had to go and get money from other funds that we were not supposed to be buying the vaccines from, in order to get vaccines, because of how late we are, and, hon Speaker, I find it reeks of racism and sexism and “isms” that I am not even sure has a name, when people want to attack people such as *tannie* Evita Bezuidenhout, but they would not attack celebrities and persons in our community, such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and they are all celebrities and they are all helping us to encourage people to take the vaccine, and they are not being paid to help encourage people to take the vaccine.

So I do not know if there are names for some of the other “isms”, but it reeks of these many “isms”, and, hon Speaker, in terms – hon Speaker, may I be protected, please? May I continue?

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon members. Order, hon members. Hon member Dugmore as the Leader of the Opposition, I would like you to help

me manage this House so that there are no disturbances. We need to have the decorum that is necessary to carry us through, and I hope I can count on your support.

May I request the hon member Baartman to proceed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, but like I said if we are going to be asking these questions of *tannie* Evita Bezuidenhout, then the ANC Opposition must also ask these questions of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and none of them are being paid to assist. They are doing this because they love their communities.

Hon Speaker, there is currently, in terms of vaccines, no dashboard in KZN, there is no dashboard in Gauteng; there is no dashboard in any other ANC province in terms of how COVID is being regulated, and we cannot simply believe in other province that the ANC does what they say.

So in the Western Cape what we did is we have actually a COVID dashboard so that people on the ground can keep us accountable, and we need to ensure the vaccines are rolled out responsibly in a calm fashion, so that people do not also fight over vaccines, and in case some of the Opposition members do not know yet, because perhaps they are not attending the meetings or coming late to them online as well, is the Cape Access Centre is actually also going to door-to-door in the Overberg regions and to bring vaccines to the farming area for the registration for the vaccines, and I would like to thank the hon

member Makamba-Botya for indicating that actually, how well the Western Cape has been doing in terms of the vaccine rollout, especially yesterday when it has been exceeded in that regard, and when you look at the numbers, someone, members such as hon member Windvogel was only using the actual numbers, but they do not acknowledge that as a percentage, the Western Cape registration is ahead of the other provinces.

Hon Speaker, there was an allegation that we are paying for Digital Vibes. I do not know where that comes from, but no money is being spent on Digital Vibes, and further I would also like to thank hon member Makamba-Botya for congratulating the Minister of Health, but I would also like her to be consistent in what she says in the House, because in the previous sitting when Minister Maynier gave the exact same answers to her questions, which she repeats, he gave it again today, and then she wants to come and say that there is no plan to protect the economy and to protect jobs, but in the previous sitting she congratulated Minister Maynier, on record in this House, for the exact same information that he gave today.

In terms of business support, the tourism industry has been seeing a very slow recovery, particularly over the Eastern Weekend we saw that the domestic market in the Western Cape led the way, and there was a 65% recovery of domestic arrivals at Cape Town International Airport, and some of the business support we have been giving in this province is we have set up a COVID-19 Content Centre in partnership with Wesgro and the City of Cape Town, which provides support and advice to businesses during the

pandemic and helps with interpreting legal requirements.

We have a COVID support finder which was set up by the Western Cape Government to help businesses navigate and access financial relief packages, and if any youth person is watching this debate, please go to [supportbusiness.co.za](http://supportbusiness.co.za), or any company that is looking, in order to see how to access these prospective financial relief packages.

There was a jump-up that was launched, which you can go to [bizjump.co.za](http://bizjump.co.za), you can download it on an Android phone, you can download it on an iPhone, and this essentially is a one-stop shop for existing and potential business owners, which gives them access to resources to start, to scale, to grow your business.

In terms of the Red Tape Reduction Unit, it assisted entrepreneurs to start a business where they can register and work with them regarding red tape issues.

We supported 250 ECD Centres to safely comply with regulations and reopen. The Western Cape Government launched a COVID-19 relief fund. R38 million has been distributed to 249 small businesses and saved 2,000 jobs.

We launched the Community Economic Recovery Project which distributed R3 million to 225 community kitchens for food relief and this was spent at

over 122 local spaza shops.

The Western Cape Government launched a Tourism Product Development Fund which distributed R5 million in order to support new and existing products and experiences ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): ... and ...

The SPEAKER: ... hon the Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, but in this Western Cape the DA does care for the people. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Baartman. Hon members, that concludes the debate. Thank you very much to all of you for participating and for respecting the Rules of the House.

At this point we are moving to Interpellations, and the first interpellation is by hon member Mvimbi to the hon the Minister of Transport and Public Works, and at this point I would like to congratulate the hon Minister Mitchell on your assignment and of course the appointment as the Minister of Transport and Public Works, and wish you all of the very best. We have seen that you have been baptised by the different riots, taxi operations and

strikes, violence. Good luck, and this is now the opportunity to address the House. Thank you, hon Minister, it is now your turn.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker. hon Speaker, with your permission and in the interest of connectivity, would it be in order if I switch off my camera?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you are more than welcome, hon Minister.

## **INTERPELLATIONS**

### *Provincial traffic head: suspension*

#### **1. Mr L L Mvimbi asked the Minister of Transport and Public Works:**

Whether the Provincial Traffic Head has been suspended for a sexual harassment case opened against him; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, firstly let me start off by saying that there is no position of the Provincial Traffic Head in the Department of Transport and Public Works, but rather the position of Chief Director: Traffic Management.

Hon Speaker, the answer to the question is no. I was advised by the Directorate: Employee Relations located in the Corporate Service Centre of the Department of the Premier, that a decision to suspend an employee must be based on all the applicable legal prescripts, which in terms of Sections 2.7(2) of the SMS handbook, provide as follows:

“The employer may suspend an employee on full pay or transfer a member on full pay if the member is alleged to have committed a serious offence, and the employer believes that the presence of a member at the workplace might jeopardise any investigation into the alleged misconduct, or endanger the wellbeing or safety of any person or State property.”

Hon Speaker, I at this point want to emphasise that the authority to suspend lies with the employer and not the Executive, and that both conditions mentioned must apply before such suspension can take place.

Now, hon Speaker, in the interest of the House and for the record, let me move on to the definition of “employer”. In respect of all members, excluding heads of department in their capacity as employees, the head of the department or any member of his or her department designated to perform the specific action, and in respect of heads of department, the relevant executive authority.

Whilst the claims against the acting Chief Director are considered to be serious in terms of the legal prescripts, this is not the only factor that needs to be considered. A decision not to suspend the Acting Chief Director was based on a fair and objective assessment of all the relevant factors that need to be considered before an employee is suspended as a precautionary measure. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Mvimbi. Hon Mvimbi, you know you may not attack hon Minister Mitchell. It is his maiden speech. [Laughs.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: [Inaudible.] I see, hon Speaker, you are actually disarming me now and while I was of course in any case not intending to do so, let me make use of the opportunity, hon Speaker, to follow and echo your sentiment in congratulating hon Minister Mitchell on his new appointment to the position of being the Minister of Transport and Public Works in the Western Cape.

Hon Speaker, an impression has been created that this Government protects alleged perpetrators of sexual crimes. In June last year a senior official in the Provincial Treasury was arrested and charged for allegedly raping a 7-year-old boy. The official continued to work for this Government as the Department waited for the court verdict before taking any further action.

On 1 October 2020 a female official reported a case of sexual harassment



in the workplace. A criminal case was opened against Mr Farrel Payne and he was arrested on 12 October 2020 and release on R5,000 bail. Mr Payne, who is the Provincial Traffic Chief, continued to work for this Government despite facing serious charges of sexual harassment, crimen injuria, and attempting to commit a sexual act.

Despite the public outcry and widespread demand for the suspension of Mr Payne, the Department is adamant that its decision not to suspend the Traffic Chief was based on fair and objective assessment of the relevant factors.

The former MEC made it clear that despite being aware of criminal complaint, no remedial action was taken against the official since there was no legal basis to do so without following due processes, as the official has not been charged in a disciplinary hearing, according to the Minister. Eight months after the complaint was submitted, the internal investigation has been finalised and the report is readily available, but the HOD is sitting on it.

Therefore the MEC must tell us why is the HOD sitting on the report and not acting. What is taking so long to conclude this matter? When will this matter be finalised? We would like to know who conducted the investigation? Was it an independent investigator or official from the Department? We know the DA in the Provincial Government is very quick to call on others where it is not governing, to be fired or suspended

pending outcomes of investigations.

In this case we have got an exact case where a person has been charged criminally, yet in the Western Cape the Government continues to hide behind legislation to protect those who are accused of this alleged crime. We hope that the MEC will do the right thing and the honourable thing by acting immediately and suspending the Traffic Chief. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mvimbi. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Van der Westhuizen. It is now your turn to address the House.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is clear from hon member Mvimbi's response that he wants MEC Mitchell to intervene in the administration, †en sonder dat hy die geleentheid gehad het om na beide partye te luister of die risiko's en dienslewingskwessies te oorweeg, het hy – en as ek sosiale media mag glo – die Leier van die Opposisie, klaar besluit dat die persoon onder bespreking geskors moet word.

Hierdie inmenging in die administrasie deur Ministers en lede van die Uitvoerende Gesag is presies wat ons dag na dag by die Zondo Kommissie sien

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[and without him having had the opportunity to listen to both parties or considering the risks and service delivery issues, he, – and if I may believe social media – the Leader of the Opposition, has already decided that the person under discussion should be suspended.

This interference in the administration by Ministers and members of the Executive Authority is precisely what we see day after day at the Zondo Commission.]

The SPEAKER: [Inaudible] thank you, hon members. I just want to take a point of order. Will you please take your seat, hon member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Ja, I do not know – I am trying to understand what hon member Van der Westhuizen is ...[Interjections.

The SPEAKER: Ja, thank you.

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... by listening here, I am struggling.

The SPEAKER: I will help you now. Hon members, it is a matter of the translation services. I just want to help the hon member. We have two – if you could switch off your microphone then you will hear me clearly. We

have two areas where you can access isiXhosa. Today I have got two of those areas. One is number 6, and the other one is number 2.

So it is a rare occasion that we have got two, so that you have a speedy catch-up in case there is a challenge. I will wait for the hon member to get into that, and that is for the members who are in the House.

Thank you, hon member Mvimbi. Hon member Van der Westhuizen, you may proceed, sir.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Agb Speaker, hierdie inmenging in die administrasie deur Ministers en lede van die Uitvoerende Gesag van die Nasionale Vergadering is presies wat ons dag na dag by die Zondo Kommissie sien, maar dit is duidelik ANC-lede wil nie leer nie. Selfs nie as hulle met die verdoemende getuienis by die Zondo Kommissie gekonfronteer word nie.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this interference in the administration by Ministers and members of the Executive Authority of the National Council is precisely what we see day after day at the Zondo Commission, but it is clear ANC members do not want to learn. Not even if they are confronted by damning evidence at the Zondo Commission.]

Hon Speaker, our questions by our colleagues in the National Assembly revealed that many senior staff in National Government have been suspended for months and months, and sometimes years, at full pay. Many of the disciplinary hearings are also botched by procedural mistakes.

Do you believe that any interference by yourself or of National Ministers in disciplinary issues, hon Minister Mitchell, would be contributing to the serious delays in the finalisation and the effective use of disciplinaries in the public service? I believe this kind of interference leads to low staff morale. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen. Hon member, I am sure we all know by now that since September last year we have had the translation services on virtually, which is for the members who are at home or in the offices, and also for the members here who are in the House.

If you go to the settings, you will see there, there is Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa. So if you need help you may contact the ICT Unit, they will gladly assist you. I just want to do that for the purposes of the members who are not here with us in the Chamber.

Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen. I now recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker, and, hon Speaker, thank you to the MEC for setting out the conditions upon which precautionary suspension should take place.

