
THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2020

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Good morning hon members, ladies and gentlemen, members of the Press. Today we will be using the hybrid model for this sitting of the House and we trust that all our hon members are connected and are able to hear me. All members here that are present, both here in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams, have all the privileges and immunities imparted by the law.

For the purpose of this Sitting via the hybrid model, language translation services are available both in the Chamber as per normal and on Microsoft Teams via their respective channels, and members must please use their second device, such as a cell phone, to access those translations.

As ruled by the Presiding Officer in the sitting of the House on 23 April 2020, no interjections shall be permitted during the debate. In this regard I also wish to draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Before I begin with the Order of the Day, I would like to recognise the hon Peter Marais who is in the Chamber today with his lovely headgear in the House today, and therefore and thereby continuing a very old tradition, where a well-respected senior member, in terms of years, with all respect, hon Marais, wears a hat on the last sitting of the day of our Annual Session.

The person wearing the hat is fondly referred to as “the father of the House”, in this instance, hon Marais, or a “mother of the House” should it be a female member, and it epitomises the traditions of all that is good and noble about Parliament and its members.

Hon Marais may rise, and I see he is standing and thankfully and respectfully lifts his hat to the colleagues in the Chamber and those who attend our sitting in our virtual platform. Thank you, hon Marais, and if you want to say a few words you are welcome to do so.

Mr P J MARAIS: A bit emotional, because I did not know this will befall me, but I want to remind members of our role and our duty in this House. I have prepared something, and I just cannot seem to find it now here, but I want to tell members, I was going to quote Ecclesiastics:

“There is a time to be born and a time to die, a time to kill, a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build.”

There are too many of us who want to tear down and kill, too few of us this time do not want to reconcile; do not want to heal. The hearts of men moreover are full of evil, no love and there is madness in their hearts while they lived and afterwards, they are dead. Anyone who is among the living has hope – a higher hope.

They say a live dog is better than a dead lion, because a member of the dead is forgotten, their love, their hate and their jealousy – everything is forgotten. Wisdom is better than weapons of war. Wisdom is better than strength in numbers. Let us all ask God for wisdom rather than weapons or relying on our numerical strengths.

It is a pleasure being in this House and I know we are going to work together in the interest of all the people of this province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais, for those lovely words.

Thank you very, very much. I would also like to move onto a ruling that I would like to deliver right now in terms of yesterday's proceedings.

Will the hon member Xego please rise in his place?

Pursuant to the adoption by the House of the Report on the Conduct Committee on your failure to submit your members' disclosure forms timeously, I hereby reprimand you for breaching paragraph 11.2 of the Code of Conduct for members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Members have to abide by the Principles, Rules and Obligations set out in the Code of Conduct and your failure to do so is a serious transgression.

I trust that as a member you will learn from this experience and you will not be found wanting in this regard in the future. You may take your seat.

With that I will now proceed to the Orders of the Day. I will ask the Secretary to read the first Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Vote 4 – Community Safety – *Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 7–2020].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I recognise the honourable Minister Fritz and with that, Minister, it is a great pleasure having you here this morning and hoping that your health is on full recovery.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Premier and Cabinet colleagues, hon Leader of the Opposition, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, all virtual guests, citizens of the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, I want to begin by acknowledging those who have and who continue to serve on the frontline, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last week, Premier Winde announced that the province is experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19 infections. More than ever, we need to continue reinforcing the positive behavioural change that we have learnt in our fight against COVID-19. Today I speak as a statistic, as one of the statistics of infected people in the province, and we have seen how this statistic is just rising and rising.

We must do so much to protect the very same frontline workers that I have just acknowledged. They are at the coalface, and we must continue washing our hands, practicing social distancing and wearing masks that theirs is a safer space to work in. By protecting our frontline workers, we are also protecting important institutions like our healthcare system, our food security and our police services.

Most importantly, Madam Deputy Speaker, by continuing to practice this important behaviour we protect our grandfathers and grandmothers, our parents and those loved ones who may be vulnerable and at risk at the

moment.