I think it is very clear from the two conditions that both have been met in the circumstances, and although the MEC cannot suspend the Chief Director, he certainly should be engaging with the Head of Department about why that has not happened.

The former MEC for Transport and Public Works, Madikizela, told this Parliament, and I quote him:

“Let us start by getting our House in order as Government by protecting victims in our spaces. We have a disturbing culture of sex for jobs, sex for tenders, sex for marks.”

Yet what the MEC said and what his Department was doing are two separate worlds. MEC Mitchell must demonstrate that this Government and the DA know that gender-based violence is not a political plaything. It demands more from public representatives than flowery speeches and empty promises.

The unfolding situation in his Department is a betrayal of women’s constitutional rights to safety and dignity. If this Government has the integrity it claims, then MEC Mitchell will take action and we will see the

alleged perpetrator immediately placed on precautionary suspension, pending the conclusion of the criminal prosecution.

The HOD has allegedly been sitting on the outcome of an internal investigation for two months. Why is that? Can the MEC tell us whether the outcome of the investigation requires a disciplinary process, and if so, why it has not been done?

Instead, what we are seeing is a senior Western Cape official on trial in the Cape Town Regional Court for sexually assaulting a subordinate, remains at his desk, in control of the witnesses in the case, while his Department closes ranks to protect him and continues to victimise the woman.

We met the woman and her husband at my office. The husband had been working in the United Arab Emirates at the time of the assault. He shared the intense emotional impact of the event on their lives, and the anger at the unfairness of the situation they are in.

This is an aggravated case of GBV, aggravated by our own Government.

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

Mr B N HERRON: The former DA Provincial Leader and MEC told this Parliament if we do not act when it matters, it is cold comfort

[Interjections.] for the victims and families. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron, your time is up. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. It is actually a very sad day in the history of his Provincial Parliament where we are actually seeing that a victim is actually not protected, but instead a lot of explanations are given to actually defend a perpetrator. This is actually a sad day.

Hon Speaker, gender-based violence and femicide has been accepted as the second pandemic in the country. The City of Cape Town is home to eight of the top 10 gender-based violence hotspots in the country. This should highlight the seriousness of gender-based violence scourge in the province. The fact that no action has been taken against Mr Payne and other senior officials facing alleged sexual assault cases, show a [inaudible] and [inaudible] regime, that protects the perpetrators and fails the victim, and this is actually a clear-cut case of where we have actually failed the victim and we are actually doing everything in our power to protect the perpetrator.

It makes all of us as members of this Legislature accomplice to this alleged crime, as if we are actually not serious about the plight of victim of gender-based violence, femicide and other sexual offences.



This case has been ongoing for over eight months, eight months. The criminal case has been postponed four times. That means that the perpetrator has been to court four times and we are aware of this thing, and there is a case and there is also even a case number, and we do not know what has stalled the internal investigation.

We want the MEC to tell us whether he will speed up the internal investigation and suspend Mr Payne pending the outcome of the investigation. We must not hide behind the technicalities of the right of the perpetrator. The perpetrator on this matter, I do not think he has actually got a right. We should be protecting the victim.

We also want to bring to the attention of the MEC the alleged misconduct by the Deputy Director General, who wrote a letter to the investigating officer handling the criminal case on 23 October 2020, informing him about his decision to move the victim to a different directorate, without her knowledge and consent.

Now in this case the victim is actually being moved, but the perpetrator is left, there is actually no mention at all about the perpetrator on this instance.

It is clear therefore, hon Speaker, that Mr Payne is not working alone, he is in cahoots with other senior managers who are predominantly male, who are tirelessly working to weaken the case and to frustrate the victim.

We therefore would like the MEC to tell us what he is going to do, how is going to deal with this matter, what is he going to do with the senior officials [Interjections.] in the Department that have tried to influence the outcome of the case. We call on the MEC ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... to provide the victim with more psychological support services. We would like to see ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... more support being shown to the victim.

The SPEAKER: Your time is up, thank you.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Lastly, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, let me from the offset start off with gender-based violence, and I want to make it clear, or state categorically that the Department of Transport and Public Works is fully supportive of

responding to and supporting victims of GBV.

The Department has assisted in making six properties available through the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure across the Western Cape for the Department of Social Development to create shelters for victims of GBV.

In addition, hon Speaker, the Department is now also investigating how we can allocate bursaries from the bursary programme to support victims of GBV along with other opportunities that exist in the Department. So this notion of the Department not caring for GBV victims is absolutely not true.

Hon Speaker, then with regard to the input made by hon member Van der Westhuizen. Hon Speaker, I think you would agree that in the absence of the details of the cases that hon member Van der Westhuizen is referring to, that it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the situation in general, or on an individual case.

However, I want to confirm at an executive level interference in any disciplinary matter for which the Executive Member is not the defined authority, will undoubtedly open the door to extend legal challenges on the part of the employee. Equally procedural correctness is of absolute importance.

Hon Speaker, then I want to respond to the process. So, hon Speaker, I have been informed that an initial report was submitted to the Head of Department, in which the Head of Department had consulted CSC, which is an independent investigator investigating that independent to the Department, that – and CSC is located in the Department of the Premier. She had additional questions on the initial report.

The second report has now been submitted to the HOD and she is applying her mind to the report as received, and as illustrated in my initial input, the authority to suspend vests with the HOD.

Hon Speaker, then there was an input that the complainant has not been receiving support from the Department, but I want to put on record, hon Speaker, that the complainant has been informed that the matter has been dealt with fairly, objectively and within the legal prescripts.

Hon Speaker, I want the hon members to also take note that the Department of Transport and Public Works has a duty of care to both the employees and given that both are employees of the organisation. The Department will, however, ensure that this matter is dealt with ethically, fairly and within the rule of law. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes this particular interpellation.

[Debate concluded.]

We now move to the next interpellation which is by hon member Makamba-Botya to the Minister of Economic Opportunities, Tourism and Finance, and that is the hon Minister Maynier. I recognise the hon Minister.

*ECD centres: special needs children*

**2. Mr G Bosman asked the Minister of Social Development:**

With regard to ECD centres and their accessibility to special needs children:

(a) How many ECD centres that cater for special needs does her Department support and (b) in what ways can the spheres of government responsible for Social Development mitigate ECD funding challenges?

[Interpellation 2 withdrawn.]

*Tourism industry: current state of*

**3. Ms N Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:**

(a) What is the current state of the tourism industry in the province and

(b) what steps has his Department taken to lead the industry to a recovery path that will yield economic growth and employment opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker, and I will be keeping my camera off, given my earlier challenges with connectivity.

Hon Speaker, there is no doubt of course that the tourism industry has been one of the hardest hit sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape, and as a major job creator, this has of course had a devastating effect on employment in our economy.

We have from day one of course been committed to economic recovery, ensuring that where it was safe to do so, the tourism sector was able to open and keep operating.

Since then we, of course, have seen a glimmer of hope with an increase in domestic travel, especially to small towns over the past two months, and with the Easter Weekend and other public holidays.

We have, since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, led from the front and worked hard to support businesses to open safely and of course responsibly, so that we can save jobs and save the economy in the Western Cape.

Most tourism businesses of course have been able to tap into our support, but let me provide you with some examples. We have of course held continuous engagements with the tourism industry stakeholders to try to coordinate our efforts and to provide leadership. We have worked with the industry to ensure destination readiness and the implementation of the necessary health guidelines to stop COVID-19, and we have engaged in a number of campaigns with, in relation to work-safe place, workplace safety.

We have launched, for example, a safe travels website to help domestic and international tourists to navigate restrictions on travel and be informed about the important health and safety protocols that apply in the Western Cape, and for our efforts we have been awarded the World Travel and Tourism Council Safety Stamp.

We have worked hard, for example, with stakeholders across Government to put in place the necessary screening, so the George Airport, if you recall, could open, and of course we have supported the sector to access available funding by driving awareness of the funds that were available through our networks and assisting applicants who needed it. For example, to ensure our tour guides to access relief funding that National Government had made available, we collected and verified the contact details of our tour guides across the Western Cape and submitted those details of about 5,000 tourist guides to the Department of Tourism for funding relief.

We know, of course, the tourism will bounce back, but it will take place at different stages depending on travel bans and changes to consumer behaviour, and the progress of the vaccine rollout in the Western Cape, but there has been a glimmer of hope and an upswing in domestic travel that has had a positive impact on the economy, and of course we will be ready to welcome back our international visitors when they are able to travel, so that we can rebuild our economy and save jobs in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you hon Speaker. When it comes to the issue of leading the provincial tourism industry to an economy recovery it will take more than just engagement with key tourism stakeholders and the hosting of the leadership seminars in boardrooms.

What is needed is real action that will generate money within the industry, and also create more job opportunities for poor people. It is not enough for the Department to stand here and speak of plans which never come to fruition with, for the Department to mention of small gains here, there from time-to-time.

Before a major setback comes into the fore once more, it is the duty of this Department together with its entity, Wesgro, to make sure that the



province attracts investors with the purpose of growing our tourism industry for the benefit of the province as a whole, but more particularly the poor who will benefit through job opportunities provided by the industry.

The negative effects that COVID-19 pandemic had on the industry following the 2020 hard lockdown are very much visible to this day. The majority of people on the ground who relied on the industry for income, be it on the basis of employment or small business opportunities, have not recovered yet as others who were retrenched due to shrinking income and business opportunities, and other who just went out of business.

Whilst relief packages were made available on paper by both the Province and National Government, the reality is that such relief packages have either been slowly processed or did not make it to the hands of those in which they were intended for. Even the programmes that were aimed at uplifting people on the ground, did not reach the intended targets due to lack of proper awareness campaigns, which mostly relied on internet when it comes to accessibility.

Now with regard to the illustrative such as [inaudible] entrepreneurs, COVID-19 support funders, Go Digital Western Cape, and the Red Tape Reduction Unit. Other than advertising these initiatives through electronic media, what other means were used by the Department in making sure that the information regarding these products reach the persons on the ground,

and more particularly informal traders, such as [Inaudible.] drivers and street vendors, hawkers selling artwork, who by large rely on the tourism industry for their income. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Makamba-Botya. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I want to ask of the Minister, in terms of the job losses in the Western Cape since COVID-19 in terms of Level 5 regulations, we have seen approximately 321,000 job losses, and even though there was 121 jobs regained within the October/December period, and we have recovered so well that we are still the lowest expanded unemployment in South Africa, but there was still a 60% drop in the peak season regarding visitors, and I just want to ask how has the Minister and the Department supported the tourism sector to pivot to the domestic tourism market, and how have they supported the product development in the tourism sector, but related to the international arrivals in the Western Cape that are quite low at approximately 19%, what has the progress been on lobbying for the remote working visa? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Baartman. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: †Enkosi Somlomo. [Thank you, Speaker]. Let me firstly agree with the Minister, that the act of balancing saving lives and

livelihoods is something all of us we should be focusing on as part of this economic recovery, but also remind him that you do not reap what you did not sow. As the third wave looms closer, we have to worry about its impact on the tourism sector and the provincial economy at large, given the impact of the first two waves on tourism and the economy, we have to ask the MEC to provide details of how much resources his Government have mobilised, and what actions have been taken to actively support the tourism industry in line with the Provincial Economic Recovery Plan.

Key to this question is to get an understanding of how the Recovery Plan will tackle the issue of the spatial structure of tourism production and consumption in the province. During the hard lockdown this Government spent millions in hotels and other big accommodation businesses at the expense of township enterprises that were completely neglected.

Tourism is amongst major economic drivers in the province, but it remains largely untransformed and continues to reproduce and widen inequalities. We want to know how the Province intends to use tourism as a tool for poverty alleviation and the Government's commitment to address the structural inequalities in the sector, and also in the provincial economy at large.

Recently the MEC and the Premier have written to the National Government to urgently introduce a remote working visa which they say will make a great contribution to the recovery of the sector and the

economy. We call on the MEC to give more details on this plan. They must expand on how it will assist the sector and how SMMEs and township enterprises will benefit from it.

The SPEAKER: [Inaudible.] your time is up.

Ms N D NKONDLO: It must also prioritise the SMMEs and the township economy. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: †Enkosi kakhulu. Ndiyabulela. [Thank you very much. I thank you.] Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we know that when it comes to tourism it plays an important role in the Western Cape economy.

What I want to know from the Minister is we know that tourism suffered badly with the first and second wave. Now a third wave is looming, and they say possibly a fourth wave.

What I want to know from the Minister is, is there any forward planning coming December and January when most of the businesses had to close down. What is the Minister looking at in December, because we know many businesses could not function, and many businesses could not recover.

Is there any forward-planning when it comes to the festive season where the tourism must boom, and some businesses did not recover and will be affected again. So, did the Minister and his Department think forward to how efforts are going to impact the beaches and those type of things, is there any forward-thinking in that regard? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members I now recognise the Hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: †Enkosi Somlomo. [Thank you, Speaker]. Last week, when replying to Questions for Oral Reply, the Minister touched on the issue of the tourism industry and mentioned that the Department distributed R5 million through the Tourism Product Development Fund to support new or existing tourism products and experiences in order to save jobs in the Western Cape. Further that the Department supported the tourism sector to access available funding by driving awareness of the available funds through new networks and assisting applicants who needed it, with the aim of ensuring that tour guides in this province could access the relief funding that National Government had made available to them and that you collected and verified the contact details of tour guides across the Western Cape and submitted the details of an estimated five thousand tour guides to the Department of Tourism for funding relief. So, my question from the statements provided above, are the following:

Number 1, how many businesses were supported from the R500 million

using the Tourism Product Development Fund, and how many jobs were saved? Secondly, after submitting the contact details of the five thousand tour guides to the National Department of Tourism for purposes of claiming relief funding on behalf of tour guides in the province, did the Department follow up to make sure that these tourist guides received such funding or the Department just submitted the contact details and never made any follow-up on the matter, either with the tour guides themselves or the National Department? I thank you †Somlomo. [Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: †Enkosi. [Thank you.] Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Looking forward, our approach will of course be to ensure that the economy including the tourism sector remains open for as long as possible because our general approach is of course to keep the economy open, to do so responsibly in the Western Cape and we are going to mobilise all the resources of Government to support the economy and to support the tourism sector in the Western Cape.

Member Makamba-Botya talks about real action, well let us look at some examples of real action. The Department has implemented a number of measures to assist the industry to pivot to the domestic tourism markets. Last year we kicked off a ‘One Day’ campaign to support the tourism industry in the Western Cape. It was an award-winning campaign where we

showcased the beautiful attractions in our province to keep our province front of mind amongst tourists in the Western Cape.

We then followed that up with the 'We Are Open' domestic tourism campaign to urge South Africans to take advantage and explore the beauty and the diversity of our many affordable world class attractions in Cape Town and in the Western Cape and combined that with a further 'Kids Stay Free' campaign. Those campaigns I think began to show results. The first burst of the 'Kids Stay Free' campaign saw I think impressive results with 21 000 flight bookings and 2 780 accommodation bookings made via the campaign site. The second burst which was over the Easter weekend, 6 860 flight bookings and 525 accommodation bookings via the campaign website.

The hon member talks about real action. Let us consider the Tourism Product Development Fund which was mentioned. This is a fund, of course that was designed to support new or existing tourism products and experiences, especially in our rural and coastal towns across the Western Cape because it is important to develop new tourism experiences that differentiate the Western Cape. The Tourism Product Development Fund supported a number of businesses and ultimately saved 300 jobs in the Western Cape.

It would be remiss of me not to pick up on the whole question of the remote work visa. To the credit of Wesgro, they have launched a campaign

for a remote working visa and as was mentioned we have been in contact with National Government to discuss implementing the remote work visa and this week in fact we launched a dedicated portal that promotes a range of accommodation establishments and services across multiple locations to guide those looking for longer stay options in the Western Cape which simply makes business sense. Not only will it attract a significant number of long-term financially independent travellers to South Africa during this period of economic uncertainty, and in the long-term remote workers are also likely to invite their family and friends to visit in the future.

Then let us look at the Tourism Relief Fund. We in fact supported potential beneficiaries to access the Tourism Relief Fund and ultimately 967 applications were approved with a payout of about R48.3 million in the Western Cape.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you ...

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:  
Equally the question of tourism guides was raised. We again supported ...  
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: ...  
2 039 tourist guides to access relief funding from National Government



here in the Western Cape. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon Minister. That brings us to the end of Interpellations. We will now deal with Questions as printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon Minister Bredell.

[Debate concluded.]

## QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

### *Theewaterskloof Municipal Manager*

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

Whether he has received correspondence objecting to the appointment of the Theewaterskloof municipal manager due to the lack of the required quorum; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and because of connectivity I am also going to keep my camera off. Thank you to the hon Marran for the question. The information that I have received, yes, correspondence was received in which complainants disputed the appointment of the current municipal manager in Theewaterskloof Municipality on the

basis that there was no quorum at the time when voting took place and that only 13 councillors of the Democratic Alliance were present at voting but voted in favour of the appointment.

As required by Regulation 17 of the Regulations on Appointment and Conditions of Employment of Senior Managers, the municipality had submitted a report on the requirements and selection process in respect of a municipal manager to my office. In the developing response to the complainants the aforementioned report, as well as the requirements of the applicable legal framework were considered.

There are 27 councillors elected to the Theewaterskloof Municipal Council, in terms of Section 31 of the Municipal Structures Act, Act 117 of 98. The Act states that at least 14 councillors, being the majority of the Council, must be present before a vote may be taken on any matter. Minutes of the virtual in-committee Council meeting held on 30 March 2021 reflects those 23 councillors were present at the commencement of the meeting but that two councillors were not present when the decision on the appointment of the municipal manager was taken.

The quorum requirement of 14 was therefore met as 21 councillors were present when the decision was taken. In terms of Section 33 of the Act, at least 11 being the majority of the 21 councillors participating in the vote would have to vote in favour of the resolution for such resolution to be validly adopted. The majority requirement was therefore met as 13

councillors voted in favour of the appointment of the recommended candidate.

I have in correspondence dated 17 May and 1 June 2021, respectively, advised the complainants that based on the information that I received, I am of the view that the basis for the dispute is therefore unwarranted. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Marran, I know you posed the question. Hon Marran would you like to do a follow-up? Last chance?

An HON MEMBER: I think he has connectivity problems.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, I am going to then – he will have to put his hand up if he would like to speak. Hon Dugmore, you have put your hand up, so you are next.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Arising from the MEC's response I would like to ask, as a composite question follow-up, how many councillors were in support of the MEC's appointment, how many voted against and how many abstained? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Unfortunately, I do not know of an MEC that was appointed. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise hon America.

†Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Minister, ek is nou 'n bietjie verward in die konteks van hierdie vrae. Kan u dalk met my deel of dit dieselfde ANC is wat u aangekla het by die Openbare Beskermer vir u inmenging by munisipale aanstellings? Kan u net so 'n bietjie duidelikheid gee vir my asseblief?

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[Minister, I am a bit confused now in the context of these questions. Can you just share with me whether it was the same ANC that indicted you with the Public Prosecutor for your intervention with municipal appointments? Can you just give me some clarity, please?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. †Agbare Minister? [Hon Minister?]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Baie dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*, baie dankie aan die agb lid America. Ja, dit was dieselfde ANC-party wat beweer het dat daar ingemeng is as ons vrae vra. Ek is van mening dat ons moet

duidelikheid hê oor die wetgewende raamwerk waarin ons opereer. As MEC het ek 'n verantwoordelikheid om aanstellings na te gaan en kyk of hulle binne die wetgewende raamwerk voldoen en dit is waarmee ons werk. Die inligting wat ek gekry het, agb lid America, was ek tevrede mee dat daar 'n kworum was en dat 13 van die lede ten gunste gestem het van die aanstelling, en indien 'n kandidaat ongelukkig is, 'n probleem het, het hulle 'n *remedy*, en dit is dat hulle kan hof toe gaan. Hulle kan vra deur die PAIA-wetgewing vir die inligting en dan moet hulle die hof nader. Dankie.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you to hon member America. Yes, it was the same ANC party that alleged that there was interference when we ask questions. I am of the opinion that we should have clarity on the legislative framework in which we operate. As MEC I have a responsibility to check appointments and see if they adhere to the legislative framework and that is what we work with. The information I received, hon member America, I was satisfied with that there had been a quorum and that 13 of the members voted in favour of the appointment, and if a candidate is unhappy, has a problem, they have a remedy, and that is that they can go to court. They can ask for the information through the PAIA legislation and then they must approach the court. Thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie Minister.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.] Hon Dugmore, final person to speak on this matter.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Just as a follow-up question, I want to ask whether in terms of the MEC's investigation into this matter, whether the Chairperson or Speaker of that particular meeting checked exactly on the quorum – because this was a virtual meeting – before the actual vote was taken in regard to the appointment of the MM. I am not referring to the quorum at the beginning of the meeting, I am referring to the obligation and the practice of the Speaker in a virtual meeting checking that the required quorum was present at that moment in the Council meeting? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, with all due respect, we are running in circles. I have explained the whole process, 27 councillors, 23 were present, two dropped off. In other words, a quorum will be 12. There were 13 people or 11. There were 13 people voting in favour of that, and that is it. That is the information we received, that is the information when we followed the trail, that is the information that the Department has got. If anybody has got any other information, they must provide it to us. Where I am sitting, the appointment was accepted by the majority of the councillors and that was my role, and I am satisfied that the

process happened within the framework of the law. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Sorry you are absolutely right, hon Dugmore, this is the final bite of the cherry.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, your honour. I just thought we were stuck on three ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... but we are on four.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no hon Marran did not take his ...[Interjection.]

Mr D AMERICA: I do have my hand up Speaker, and I have not been recognised as the fourth person to ask a question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright, sorry my apologies. Then your hand was up before hon Dugmore's. I thought that was an old hand. Hon America, you may take it. Sorry, hon Dugmore his hand was up.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. †Minister, ek wil net vir u vra, in die ANC-beheerde rade in die Wes-Kaap, word daar aan u verslag gedoen as daar enige aanstellings gemaak word in so 'n verband? [Minister, I

just want to ask you, in the ANC controlled councils in the Western Cape, do they report to you when any appointments are made in such regard?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, what is your point of order, hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Deputy Speaker, my point of order is that the hon member America ... †hy begin nou om 'n nuwe vraag te vra, dit het niks te doen met die spesifieke vraag van agb Marran oor TWK (Theewaterskloof). Hy praat nou oor ander rade en dit is definitief nie 'n vraag wat verband hou met die oorspronklike vraag nie. [he now starts to ask a new question, it has nothing to do with the specific question of hon member Marran about TWK (Theewaterskloof). He now talks about other councils and it is definitely not a question that is related to the original question.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. Hon America, please make sure that the question you are posing is related to the question otherwise I will have to rule. Thank you very much.

†Mnr D AMERICA: Goed so, *Deputy Speaker*. Die vraag gaan oor aanstellings en verslagdoening daaromtrent, *Deputy Speaker*, so in die konteks daarvan [onhoorbaar – tussenwerpsel.] die Minister of [onhoorbaar – tussenwerpsel.] nader waar daar ander beheer is of hulle verslag doen oor aanstellings.