To come to the Adjusted Budget Allocation – the Department of Community Safety’s Adjusted Budget is born with this in mind. We have reimagined and reshaped many of our programmes to respond to the pandemic.

As Minister Maynier outlined in his Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) speech, we are delivering a *budget to bounce back* in the Western Cape. When Premier Winde detailed the Recovery Plan last month, he spoke about the courage and the brave decisions we must take in the interest of our citizens. The Safety Plan was a brave decision when we launched it.

The Safety Plan has become an integral part of the overall Recovery Plan of this Province, led by the Premier and the Cabinet. My Department is playing a part in the Recovery Plan by responding to and overseeing the safety priority. Despite the Province having less money now, we will continue to implement the brave Safety Plan.

The first Adjusted Budget Estimate, which aims to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19, has revised its original allocation of R804 million to R776 million for the 2020/21 financial year. The current or Second Adjustments process has resulted in an allocation of R784 million to the Department and I am pleased to announce that this represents a nominal increase of 1,08% or R8,369 million. Deputy Speaker, allow me to unpack the various programmes that have been allocated in terms of this budget and

explain how they will contribute towards the safety of residents in the province.

So the first part is our Peace Officers. Premier Winde previously announced that my Department will be training and deploying an additional 120 Peace Officers in the coming financial year. Through this Adjusted Budget, my Department has allocated R2 million towards its implementation.

Our Safety Ambassadors are the second component. The Department has received R20 million towards the implementation of the Safety Ambassador Programme. The Safety Ambassador Programme is born of the School Safety Ambassador Programme and will build on its successes. It is not be confused with the deployment of LEAP Law Enforcement Officers.

Going forward, Madam Deputy Speaker, the 1000 new recruits will not only operate in schools and municipalities; they will also work in their communities. As we are experiencing resurgence in COVID-19, safety ambassadors will assist in their communities in complying with COVID-19 safety protocols and regulations. The safety ambassadors will also work with Area Based Teams (ABTs) on targeted violence prevention interventions, with a focus on youth.

Deputy Speaker, in line with this DA-led Government's focus on improving job opportunities, I am determined that our Safety Ambassador Programme will not simply dispense stipends and handouts to youth and to young people.

They will be recruited through a fair and open process and must prove that they both want to be safety ambassadors and that they have a willingness to learn. We are not going to encourage the ANC's culture of entitlement.

The placement will last 12 months and will allow safety ambassadors to simultaneously develop valuable skills. The training programme will be coordinated in line with the Chrysalis Academy best practice and will incorporate several elements of its three-month residential programme.

The Area Based Teams Model: the Adjusted Budget will also be used in the establishment of the Area Based Teams. Area Based Teams are the institutional bedrock of the Safety Plan and are being implemented within our crime hotspots. They will also bring together all key Provincial Government Departments, their City of Cape Town counterparts, SAPS and other stakeholders. The Department has allocated R2 million towards the implementation of the ABT model through the Adjusted Budget.

It is currently being implemented in Hanover Park and will be further rolled out to Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Bishop Lavis and Delft, and it will be later extended to five more murder-hotspot areas based on our data analysis.

The implementation of the Area Based Teams model is already beginning to yield positive results for the community of Hanover Park. The redeployment of 60 LEAP officers, who are working closely with the local SAPS, under the very capable Station Commander, Colonel Fredericks, has seen a remarkable

reduction in violence in that area.

I wish to acknowledge the many role-players who are implementing the Area Based Team model in Hanover Park, including the Department of Health, the City Cape Town, Councillor Antonio van der Rheede, SAPS and the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership.

Let it be on record that there is no competition between LEAP and SAPS. SAPS must take the lead in fighting gangs and fighting crime, as prescribed by the rule of law in South Africa. In turn, we will continue building partnerships. It is juvenile and misleading for the ANC to argue otherwise.

The Neighbourhood Watches and Community Police Forums: In implementing Area Based Teams, we will include all our safety partners and stakeholders to establish and to ensure that the model takes a holistic and bottom-up approach to safety. Key partnerships will include our Neighbourhood Watches (NHWs) and Community Police Forums (CPFs), in different areas.