*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[Mr D AMERICA: That's alright, Deputy Speaker. The question is about appointments and reporting on it, Deputy Speaker, so in the context of that [inaudible – interjection.] the Minister or [inaudible – interjection.] approach where there are others in charge whether they report on appointments.]

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker, on a point of order. Speaker, on a point of order.

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Kan jy net 'n bietjie wag.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you just wait a bit.] Hon member if you can just take your seat. Who is calling, is it hon Kama?

Mr P MARRAN: No, it is hon Marran.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, what is your point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Speaker, the question relates to Theewaterskloof, it is not a general question, it relates to Theewaterskloof and the question that the hon America asks is a general question, it relates to all other appointments. The question was direct, it refers to Theewaterskloof and his question should be based on that particular question that has been asked by myself. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marran and it is a pity that you did lose your opportunity to speak earlier because you were not unfortunately available.

Mr P MARRAN: [Inaudible.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon America, please can you finish your question so that I can hear. Please can you give the opportunity for hon America to finish his question before interrupting. Thank you.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I am of the view that it is not for the hon member to question the substance of the question, it is for the Minister to respond and to direct whether it is applicable or not. Thank you.

Mr P MARRAN: You cannot ask a new question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, is that you again?

Mr M KAMA: Member Kama, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Kama, what is your point of order?

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Actually, I raised my hand earlier even before member America asked the question as I wanted to get clarity from you Speaker, because an indication was given earlier when

member Marran could not raise his hand that he might have met with challenges and later on he then came in even before the fourth hand was taken, and he had raised his hand and earlier the Speaker had ruled. I think Minister Maynier had network challenges and we said because of those we are allowed a space when people have fixed their network to get that opportunity, and I feel member Marran had been back even before where they exhausted the questions and should have been given the opportunity rather than us giving member America another opportunity when the question was from member Marran. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, thank you Speaker. Again, on a point of order, my understanding was that hon Marran had connection problems but when he came in, he raised a point of order, that was a point of order, it was not a follow-up question. I would like to ask you as Speaker, to rule that the last question by hon America was not a question in the sense that it was not a follow-up question, therefore there is one more question left and I would like to ask you Deputy Speaker, to allow hon Marran who is now back in the House to ask the final follow-up question. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, if I can just be clear. I rely on Table staff. I have not been told by my Table staff that the way I have seen the questions being asked – remember it is a little hand and I watch from the

computer screen – so I believe that what I have done is correct. I would like to suggest that the Minister can decide if that is a new question. So, if in the case of a debate it is understandable for you to have connectivity problems but do remember that the onus is still on the members to have connectivity and that is part of the reading and the Rules prior to the sitting taking place. This is first come, first served. Only the person who posed the question gets the opportunity straight away. So, I cannot then decide after the fact that hon Marran can come in and I have to move another member, whose hand has been up, out of the way.

So, I am going to disregard that unfortunately. Please hon members, if you have posed the question, I will give you that opportunity, you can put your hand up on the screen and you do not have to shout out. I have Table staff who are watching that very carefully. I will stay with the ruling that I have made. We are moving on now to the Minister to be able to answer the final question.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Personally, I think that appointment is crucial, and we need to get it right. I think it is all political parties' responsibility to see to it that where they are in government that they appoint the best people for the job. We owe it to the citizens of this country. It is funny how jittery the ANC is on the question that was posed by hon America, and we do struggle in a lot of our municipalities to get the right information and our roles are to see to it.

I cannot appoint on behalf of a municipality. I do not make appointments. I have as an MEC a role to play and to fulfil within the legal framework. So, we check that there are quorums, we check that when they do the interviews, they have the right members on the panel etc., and if it is within that frame then my job is done and if any of the candidates feel that they were treated unfairly, they do have a remedy and that remedy will be the court. But I do want to ask all political parties to really take appointments and the employment of people, of staff, very seriously because it is the only way we can get rid of corruption. It is the only way we can service our people. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That brings us to the end of Question 1. We move over to Question 2. Hon Kama, please be on standby. I now recognise hon Minister Fritz.

*Door-to-door vaccine campaign*

**2. Mr M Kama asked the Minister of Community Safety:**

With regard to his call for councillors to join the Neighbourhood Watches and Community Policing Forums in a door-to-door campaign to encourage eligible people to register for the COVID-19 vaccine:

Whether this is within the mandate of community crime-fighting

structures; if so, (a) what are the relevant details and (b) which areas were targeted during the door-to-door campaign?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I cannot switch on my – I am in a very rural area, so I do not have camera facilities. If I must just start with the first part of the honourable member's question and I just want to preface this answer by saying I am so happy to hear that hon Windvogel agrees with the way that we dealt with Covid and asking people to get out, to go and register using every means possible. It seems as if the hon member has a big problem with the approach of asking Neighbourhood Watches to go and assist in registering older persons in their communities that are not able to register themselves but where they can play the role.

I just want to start by saying hon Deputy Speaker, against the background of the Covid-19 interventions in hotspot areas as identified by Cabinet, the Department partnered with Neighbourhood Watches and all their structures to slow the transmission and reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. As such, the Department partnered with 43 Neighbourhood Watch structures, in other words 43 areas. With regards to the ongoing campaign against Covid-19 and the impending third wave, we want to avoid the third wave in this province, and it requires a whole of society approach wherein all sections of society must play their part in defeating this virus. This is indeed an evil virus.

The call made to Neighbourhood Watches and Community Police Forums

must therefore be understood in that specific context. Furthermore, it was a request that Neighbourhood Watches voluntarily participate in the door-to-door vaccination advocacy in their communities and the whole of society approach includes Neighbourhood Watch structures, CPFs, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, religious organisations, all of them. We have made a general call, like the hon Windvogel was supporting, impacting on a community and in the community footprint.

It is only by aligning and coordinating responses to this scourge of the virus that we can hope to defeat it and so I was amazed when the hon Dugmore also said that our whole approach and our system was a failure. I think he lives in a different world but here in the Western Cape, we know exactly what goes on. I just had my jab today, so I am on a high, still suffering from the consequences of the jab as I speak. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. We are very happy to hear that you are fine. Hon Kama, that is your question so would you like to pose a further question before I ... [Interjection.]

Mr M KAMA: Yes, thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you.

Mr M KAMA: Yes, thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, crime is also an issue that we need to deal with in the province hence the birth of

the Western Cape Safety Plan. Now I want to understand from the Minister, because Neighbourhood Watches and all other structures are the main community safety structures that are managed by the Department in our quest to fight crime. Now I want to get an understanding, what work is being done towards this to help reduce the murder rate in the next ten years? What work is impacted by us continuously taking these structures, like your Neighbourhood Watches, because we believe that there are activities that they are supposed to run, what is this partnership that we have in terms of the day-to-day activities of the Neighbourhood Watches to ensure that we protect our communities and realise this goal of this Safety Plan? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks, hon member. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Kama for that question. I think it is a very good question and I will be able to put that in context. Let me just explain it, perhaps slower, hon Kama. You know, Neighbourhood Watches are the first responders in a particular neighbourhood. They are the first people marching up and down the street. All we are saying is, as you are marching up and down the street to protect that street from people breaking in or from those characters who are always out to commit crime, when you see the lady of 61, while you are busy walking down the road – we are not saying you must go out of your way – we say while you are patrolling, when you see a woman of 61 or 60, ask the woman whether she is already registered for the vaccine, explain to her that she can get registered on your



phone. We will in fact give them data, that same data is used to report crime. Let them use the data to register people.

All we are saying is get this approach of a far bigger, a far whole of society approach, a far bigger approach than walking like little †bliksoldaatjies [tin soldiers] and just going to arrest people but to actually do crime prevention work, health work, all of it in one and that is the basic point we are making, hon Kama.

We have also asked, and I think you seem to forget that during the hard-core Covid period, when your Minister was running on the beach arresting people, our Neighbourhood Watches were working in all those hotspots to assist in queues, in managing queues for Covid. Did you forget that hon member? They were managing social distancing; they were doing all of that and in the process they also stopped crime happening while they were doing that. So, I think perhaps your thinking should be far more contextual my dear intellectual honourable member.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Fritz. I now move over to hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, in May 2020 the National Police Minister released a statement in which he stated that he has been visiting the provinces to assess enforcement by the security forces as well as adherence to lockdown regulations. This is in light of the

high levels of non-compliance with regard to the Covid-19 regulations and as the Minister indicated now, the National Minister even patrolled the beautiful beaches in Cape Town to monitor adherence to Covid regulations. So, through you, Deputy Speaker, whether the Minister is able to clarify the all-encompassing nature of safety responses and how it is implemented in relation to the Western Cape Government's whole of society approach? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you to the hon Reagan Allen for that question. Again, I think a very, very good question because this is exactly the point. Hon Kama now has an issue with us asking people to do something constructive, to get people to register for the vaccine. That Minister ran on the beaches like a madman. He ran up and down on Muizenberg beach, then Sea Point beach, everywhere. When he saw someone on the beach, he went ballistic. Then he went to Langebaan, the same thing. We are saying hello, get off the beaches, assist in areas where – we saw during the heart of Covid how people did not adhere to the basic requirements of Covid regulations, and I am talking about shebeening and how shebeens operated and we had to go and close them unfortunately.

But the point we are making, it is the religious society, it is the Khayelitsha Development Forum that we work with, all those civil society organisations

and that is how we will win this battle. What the hon Kama forgets is that it is because of the hotspot programme that Khayelitsha did not feature in the second wave, and we are not claiming – and I want to emphasise that the Department of Community Safety is not claiming the credit for that, but I promise we contributed hugely to that because they were all shocked, all the scientists were shocked.

The point we are making, it is the exact point that the hon Reagan raised of the whole of society, everyone. The hon Speaker of this House sat on a Sunday evening meeting with us until ten o' clock at night. That meeting started at six and it finished at ten and it is that sacrifice, it is that involvement of everyone, all civil society formations that had the effect that the second wave could not feature in Khayelitsha. So, hon Kama, with respect my friend, let us get real and let us not have critical questions that are absurd. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. Hon Kama, is that your second opportunity you are taking up?

Mr M KAMA: Yes, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker and thanks for the answers so far. I really wonder, Deputy Speaker, if the Minister could start

answering the questions rather than analysing them.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I said in the first follow-up, if you talk about the Western Cape's Safety Plan, the first thing that you are told about in that plan, and in terms of your community structures, are your Neighbourhood Watches and now the question is what work – because we are asking now about the relationship that the Department has because it is different now to what it has been compared to - Neighbourhood Watches are not meant to go to people's homes and ask them to go and vaccinate, as important as that is, because we have a plan that we are investing in as a government which is to halve the murder rate in the next ten years. Now I am asking what relationship, what are the daily activities that they are supposed to do because they complain about the extra activities that they have to do but do not have adequate support from the Department? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Allen is that a new hand or is that an old hand?

Mr R I ALLEN: Deputy Speaker, I am just checking if there is another opportunity, but I believe ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, there is one more. You and hon Kama have each had a chance and had another chance and this is the final bite. You may take it.

Mr R I ALLEN: Will I first ask before the Minister answers that one?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: May I answer, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Inaudible.] Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Kama, I think the point we are making, and I do not know whether you have heard about the area-based teams within the Community Safety Plan? I am not sure if you have heard of the area-based teams because the area-based teams and the whole area-based approach is premised, hon Kama, on Neighbourhood Watches. As you said, the primary responsibility and mandate is to – and if we say fight crime, they do not even have a torch – we are supplying them with torches and we are supplying them jackets and bibs. So, they do not fight crime, they try and prevent crime and try to restrain until the police arrive.