I am pleased to note that SAPS have lifted the moratorium on CPF elections, and that electoral AGMs will now begin to go, and it is underway at the moment. This will ensure that the important work in bridging the gap between the community and the police continues unabated.

In terms of Neighbourhood Watch projects, the Adjusted Budget has seen an increase from R3,2 million to R4,2 million from the previous Adjusted

Budget. This is a R0,989 million increase. Neighbourhood Watch resourcing has decreased from R6,5 million to R5,8 million. The Adjusted Budget will further see a decrease in the CPF's budget from R0,948 million to R0,616 million.

The Law Enforcement Advancement Plan: Deputy Speaker, in February 2020 we deployed the first tranche of 500 law enforcement officers or LEAP officers, together with the City of Cape Town. I am pleased to announce that we will be training and deploying an additional 500 law enforcement officers to further assist us in our aim of halving the murder rate over the next ten years.

Through the Adjusted Budget, the LEAP allocations will remain the same at R417 million which will include the recruitment and deployment of 1000 Learner Law Enforcement Officers or LEAP officers.

Now the Redistribution of Funds: To ensure the Western Cape Government continues in its efforts to innovate and provide service delivery excellence, the Department is redistributing approximately R2,1 million to other Departments. In total, R1,6 million will go towards assisting the Department of the Premier in the development of software systems for safety projects. A further R500 000 has been shifted to the Department of Finance and Economic Development for the Western Cape Economic Development Partnership, the EDP funds for safety initiatives.

Then Compensation of Employees: in total, the Department has realigned the Compensation of Employees (CoE) budget by surrendering a net amount of R13,3 million to the Provincial Revenue Fund. The own revenue was also realigned and was reduced from R469 000 to R292 000. This represents a reduction of R177 000, which constitutes the item staff debt and recovery of revenue from previous financial years.

Concluding remarks: as I conclude, I want to again highlight the increase in funds for the Provincial Safety Function's Programme. The programme's budget has increased from R469,8 million to R494,8 million which amounts to an increase of R25,1 million.

This increase will ultimately enable the Department to drive the Western Cape Safety Plan forward through the implementation of Area Based Teams, Peace Officers and the Safety Ambassadors' project.

While I am grateful that the Department has received an increase to fully implement the Safety Plan, we are operating amid a severely constrained economic environment and severe budget cuts. I am under no illusion and know that we must deliver and ensure that this allocation achieves its intended purposes.

As a province, we are committed to halving the murder rate over the next ten years through a range of law enforcement and violence prevention interventions. Combined, these will ensure that we address crime where and

when it happens.

Lastly Deputy Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and welcome the appointment of Advocate Yashina Pillay as the new Head of Department, of my Department of Community Safety. I can think of no better person to have at the helm of the Department as its Chief Accounting Officer and as we enter the next phase of implementing the Safety Plan. I thank you.

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

Mr M KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, let me greet the MEC and the members in the House, especially member Marais. Deputy Speaker, the budget estimates to fund the first year of the five-year Strategic Plan 2020/2025, the plan situation analysis recognises that poverty and social inequality are known key drivers of violence. It draws a direct link between poverty, inequality and violent crimes. As COVID-19 ravaged the world's poor, stripping them of their livelihoods and sources of income, we can only expect it to contribute to a high crime rate. Despite declining crime levels in the country, the Western Cape maintained the number one spot for murder and gender-based violence in the country in the first quarter of 2021/21 with Philippi-East and Delft recording the most murders and rapes respectively. The Western Cape also recorded the largest portion of drug-related crime in the country. This is due to the subsequent increase in inequality and unemployment resulting from COVID-19, as observed by the

Provincial Government in their MTBPS.

In a few months the Western Cape resembled a war zone and a Mafia state, where mass murders in Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Gugulethu, Elsies, Hout Bay and other crime hotspot areas were reported on a daily basis. It is not surprising that the top ten murder stations in the Western Cape remain unchanged and continue to be concentration camps that contribute most murders. The Western Cape situation will remain unchanged until the province addresses the broader societal issues which are root causes. The five-year Strategic Plan identified growth and jobs, empowering people in mobility and spatial transformation as the immediate focus areas which will result in a safer Western Cape. There is nothing in the budget which comes near to addressing these issues. There is no political will to release available pockets of land for spatial integration. There is no desire to improve mobility in informal settlements. The DA is a party that seeks to sustain white privileges and pay lip service to the disparities of the poor.

What we need is the Provincial Government to exercise oversight over the SAPS while also addressing causative factors of crime. The honest reality is that the DA is not really affected by crime in poor areas. The party is only concerned about the image it brings to the eyes of the world. The biggest increase for the Department on this budget is under Programme 3, as the MEC has said, which R26,9 million set aside for safety partnerships. This includes allocations for implementation of Area Based Teams, the training and placement of peace officers, and for the implementation of Safety

Ambassadors Project.

We have to ask how many of these or what will be the impact of these in the ten murder precincts in the province, and how will the safety ambassadors contribute in the fight to reduce crime in the province, and the murder rate. The Western Cape Safety Plan aims to halve the murder rate in 10 years. The Strategic Plan said that this would be done through a partnership agreement with the City of Cape Town, namely the Law Enforcement Advanced Plan, which will oversee the funding, recruitment, training and development and deployment of 3 000 learner enforcement officers over the next five years.

The first 500 officers were recruited, trained and deployed in February to the areas where they were most needed. The second group of officers were expected to be appointed in July 2020 to increase law enforcement visibility and to improve service delivery in the fight against crime.

This has not happened, and the Department owes the people an explanation for this. The number has also been cut from 3 000 to only 1 000 with no explanation. The MEC owes us an explanation as to why the plan was changed. We want to know what are the bottlenecks in the process?

I have been contacted by many officers who cried that they were trained. They have completed training but are not deployed. Another concern, Deputy Speaker, with the Safety Plan is that LEAP officers are made toy soldiers of J P Smith and only used to harass and evict people residing in informal

settlements in the middle of a pandemic. When will the Department finalise the process of amending the Western Cape Community Safety Act so that the Western Cape Police Ombudsman can have an oversight, oversight powers over this JP's army.

The Western Cape has eight stations in the top 30 gender-based violence hotspots nationally, yet there is nothing in the budget about the safety of women and other vulnerable groups. Given the challenges with GBV, one expected a partnership with the Department of Social Development that will ensure victim-friendly rooms have social workers which are available at all times in all our police precincts in the province. It is a cause for serious concern that the budget of the Community Safety police relations, which deals mainly with the CPFs, has been cut again this year.

Lastly, the Department contributes to provincial VIP 2, growth and jobs, through the deployment of EPWP learners to its projects. One example is the Youth Safety and Religion Partnership Programme (YSRP).

In the programme the Department partners and funds faith-based organisations in communities around the Western Cape to conduct holiday programmes for youth and make sure that we keep these young people out of crime in these periods. I have been contacted by various faith-based organisations complaining that the Department has cancelled the projects for the December holidays. This is after these churches were made to plan, because contracts had already been signed. They planned out of their funds

that they would have a programme this December and they received a communiqué that the programme is going ahead and only five days ago they were told that the HOD and the MEC have agreed to cancel this programme for this December with no explanation that has been given to them. On top of this the Department surrendered R13,4 million for Compensation of Employees to the Provincial Revenue Fund. Moreover R1,9 million mainly for filling of vacancies has been taken away from the Western Cape Police Ombudsman that has always complained about staff shortages.

The ANC would have wanted to support this Bill as we have and still commit ourselves to be an Opposition that is responsive and effective, but because we are dealing with a government that is obsessed with being seen to be doing something or moving forward even if it were to be moving in the wrong direction, the ANC therefore cannot support the Budget Vote of Community Safety.

What we need is a deliberate effort from this Government, not to always when they make plans, always talk about the ANC. The ANC is not governing in the Western Cape. The people of the Western Cape has given the Democratic Alliance an opportunity to govern for now and you have a responsibility to do that, rather than to waste time by mentioning the ANC, comparing yourselves to the ANC. The ANC is in opposition in this province and is doing well to make sure that it holds the Government accountable so we will only support a budget that will resemble a government that is deliberate in its effort to make sure that it creates a safe province for women

and all the people of this province... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up, hon member.