The Neighbourhood Watches have become far more professional and forward-thinking than the way you guys were thinking of Bambanani in the 1980s, with those Bambanani standing at the school gate washing the principal's car. Our Neighbourhood Watches are also for instance running youth camps, they are doing far more ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You are misinformed, it was not in the 80's.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes ...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Chief Whip, can you please restrain from commenting while I am talking. These guys are far more professional and progressive and forward-thinking, future-thinking. You are still in the – sorry not the 80's, 1950's. [Interjection.]. It is just a few who probably come and complain to you because they are not forward-thinking like the others. What we will do is we will work with all Neighbourhood Watches, even those who are complaining to you, we will go and work with them and convince them. As I said, their primary job is not to register, we are just asking them, while they are busy combatting crime, register those people in the communities older than 60 because we want to win the war on Covid and on crime. Imagine having people not only dead from crime but dying of Covid. Please sir, see things a bit more rationally.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, one minute. Point of order, hon Dugmore what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I wonder if you could rule on this matter. I sometimes find that when hon Fritz gets excited and the levels of his voice rise, it is actually impossible to hear him because he appears to be shouting or sort of squealing and it is very difficult to understand him.

[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, that is ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICAL OPPOSITION: I wonder if you could appeal to him ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, hon Dugmore that is not a point of order. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Dugmore, you are so frustrated. Thank you. I just feel sorry for hon Dugmore. He is so irrelevant he does not know what to ask anymore. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Allen has the last opportunity. Over to you, hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. I just need a yes or a no answer from the Minister. In terms of the initial question, I feel that what the Minister has answered is noble and that councillors and Neighbourhood Watches are able to play an active role to help and assist during this possible third wave that we are approaching. Will the Minister basically continue to advocate for that and continue to encourage Neighbourhood Watches and Community Policing Forums to play a role in order to curb the spread of Covid-19? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Yes sir, in order to stop people dying of Covid. The ANC do not care about people dying ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes or no. You must answer only yes or no.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... that is the problem. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: It is a big, big, resounding yes and to get the ANC to understand, to assist in stopping people dying like they are doing in the other parts of the country. The rest of the country is a joke. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. That brings us to the end of Question 2. We are moving over to Question 3. I recognise Minister Mbombo. Hon Allen, can you just lower your hand please?

*International Nurses' Day*

**3. Ms R Windvogel asked the Minister of Health:**



(a) How did her Department commemorate International Nurses' Day in 2021 and (b) how did nurses benefit from it?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, Speaker. Deputy Speaker can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can, loud and clear.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you for the question member Windvogel. This year, due to Covid, we had to stick to Covid Safety Protocols so various localised events were held to commemorate International Nurses' Day.

For me, I attended the one that was at the Western Cape College of Nursing, together with top management, which is Doctor Cloete, HOD, the DDG for Corporate Affairs and the Chief Director for Specialised Services. We have got, I think, 13 825, permanent nurses out of 32 000 plus staff members with more than 200 facilities where there is a nurse in each and every facility, which is why these facilities are able to do what they do.

The event of the Western Cape College of Nursing was virtual and also for the others, specifically the nurses' operational managers and the nursing service managers. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon Windvogel would

you like to pose another question, follow-up? Hon Windvogel? I take it that you are not there. I am going to move on, hon Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, through you, can the Minister kindly indicate what initiatives did the Department undertake to support the nurses in managing the Covid-19 pandemic? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you for the question. From the beginning, taking note that Covid was new in the context of South Africa, actually it was new in the whole world, meaning we were dealing with an unknown animal. Fears of the unknown were expected and from the beginning we started with clinical protocols so that people could understand how we manage the virus context by context; how we manage Covid in an ICU or a community plan where we manage it, for example, at the small clinics.

Also, the protocol related to PPE which was very much a hot debate and topic during that time where if you were in a health facility you would wear a moon suit type of PPE with goggles and all of that. That is when we realised that actually if you are a health worker in the primary care spaces, even in the wards, the masks and of course the aprons and all of those were essential. Also in maternity, especially when a woman is actually delivering, there is a high level of potential spread, therefore we also apply more strict rules and

in terms of PPE.

In terms of psychosocial support, in the whole of the Provincial Government, transversally, we ended up centralising and localising it throughout, not only for the staff, not only nurses, but I am also talking about general healthcare workers because it is a combination of all of those.

We also have, once every second week, virtual meetings, where we will share our own experiences and also the new evidence that has come up. They are upskilled and they get supported because the environment has not always been as normal as it could be. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Are there any further follow-up questions? I do not see any hands up. Going once, going twice. I conclude that question. I now move over to Question 4. I recognise Minister Schäfer.

*Graafwater High School*

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

What (a) procedure was followed to close the Graafwater High School, (b) was the process to convert it into a special needs school, (c) are the details of the public participation that took place and (d) are the details of the objections received against the closing the school?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and to the member Christians for the question. The procedure that was followed in the closure of the school is that which is set out in the South African Schools Act, Section 33. Certain persons objected to the school being closed at the time and repurposed into a special needs school. When their views did not prevail some of them resorted to intimidation and violence in this regard, resulting in the WCED having to obtain an interdict against them stopping this thuggish behaviour, which order was granted on an unopposed basis in February this year.

Some of the persons against whom the interdict was obtained have now approached the High Court to review my decision and to close this high school at the end of last year and the record of my decision in that regard has now been delivered to the State Attorney to be filed at Court. That record reflects the reasons that were put forward for the closure of the school at the time as well as the public consultation process that was followed prior to the decision being taken. That High Court application is however still to be determined by the Court and is hence currently sub judice. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you Minister. Hon Christians, as it is your question, any follow-up?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Yes, Deputy Speaker. Thank you, Minister for that answer. Minister, I just want to know, the community in Graafwater is still in an uproar and as you said they went to Court, and they are complaining that

their complaints and their petitions were not entertained in any way and that the Department just made a decision to do it irrespective of what the desires of the learners and the community are. The question is: with their complaints around the children now needing to go to another school and all those problems, they feel that the Department did not entertain any of them or did not accommodate or did not want to accommodate them as a decision was made and they were not important in that regard. Is that so, Minister?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much. No that is not so. All submissions that were made and comments that were included in the public participation process were and are always taken into account when I take such a decision. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise hon Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, through you, Minister, in protest against the conversion of Graafwater school, where an honourable member of this House participated, irresponsibly in my opinion, and misled the public on the need for a school of skills in the northern parts of the West Coast because we have none, can you explain why a new school was not built for learners with special needs and instead of repurposing this school, Minister, for learners with special needs?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, hon Botha, for that question. Yes, I think it is important that we realise that it was not just simply a closure of a school. It was closing the school as it currently existed to repurpose it into a different kind of school which is, as you correctly say very much needed. The repurposing into a special needs school was of course a good use of available resources and also should not be seen in isolation. It is part of the greater plan for the West Coast, involving a number of schools, which increases learning opportunities overall. Two schools were not being optimally utilised, and it is incumbent on us as Government to use all our resources optimally. By doing this we kept a high school in the wider area and also provided a much-needed special needs and school of skill in that area. It is also important to look at the needs of the special schools. We had only 71 public special schools across the entire province but only three in the West Coast education district and we thus felt that it was extremely important that we provide for this much needed school in that community. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. What I want to understand, Deputy Speaker, what I am not hearing, is if we can get a sense of what the main issues are that are being raised by this community such that they would go to this extent in terms of fighting to ensure that they get the decision of

the Minister reviewed?

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. As I said, the objections and the exact nature of those objections will form part of the Court's case so I cannot go into them in too much detail but as hon member Botha previously said there were certainly a lot of political opportunism at play in this as there are in just about every school closure in the Western Cape and I think although there were some genuine concerns, I think some people certainly exploited the concerns and did not give the full story and also gave incorrect information to certain individuals. So those all will be aired in the court case. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Christians?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Just another question and thank you to the Minister on that. Those learners that now need to travel to get to the closest public school; what are the arrangements made to get those learners to school and also to make sure that we do not lose learners in the process? Are there enough travel arrangements to accommodate these learners? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and to the member. The fact of the matter is that many learners were already travelling before the repurposing of the schools in any event. Every day we transported 156 learners from Lamberts Bay to Graafwater, so now it is just the other way around and it is far fewer. So there certainly is adequate transportation that has been arranged for learners and they all do qualify for transport in terms of our Learner Transport Policy. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. That brings us to end of Question 4, we are moving over to Question 5. I recognise hon Minister Simmers. Minister Simmers are you there? Minister Simmers? Can I just ask IT to contact him otherwise the question will fall away. Hon members, if I cannot hear Minister Simmers I am going to stand Question 5 over and start with Question 6 if I may in the interests of time. Hon Minister Mbombo, are you ready to answer Question 6 for us while we find Minister Simmers? Thank you very much.

*Department of Health: psycho-social support services*

**7. Mr R D Mackenzie to ask Dr N Mbombo, Minister of Health:**

Whether her Department provides psycho-social support services provided to staff members as part of her Department's response to COVID-19; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the relevant details, (b) when were these services first implemented and (c) have they



remained in place since they were established?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Yes, indeed. Thank you, member Mackenzie for the question. The Covid pandemic has placed the entire health system and especially our staff under immense pressure. Feelings of compassion, fatigue, burn-out, stress, insomnia, anxiety and depression have become increasingly common amongst our employees during the different waves. It is not only applicable in the Western Cape or South Africa, but throughout. Coupled with this is the fact that we have lost about 122 of our colleagues in the public sector and about 180 combined with the private sector due to Covid.

We have had a functional Employee Health and Wellness Programme for a number of years already and we were able to support staff on a range of issues taking note that initially it has always been transversal under the Department of the Premier. For the period October to December 2020, we saw 2 832 employees that accessed the Employee Health and Wellness Programme either individually or as a group.

The Department recognises the immense impact the pandemic has had on its staff and has also initiated intentional healing and grieving sessions with our frontline workers and managers because when you have a colleague who has passed on and you have all been working together in the same unit or even when you have a colleague who may not have passed on but has family who have passed on, it does have an impact on other staff

surrounding them.

Similarly, when you are working in an environment like the ICU where you find more Covid deaths compared to other wards, that does have a huge impact on the well-being of the staff. So, it was crucial that we came up with these sessions where we offer our staff the opportunity to reconnect with each other to share and to support one another through difficult times which everyone is experiencing one way or another, just talking amongst themselves, not necessarily even psychosocial which as I indicated earlier has now been localised, so that it becomes available throughout.

The Department also recognised the need for staff to rest and recuperate and inbetween the two waves and we have encouraged and guided staff to take leave so that they can spend time with family members, and this has offered them time to recover. The mental well-being of our staff has been and continues to be one of the top priorities for the Department especially when we do not know exactly how many waves we will get. When we look at what is happening in other countries, for example, the UK for the first time ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Please can you just mute. Apologies Minister, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Let me stop there, hon Deputy Speaker, I will listen to the questions.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mackenzie do you want a follow-up question?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you hon Minister. This topic is very – sometimes we forget all our staff members and 87 000 staff in this province worked day and night during this very difficult period, particularly our nurses when they have to deal with death and we forget that they are also human beings and have families, so this is a very personal topic to me. So, thank you for that Minister.

Hon Minister I just wanted to find out how is this service being received by the staff members of this province, and has it contributed to the Western Cape Government being the most efficient in dealing with the Covid crisis in the country? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: The mere fact that it is highly utilised throughout and also, we now have these health and wellness clinics throughout in the facilities, it does show that it is effective. Also, you have probably observed, especially during the high levels of Covid, there have been many protests among staff from the Department of Health in other provinces. When you compare that to our province you will find that we have not had much of that.

Of course, we might have some concerns because I do not want to portray that it is satisfactory for all the staff but what is crucial is engaging with the staff. We have better relationships with organised labour, with the unions where even some of them have representation at a higher level not only as part of the local settings or contact level, the issue of negotiations and also having conversations with staff.

As I always say, it does not cost you much to engage and go to the staff. I have been to many facilities where we will engage with the staff so that we iron out some of the things that are – sometimes you will find that the issue is not about a person who has grievances, but it is about when you do not find each other and have a conversation.

So, I want to thank Dr Cloete and also the team from HR, including Mr Kay, who have been instrumental with regard to these negotiations and also conversations and also at a national level. They ended up learning more from us on how to build relationships amongst ourselves as the Department of Health, resilience and also for being there for each other plus the occupational health interventions that are required and are imperative in the space of where we are working with the people. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Any final follow-ups? Over to you member.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, Deputy Speaker and thank you Minister for that answer. Hon Minister, I just want to get an idea from you what you think can be done to improve the services and perhaps to conclude on that, for how long do you think these services will remain in place? As you know, people will deal with a lot of death over the next few months and with PTSD, is this service going to remain in place indefinitely? I know that we are dealing with tight budgets etc. I just want to get an understanding of how long do you envisage this service staying over the next few months? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, hon member. We need to understand that Covid is no longer only a health problem. It is a socio, economic and political kind of a problem. The face of Covid, we see it as beyond – in terms of being – it can only be managed by the health system. So, when we open non-Covid services, when we are in between waves, it means that we are dealing with the people who may not be dealing at present with Covid but who will have been affected by Covid. I meet people where they say their whole family has been wiped out, only one or two or three of them are left behind. It means that these are the families that will be coming to our facilities with these kinds of psychological burdens. Our staff might not necessarily be infected as much now.

We have not seen any staff deaths thanks to the vaccinations because we

have vaccinated more than 60% of our staff, those who wanted to be vaccinated. Inasmuch as that might not have as much of an impact as staff being infected or even dying, they will be attending to clients who are fragile and also who might be wounded because of post-effects of COVID-19. It does have a huge impact. I am talking from my experience also, as a healthcare professional, although I have not practiced clinically during COVID-19, but I understand when you are being overwhelmed with people who have got many other challenges, When you get home, you feel like crying as you do not know what else you could have done to help Mama or Auntie Sarah who has got three or five kids.

So, member Mackenzie, I do not think it is about the timeframe of psychosocial support and wellbeing even though it might not be localised at the facility level because at the Department of the Premier it is transversal. It will always be there for any staff member. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am going to go back to Question 5. Hon Minister Simmers, I know that you could not quite communicate, but are you there? You definitely were there. Minister Simmers? Can you phone him on his cell phone? I am just going to give a quick second, Minister Simmers, we are just going to phone you on your phone, please, so that we could allow you to finish your question and then we will conclude. Yes, you can. Minister Simmers, can you hear us?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: [Inaudible – technical

problem.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I can. I am going to put this. Yes, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much ...[Inaudible – technical problem.] [Interjection.]

Mr M KAMA: Deputy Speaker?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, Minister.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: We cannot hear.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. Is that a point of order, hon Kama?

Mr M KAMA: Yes, we definitely cannot hear anything, Deputy Speaker, from this side.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Minister Simmers, just give me a second. Minister Simmers, can we just test the microphone again?

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: [Inaudible – technical

problem.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, can you hear us hon Christians?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: No, Deputy Speaker, I cannot hear at all.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister Simmers, unfortunately I am going to have to make a decision on this matter. I apologise because the members who posed the question cannot hear you through the cell phone. My sincere apologies. I will have to just call it a day on the questions with regards to that and outstanding replies will be printed in the Hansard. My apologies, Minister. Hon members, we move forward to Statements by Members. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

## **MEMBER STATEMENTS**

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (DA): Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (DA): Last week, the Leader of the Opposition sought to grandstand on principles of cooperative governance by saying, and I quote:

“We call on MEC Bredell, through the Speaker, to be bold and tell



the City of Cape Town where to get off.”

And yet, the member’s very own ANC colleague, Minister Barbara Creecy, refuses for her Department to cooperate with this Legislature’s Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning. When I wrote to Minister Creecy on 24 May 2021, inviting her and the Department to attend a meeting this week with the Province and CapeNature on the clearing of invasive alien vegetation, her terse and short response was:

“Should the Western Cape Legislature wishes to conduct oversight on (sic) at National Department, the correct route would be for the Province to ask their representatives in the Select Committee of the National Council of Provinces, to raise these matters.”

Is it only her Department that will no longer accept invitations from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament or has this been a Cabinet decision? Does this only apply to the Western Cape? Deputy Speaker, our invitation contained no reference to us wanting to gain oversight over another sphere of government. In terms of Section 115 of the Constitution, a provincial legislature or any of its committees may summon any person to appear before it or produce documents. This is very different from trying to use a backdoor to get answers for political witchhunts. Such questions should, in fact, be posed by legislatures at the correct sphere of government.

Deputy Speaker, I conclude: I call on the Leader of the Opposition to engage

with his colleague, Minister Barbara Creecy, and to request that she reconsiders her decision. Deputy Speaker, we should not let party politics and an upcoming local government election put our environment and cooperative governance at risk. I thank you.

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

Mr M KAMA (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the dismissal of the Provincial Head of Detectives, Major General Jeremy Vearey, has sent shockwaves throughout the nation and the province. This dismissal must be challenged. The expertise of General Vearey is needed in the fight to rid our communities of guns, gangs and extortionists that are terrorising our communities. The dismissal of a thinker, strategist and a dedicated hardworking general over a social media post, leaves a lot to be desired. We have to caution against the ...[Inaudible.] of the rules, systems and SAPS disciplinary regulations to target and silence those with contrary views. Together with General Jacobs, they headed Operation Impi which uncovered and traced thousands of illegal guns which were sold to Cape Flat gangs by bad police.

In March this year, in my capacity as ANC spokesperson on Community Safety, I wrote a letter to the President, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, and petitioned him to act on the widespread and deadly divisions within SAPS leadership. My letter was directed to the Minister of Police who was

asked to intervene. I have since written a follow-up letter to the Minister, seeking feedback on this matter as it needs his attention.

In its desire to have a provincial police force, the DA in this province has been central in widening the divisions and worked with those who criminalised and persecuted the very same General Vearey, including sometimes using fake allegations which were later thrown out of court as they were devoid of truth. These divisions, if left unattended, will further weaken SAPS' ability to fight crime.

We call on all not to participate in the perpetuation of these divisions. We must fight for a united Police Service for the safety of our province. What we need is an inter-ministerial committee of the Security and Social Cluster to fight crime in the Western Cape. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The Economic Freedom Fighters condemns the DA-led City of Cape Town Council for approving an additional R170,8 million for purposes of additional security to guard vacant land. The money which should have been used to build poor people's houses and also provide them with services, is now used to enrich white-owned companies, such as the Red Ant Security company. This move is nothing, but a sham under the false pretence of protecting the land, whilst the true aim is to protect and secure the financial interest of

white-owned security companies which will later be expected to reward the DA with financial kickbacks.

The move is also unfortunate when considering that the majority of poor people in the province remain without basic services. Not long ago, poor and unemployed residents of the [Inaudible.] informal settlement in Khayelitsha, had to contribute R10 and R20 per household in order to buy and install waterpipes, and also build their own toilets themselves, without any assistance from the City.

It is high time the poor residents of this province in informal settlements and other townships stand up and speak with one voice to remind this racist DA-led Government, that it is in the people who govern and that the power granted to this Government through a ballot can also be taken away through the same wins. This Government has forgotten its duties and thinks that the only interest they must serve are those of white people. The DA-led Western Cape must fall. Thank you.

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

Mr R I ALLEN (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Are you able to hear me, so sorry? Just to check.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can, you may proceed.

Mr R I ALLEN (DA): Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. Based on what member Kama just said, I am deeply concerned because all of these issues are undermining our safety responses here in the Western Cape and I sincerely trust that member Kama will receive such a reply from the National Minister of Police.

That brings me, Speaker, to the Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport here in the Western Cape which plays an integral part in keeping young people safe and away from risky behaviour, such as substance abuse and gangsterism. Through the role of the Safety Plan, the Department is responsible for the coordination of the youth-in-service programmes aimed at helping young people access job opportunities. Additionally, Deputy Speaker, the Department is also tasked with after-school programmes aimed at keeping school children focused on extra-curricular development and minimising dropouts.

In addition to this, Deputy Speaker, the Provincial Department recently allocated R12,9 million to sports federations across the province. This is an increased effort in promoting sport in the province, which will ultimately improve the cognitive, emotional, physical and wellbeing of our young people.

However, Deputy Speaker, in ANC-run provinces, they should be taking lessons on how to efficiently run departments. In the Northern Cape, for example, as of April 2021, not a cent had been distributed to the art sector by

that Provincial Government. Deputy Speaker, in 2019, State-owned entities under the National Department of Sports, Arts and Culture incurred R160 million in fruitless, wasteful and irregular expenditure. Some of these entities, Deputy Speaker, included the National Arts Council and the Robben Island Museum. It is clear that under the ANC rule, the South African sports and culture sectors are hamstrung by a chronic lack of funding from the National Government, coupled with mismanagement, corruption and wasteful expenditure ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr R I ALLEN (DA): ... all, Deputy Speaker, without a shred of accountability. For the ANC it is all about their pockets and not the people. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you very much, hon Allen. I now move over to GOOD.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, gender-based violence has plagued South African communities for a great part of our history. Furthermore, at the advent of lockdown, South Africa saw a great increase in this violence as femicide, domestic violence, and physical and emotional harassment soared drastically. Deputy Speaker, as much as these heinous crimes go against the foundations of our law, a greater crime is still left unattended: that is that those who commit these vile

acts are not facing the full might of our legal system.

Earlier today, we had this Government making technical arguments for sitting on its hands, while a survivor of an alleged sexual assault is violated again by her Department. Hearing the MEC tell us that the Department has assured the survivor of their objectivity and fairness, while transferring her out of her workplace and leaving the perpetrator in place, and in charge, is a bureaucratic Government doublespeak. We will soon have a Women's Day event. This Government should not come there, once again, to tell us that they stand opposed to GBV because their actions betray their words. We should also consider what has been happening in our schools. We should at least expect schools to be a safe space for children as their homes are often not.

Sadly, the Minister of Education recently advised us that across the Western Cape, 102 school-going children have been sexually harassed or violated in one way or another at school. The consequences for the perpetrators are dismissals, written warnings or disciplinary hearings. We await confirmation from the Minister that the Education Department has also acted in terms of the Child Care Act and the Sexual Offences Act. Deputy Speaker, we cannot have a legal framework, soaring gender-based violence statistics and yet, we have a government that fails to act when staff and teachers are protected by convoluted legal excuses. Thank you.

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

the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, on Tuesday 23 March 2021, morning traffic was again disrupted by a massive protest action that negatively impacted the traffic. Among the roads that were affected was the N2 freeway, the R300, Swartklip, Baden Powell Drive, Eerste River Drive, Mew Way and Hindle Road. At the N2 and Baden Powell Drive, tyres were burning which added to the disruption. It is reported that it brought traffic to a standstill through protests by local informal settlements, demanding water and temporary toilet facilities. On Wednesday 24 March 2021, major routes including the N2 again, the R300, Stellenbosch Arterial and roads within Kraaifontein were blocked off by service delivery protests.

These protests were organised by a movement called Intlungu yase Matyotyombeni which translates to Pain of the Slums. Xoliswa Tsholoba, spokesman for the movement, says that the protests are held due to a lack of service delivery: there are no toilets, water, electricity, nor waste management systems. Speaker, this cannot continue and the ACDP is asking Government to intervene as our people, instead of taking a half-hour journey to work or home, add another one-and-a-half hours or 2 hours to the journey. This cannot continue and something needs to be done. I thank you.

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



The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION (ANC): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The ANC notes once again, just how ironic it is that the DA has the word 'democratic' in their name, yet the way they govern clamps down on the democratic spaces, especially in this House and in how they govern, using international relations as not being a provincial competence as a fig leaf of not wanting to discuss the humanitarian crisis and gross violations of human rights in Palestine. This DA-run Legislature denied this House the opportunity to discuss and condemn what is happening in Palestine.

The former Premier once led a delegation promoting Halaal products on the one hand, in an attempt to boost a former MPL's chances to ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Take your seat, hon member. There is a point of order from the Chief Whip. Hon member, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. From what I can hear, the hon member is challenging a ruling of the Speaker. Is that permissible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is not, but I will just check and see in the

Hansard in terms of what Rule he has actually challenged or if he has challenged a previous Rule that was decided upon. Hon Dugmore?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Surely, it is my right to differ with a Speaker on a ruling? I am just differing; I am not challenging. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I just ask what your wording was?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I am differing. I think the courts will decide ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... whether that decision was correct.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will let that pass if you are having a difference of opinion. You may conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Just, if I can, from the Table through you, Deputy Speaker, just repeat this part?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The former Premier once led a delegation promoting Halaal products, on the one hand in an attempt to boost a former MPL's chances to ascend to the position of MJC President, while on the same trip taking bottles of wine as well. All this in an opportunistic attempt to win the support of Muslim voters, yet this House refuses to discuss the oppression and killing of Palestinians, a matter which affects all of us, Muslims and non-Muslims, as if this Provincial Government does not have relations with other countries and foreign provinces or states.

This is a classic case of the DA clamping down on freedom of speech and the freedom to debate issues of international concern. The betrayal of the right to freedom of speech must be challenged in court. Last week, the MEC for Local Government went to great lengths to defend the City and no doubt, other municipalities who will adopt the same posture of the City in denying the opportunity to be accountable and responsive. Again, the Hon Bredell hid behind the fig leaf of law while conveniently omitting to mention Section 54 of our own Provincial Constitution and Section 105 of the Systems Act. The Provincial Constitution, in particular, reads:

“The Western Cape Government must, by legislative” ...  
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:

“... or other measures”

Sorry?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:

“... provide for the monitoring and support of local government in the Western Cape.”

Thank you.

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

Mr R D MACKENZIE (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As we commemorate Child Protection Week, I would like to extend my gratitude to all the organisations, communities and stakeholders who are playing a part in the protection of wellbeing of children in the Western Cape. In particular, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Commissioner for Children, Ms Christina Nomdo, and her office. We have just concluded and celebrated her first year promoting the voices of children in the Western Cape. Their important work ensures that this Province works for our children.

However, Deputy Speaker, despite the work of the Province in partnering and supporting entities that promote the wellbeing of our children, the National Department of Social Development is delaying the progress in the province. As we speak, the Department of Social Development has received only 793 approved Stimulus Relief Fund applications from the National Department, yet more than 3 000 applications come from the Western Cape. At the same time, the National Department parades around the country with below-the-bar success during Child Protection Week. How can our children be in a safe environment when the National DSD delays its support to one of the key sectors which, in addition to promoting their cognitive and emotional development, acts as a haven for our kids?

We thus support the call from the Province to reopen the Stimulus Relief Fund process in order to achieve the targets of providing support to ECD centres and their workers. Furthermore, we urge our National Government to live up to the mandate and display a level of competency which will pay out funds to provinces timeously, so that we can distribute it to qualifying ECD's urgently. It is no secret that the ECD centres have suffered huge losses due to the ANC Government's stringent COVID-19 regulations and their recovery will need support from all spheres of Government.

We thus commend the Provincial Department for putting efficient measures in place, to ensure that the correct ECD's receive the funds allocated to them. We hope that the ANC Government and our friends across the aisle can urgently speak to their colleagues at National level and reflect on the

importance of the wellbeing of our children, as the DA continues to do on a daily basis. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus. No?

Mr P J MARAIS (FF PLUS): Yes, I am here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are you, hon member. Over to you.

Mr P J MARAIS (FF PLUS): Thank you. Deputy Speaker, on 1 June 2021, I, as a member of this Legislature, was invited by the officials to a virtual briefing to the media and the public, by the Financial and Fiscal Commission. Now, I accepted the invitation, although I do not serve on the Budget Committee, because it was an official invitation. The Department said no, but the invitation was also addressed to Members of Parliament. Now, I represent the entire Western Cape constituency because I am the sole MP of the Freedom Front Plus. The invitation itself, read:

“The Commission will be briefing the media and the public on the submission on 1 June.”

But while ... [Interjection.]

Mr R I ALLEN (DA): [Inaudible.]

Mr P J MARAIS (FF PLUS): ... the Chairman of the meeting noticed my raised hand during question time and invited me to ask my question. I would like to lay a complaint that I was embarrassed, completely humiliated and insulted by the FFC Chairperson, Michael Sachs, who very rudely overruled the Chairman saying he refused to answer any questions put by Mr Marais or any Member of Parliament, and that now he will mute my mic. I was shocked. He muted my mic. I do not know why he was allowed to control it. I therefore will be drafting a letter of complaint addressed to you and the Speaker, and ask that the contents of my complaint be addressed; and the arrogant and racist conduct of this official's behaviour be investigated as I feel entitled to demand a written apology from him. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon member. I now recognise Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The month of June is an historical month on our calendar which masks the bravery of our youth, the heroes of June 1976, 1980, 1995 and beyond, which forced the then oppressive regime to end its reign of terror on the disposed and oppressed people of South Africa. Al Jama-Ah salutes the spirit of the youth who stood up against apartheid policies. They have, indeed, played a very important role in our struggle for freedom and liberation.

In 1976, the youth uprising led by the Black Consciousness Movement which started in Soweto, profoundly changed the political landscape of South

Africa. The killing of protesting students had dire consequences for the apartheid government. Images of police firing at unarmed students who marched peacefully, spread throughout the world, thus exposing the brutal and violent system of apartheid.

These images, the tragedy of our history, makes one think of the images of the 66 Palestinian children killed in Israeli airstrikes on their homes in Gaza. Like the youth of South Africa discharged consciousness in the world of the liberation struggle, the resistance in Palestine has also lit a flame of humanity as the world responded in outrage against the massacre of 66 Palestinian children, men and women.

It is our responsibility as freedom-loving people, some of us who know the pain of apartheid, and as a government at all levels to stand in solidarity with the Palestinians, to support their struggle against occupation and apartheid during this youth month and beyond. Let us honour the children killed in Gaza, as we honour our youth who paid the ultimate price for liberation. We call on this Provincial Legislature to end any international trading with Israel and to stop buying Israeli products. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms D M BAARTMAN (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans, according to the Stats SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey for Quarter 1 2021, the official unemployment rate in South



Africa has increased in the last quarter by 0,1% and stands at 32,6%, which is the highest it has been since the start of the survey in 2008. The rate of youth unemployment in South Africa has increased since the last quarter and is currently standing at 63,3% for the youth between ages 15 to 24-years ...[Interjection.] in Quarter 1 2021, and the age group of 25 to 34 has an unemployment rate of 41,3%. On average, the unemployment rate for youth is 52,2% for the age group 15 to 34-years-old in South Africa.

In contrast, the Western Cape's working age population, ages 15 to 64, has increased by 1,9%, the largest increase alongside Gauteng, and now stands at almost 4,8 million people. The survey also reveals that the Western Cape holds the lowest expanded unemployment rate in the country at 27,9% and that we have the lowest number of discouraged work-seekers between the three large economic hubs, which is Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

In the past year, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting lockdowns have led to one of the worst economic downturns in recent years and economies are slowly recovering from its effects. The Western Cape Government launched several programmes and funding opportunities since April 2020, which has worked to protect jobs and SMMEs, support to the tourism sector and assisted businesses in reopening safely under restrictions. Despite these efforts, systemic issues by the National Government, such as poor infrastructure, a failing national transport system, particularly rail, and load shedding, are obstacles that hinder the growth and recovery of the

Western Cape economy. The DA in the Western Cape remains committed to creating an environment that creates jobs for the people in our province. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. That brings us to the end of Statements in terms of Rule 145(6). I now give one of the Members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to Members' Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. Are there any Executive Members that would like to respond? No? Thank you. That brings us to the end of Members' Statements.

We now move over to Notice of Motions. In terms of the new Rule 151, all Notices of Motion by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it onto the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

### **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the efforts by the Western Cape Government to create an environment that is conducive to job creation and economic growth in the province.

*[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]*

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

That the House debates the readiness of primary schools to return to daily attendance of learners from 26 July 2021.

*[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]*

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the impact of loadshedding on the economy and society of the Western Cape.

*[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]*

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the potential use and manufacturing of electric vehicles in the Western Cape.

*[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr G BOSMAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the status of child support services available to vulnerable children in the Western Cape.

*[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]*

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the measures taken by the Western Cape Government to ensure accountability and to promote further good governance in the province.

*[Notice of motion printed on the Order Paper.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move to Motions without Notice. I would like to inform you that in terms of the Standing Rule of 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 1 June 2021. Members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence will not be allowed in this sitting, that have been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that the Programming Authority meeting of 1 June 2021, political parties did submit the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking, and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in the sitting of this House. I will, therefore, just for noting and for the purpose of the minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved. The following members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority, as follows: hon Allen, hon Bans,

hon Botha, hon Christians, hon Botha, and hon Sayed. I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority, to the House.

### **MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Mr R I ALLEN: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport on the provision of funding to the value of R2,1 million towards the upgrading of netball facilities in the Swartland, Bergrivier and Matzikama Municipalities; and further notes the Department's efforts in building effective legacy projects in the lead-up to the first Netball World Cup to be hosted in Africa.

*[Motions as printed in the minutes.]*

Ms A P BANS: I move without notice:

That the House commiserates with the family, friends, comrades and fraternity of sport medicine pioneer Dr Ismael Jakoet who departed last week; notes that Jakoet was the first chairperson of the board of the South African Institute of Drug-free Sport; and notes that he was internationally respected and was a University of Cape Town graduate who led the country as chief medical officer for rugby. May his soul rest in peace.

*[Motions as printed in the minutes.]*

Ms L J BOTHA: I move without notice:

That the House conveys its heartfelt condolences to the families of the two young women who lost their lives to suicide as reported in the media over the past week; notes that this includes the tragic passing away of a matric learner at the Rhenish High School in Stellenbosch and a second precious life at the Scottsville High School in Kraaifontein; further urges members of this House to promote mental wellbeing in our respective constituencies and encourage young people to be open about their concerns; notes the devastating impact on a family and community when they lose a loved one at such an early age; and wishes the families and loved ones strength during this difficult time.

*[Motions as printed in the minutes.]*

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I move without notice:

That the House extends its sincerest condolences to the family of Tyrone Hope who was shot and killed outside his house in Ottery on 24 May 2021; notes that the *Daily Voice* of 25 May 2021 reported the senseless killing of 23-year-old Tyrone Hope; notes that he leaves behind his wife Jocelyn, 5-year-old son Thyreace, 2-year-old son Tylo and 4-month-old daughter Zethai; notes that he died while heroically saving his mother,

54-year-old Carol, from the shooters; notes that his mother was holding 4-month-old baby Zethai at the time; and assures this young family, who must now fend for themselves after being left fatherless by his death, that they remain in our prayers.

*[Motions as printed in the minutes.]*

Ms L J BOTHA: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Ms Zeni Thumbadoo on obtaining her PhD in childcare; notes that Ms Thumbadoo graduated last week at the Durban University of Technology; notes that childcare is an important aspect of any functional society, and we are pleased to see strong women like Ms Thumbadoo contributing positively to the upliftment and advancement of the childcare sector in the country.

*[Motions as printed in the minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates the Cape Town northern suburb high school named after one of the fathers of apartheid, Dr D F Malan, that has after many years of encouragement decided to shed that name and choose a new one; and encourages all other such schools to reform progressively by getting appropriate names.

*[Motions as printed in the minutes.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections? No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of Proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual members' names, as if that member has read them aloud. I will now afford the opportunity to members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule 152(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Members are reminded that the 30-minutes, as per the Standing Rule 152(d), will start now. I recognise hon Dugmore, I think. I am going to call it out as per name. Hon Dugmore or let me just say the ANC?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That this House notes the arbitrary changing of subjects for debate by the Democratic Alliance in this Legislature and condemns the protective stance of the DA-run Legislature to protect itself from criticism and by so doing, undermines the fundamental right to freedom of speech and debate. I so move. [Interjection.]

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Deputy Speaker?



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

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Deputy Speaker, before I ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Objection ... [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): There is a [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.] of debate.

An HON MEMBER: I object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, we have hon Mackenzie standing up. Hon Mackenzie, what is your point of order?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Before I object to that, a motion which I will do after you have addressed this matter. We have talked about challenging the rulings of the House ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ... and using different mechanisms to challenge the rulings of this House. That motion – and there is a difference in disagreeing

with the ruling, but there is a difference in using different mechanisms in challenging the rulings of the House. And I just would like you to make a ruling on it at the next session. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Now, you are out of order. You are out order.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Deputy Speaker, I object to the motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, there has been an objection ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Out of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... but there has also been a request, hon member, there has also been a request for me to listen to that motion again. I will revert at the next sitting once I have looked at the Hansard, of whether there is a direct challenge on the rulings of this House. So, that motion has been objected to. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise – I am going to just ... [Interjection.] hon members, I have got ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, hon Lekker, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I would like to know

under which Rule is hon Mackenzie moving on?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, I have agreed to look at the motion at the next sitting, so I am not making any ruling on the motion itself.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): 66(5).

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. [Interjection.] Hon Chief Whip ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I am not going to accept, thank you. I do not ... [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously].

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja, a point of order. I just heard who I think was the hon Chief Whip just shouting and she did not ... [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously.] [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): [Inaudible]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Speaker, I have my hand up for a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... ask you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: And I would like you to make a ruling on her conduct as well. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Alright.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I have had my hand up for a few minutes now and have not been recognised.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I understand. I am just responding to hon Lekker. If you can just allow me to complete my statement, is that I am not going to make a decision on this ruling. I have agreed with hon Mackenzie that I will make a decision based on the actual motion at the next sitting. If that is okay. Hon Wenger, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Hon Mackenzie was rising on Rule 66(5) and further, I would like to object to hon Dugmore's motion because it is incorrect. It is not the DA that changed the topic for

discussion, it is the Al Jama-Ah party that changed it no less than three times. So, on that basis we cannot agree.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Whip. We do not need to substantiate, but I accept that the motion has not been approved. I would just like to say, I am not going to go through the whole list. I recognise that there are only four Motions without Notice, if I am correct and that the Table staff can support me on that, so I am going to go per name. The next person on the list is hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, †Sekela Somlomo [Deputy Speaker.] I move without notice:

That the House notes and condemns in the strongest possible terms the actions of an opportunistic group called CapeXit who have been going around sowing seeds of division in the province. Whilst classifying themselves as an independent and non-political movement, this group has been going around desperately seeking people's signatures under the guise of requesting a referendum with the National Government that will see the Western Cape being separated from the rest of South Africa.

Further, whilst we note that their actions are nothing other than a pipe dream that will end in vain, we also note that these actions have connotations of colonialism and apartheid tenets which rely on divide and rule. Such desperate and shameful actions should not be tolerated,

and all those who participate in them must be condemned and ridiculed with great fervour and without hesitation. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections? Agreed to. I now recognise hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS (FF PLUS): Thank you very much, Speaker. Let me just get it. I move without notice:

That this House requests the Premier in terms of Chapter 3 of the National Constitution, relating to Co-operative Governance, to declare a dispute in terms of Chapter 2 subsection 7(c) of the Western Cape's Constitution, and thereby enter into talks with the National Minister of Police regarding the dismissal of Major General Vearey, our chief detective in the Western Cape, with the view to reviewing his dismissal, thereby retaining his services. The dismissal of our Chief Detective will negatively affect the fight against crime and corruption within the Western Cape and the harsh sanction meted out to General Vearey cannot be seen to be justifiable and in the best public interest of the people in the Western Cape. I so solemnly move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Without notice, yes, Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, there are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, it has just come to my attention that the motion that hon Dugmore read is not the motion that the hon Dugmore submitted before 11 o'clock. I am going to, for Hansard, make a decision and rule that that motion that he read be taken off this Order Paper. Hon Dugmore, you have to follow the motion that you submitted at 11 o'clock and it does not match the one that you read. I cannot accept that motion for this sitting. I so rule. Thank you very much. And then, the final motion ... [Interjection.]

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

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

Mr P J MARAIS: It is not really a point of order. I did not hear who objected to the motion. Could I just ask again because there was interference here? [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously] objection?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Democratic Alliance objected to your motion, hon Marais. Thank you. Hon Mvimbi, you are finally on the list for Motions

without Notice.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House discusses the taxi violence in the City of ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: A bit louder, hon Mvimbi, I cannot hear you?

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House discusses the taxi violence in the City of Cape Town Municipality. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

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

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Sorry ... [Inaudible.]. I did not hear the motion properly. So that the House can discuss what?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we just, for the record, read it into the Hansard, hon Mvimbi?



Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Maybe let me also remove the mask, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House discusses the taxi violence in the City of Cape Town Municipality. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, is that a Motion without Notice that you submitted or was that a Motion with Notice that you submitted?

Mr L L MVIMBI: It is without notice.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Without notice. [Interjection.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Sorry, Deputy Speaker, if I may? I mean, taxi violence is a topic, and we have to discuss it. I do not understand the motion. That we discuss it or that ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: *Ja.*

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Is the Motion with Notice for a topic of discussion? I am just trying to understand.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi?

Mr L L MVIMBI: I think then, Deputy Speaker, it is a Motion with Notice. My apologies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, we cannot accept that, unfortunately. Thank you very much.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Okay, apologies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that brings us to the end of Motions without Notice. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY**

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill [B 3–2021] (NCOP).

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. The House received the report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP, not to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an

opportunity to make a declaration, if they so wish, for a maximum of 3 minutes each. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. As the ANC, we reiterate our minority vote to support the Division of Revenue and allow me to reemphasise the fact that the DORA Bill and its underlying allocation are the result of extensive consultations between National, Provincial and Local Government. Our equitable share formula with its six components, which takes into account the relative demand of services, economic disparities and the change of demographics in each of the provinces, is progressive.

I raise this deliberately to debunk the false claims and the notion of the Western Cape that it is targeted and purged by the National Government. Provinces get a fair amount of equitable share, and they have the autonomy to allocate resources to meet basic needs and respond to provincial priorities. The crisis in education and health should not be blamed on National Government, but the Province's autonomy which chooses to spend billions on look and feel-good programmes, like the Safety Plan and provincial vaccine rollout, while it ignores the crisis of unplaced learners.

The ANC welcomes the principles of the DORA and the series of interventions introduced in it, including changes to a number of conditional grants, including the introduction of the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant as a Schedule 5 grant in 2021/22, meaning the fund will be used purely for the upgrading of informal settlements. We celebrate this,

especially given the slow pace of upgrading of informal settlements and ignorance, especially in the City of Cape Town.

We welcome the increases in the Conditional Grants for Education; especially the Education Infrastructure Grant; the increase for Health; the additional R140 million that has been shifted to Human Resources; the Training Grant for the hiring of medical interns, as well as the allocation for the COVID-19 component, and for the comprehensive HIV, Aids and TB grant. The ANC welcomes that the rural areas will receive more per capita, per household funds, through this Division of Revenue Act. I thank you.

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

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The EFF will not participate. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, we have no declaration.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. No declaration.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Freedom Front Plus?

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, in light of the most recent COVID-19 reports presented to the Standing Committee, to the effect that there was a 25% increase in COVID-19 infections over the previous week and a 33% increase in the Cape Metro, especially the more affluent areas, budget cuts to the extent of R20,7 billion over the next 3 years spell disaster, despite the excellent effort by our Department of Health to try and contain it. As the representative of the Freedom Front Plus, I therefore record my rejection of this budget.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Al Jama-Ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. No declaration, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Democratic Alliance?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Fellow South Africans, in terms of the Division of Revenue Bill [2021], the Western Cape Provincial Government is receiving R54 billion as its equitable share, an accounting increase of R771 million, which is 1,4% more than the 2020/2021 budget. However, we were supposed to receive R59 billion, we received R54 billion; in the 2022 year we were supposed to receive R81 billion, we are now receiving R71 billion; in 2023 we were expecting R84 billion, but are now receiving R72 billion, representing a total budget cut of R26 billion over the three years.

Further, the Western Cape Provincial Government is receiving R13,5 billion in conditional grants, but this is R45 million less than expected overall. In 2022, we will be receiving R618 million less; and in 2023, R993 million less, equating to a total budget cut of R1,7 billion over the new 2021 MTEF period for conditional grants. While one appreciates the increases in some of these grants, such as education, the infrastructure grant of R75 million and transport, provincial road maintenance grant of R151 million, these amounts are offset by the large reductions in the Health National Tertiary Services Grant, a R288 million cut, and Health, Human Resources and Training Grant, R116 million cut based on the 2020 MTEF period.

To date, the Western Cape is still waiting for the R2 billion promised by President Ramaphosa to assist the Province with COVID-19 support and in the current budget allocation, the Western Cape had to bolster the budget with R1,7 billion in terms of a deficit with our own provincial funds. Further, when reviewing the Provincial Equitable Share formula, it does not take into account the ...[Inaudible.] provision needed for individuals moving towards economic centres, such as the Western Cape and Gauteng, and there are delays in the reporting of the population. Outdated data used in the calculation does not allow for the need to deliver services immediately to residents, ignores the cumulative effect of the cost-of-living adjustment, ignores crime, gender-based violence and special needs student statistics. Based on this, the DA supports the ratification of the final mandate to not support this Bill. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I would just like to check with the Secretary, how many members are present. Thank you very much. I can confirm that there are currently 37 hon members present and entitled to vote and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House that the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP, not to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. No objections? [Interjection.] I recognise your objection. That will be noted, hon members, and I do not think I need to vote, hon Mr Secretary. We do not need to go through the ayes and nays, do we? Just give me one minute, can I just check. Do we still have to follow? Okay, noted. Thank you very much. I will just follow the process, hon Dugmore, yes?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: My understanding of the motion, Deputy Speaker, is that this House is being asked to vote against the National Division of Revenue Bill, even though our Province has its justifiable share of the equitable et cetera. [Interjection.] Is that what ... [Interjection.] [Inaudible – speaking simultaneously]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Point of order. Point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Parties have had an opportunity to provide 3-minute declarations. Hon Dugmore is abusing of the opportunity at the moment. His

party has had the opportunity to provide declarations.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you, noted. And just to remind everybody that we are dealing with the report. So, those in favour of the report being adopted, please say 'aye'?

HON MEMBERS: Aye. Aye! Aye.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the report being adopted say 'no'. I recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No! No!

HON MEMBERS: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Dugmore. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: More ayes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it. The question is approved. The Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Bill has therefore been adopted. Thank you, hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will be exited from the sitting. The House is adjourned. Thank you.



The House adjourned at 18:05.