Mr M KAMA: I thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Time expired.] [Applause.]

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, and also honour to hon Marais for his day and age in our House.

The DA has a very bad tendency of shifting goalposts every time they want to or they present their Budget Votes here of blaming the ANC Government at a national level. We have heard from speaker after speaker of the DA-led administration telling us about anything else other than a bailout of the SAA. While it is noticeable that within the underspending as a result of not filling this post, which makes the budget to an increase of R8,3 million in the recent budget, unreasonable. More than R13 million which was initially reserved for job opportunities is now surrendered to the Provincial Revenue Fund. Instead of capacitating itself with human and skills resources so that it can achieve its aim of promoting professional policing through effective oversight, the Department is doing the opposite. The result of such failures is intensification of crime in the province. The same public spaces that the Department promised to promote safety in are war zones, as shootings are the

order of the day in spaces such as Cape Town Taxi Rank, Bellville, Nyanga, Khayelitsha and Paarl, to say the least. The less said about the Safety Plan, the better, as it is nothing but a [Inaudible.] which its introducers are also beginning to doubt.

In townships, residents are at the mercy of the marauding gangs and criminals, who enter homes and business to demand protection fees. Some of these gangs are also in collaboration with the very same police. The DA Government has failed to keep the people of the Western Cape safe. All they do is to throw millions of rands into the drain via the backward safety policies which are out of touch with the realities on the ground, including the Community Police Forums that are being used for factional political positioning in the community. Our people are currently fighting over these community CPF positions through the factional battles that are being created by the Democratic Alliance.

We do not support this Vote. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon, thank you very much, hon member Xego. I recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, safety, for all of us, is a priority and I think we all agree on that, but Deputy Speaker, as the Department of Community Safety continues to give more money for peace officers in municipalities, also money for the LEAP officers

in the City of Cape Town, this cannot be done without oversight by this Provincial Parliament and the Community Safety Act must be amended so that we can have oversight to see how the money is spent.

Secondly, Deputy Speaker, Neighbourhood Watches in crime hotspots should be given more. Our poor and vulnerable communities is in dire need for safety. Give those Neighbourhood Watch members more, and again I call on the MEC. I call again for life cover to be given to Neighbourhood Watches that is on duty. The ACDP supports this budget. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I recognise hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, how we spend our money says a lot about ourselves. It speaks to our needs and priorities and preferences. Similarly, the same remarks can be made with regard to the spending of Government so when comparing the spending of the Western Cape Government under the Department of Community Safety and the spending of National Government on the South African Police Services during the respective Second Adjustment Budget for 2020, the priorities to the respective governments are clear and very unfortunate considering Pretoria's tabled budget.

With the South African Police Services cutting its budget it comes at a time when the majority of South Africans feel increasingly unsafe in their

communities, even unsafe in their own homes due to the escalating levels of violence and crime in our country.

Deputy Speaker, it is high time that the ANC Government devolves policing to the DA Provincial Government so that we can really fix the many problems. The Western Cape can indeed be the safest province in our country, should National devolve policing to a capable government.

Deputy Speaker, I am aware of the many excellent police officers within our province and country, but I am also deeply concerned about the high levels of criminality and corruption within the South African Police Services. Just last month the SAPS National Deputy Commissioner was charged, found guilty and dismissed in connection with R200 million tender fraud related to a 2017 procurement of police emergency warning equipment. In addition, Deputy Speaker, the SAPS have for years been plagued by what appears to be systematic corruption and criminality. Recent examples include reports on warrant officers involved in the killing of 16-year-old Nathaniel Julies. Further examples are the several instances of corruption and bribery during the lockdown, serious allegations of SAPS corruption leading to the death of top cop Charl Kinnear.

There have been media reports indicating at least R56 million was illegally siphoned off the police budget in just one matter involving eight high-ranking SAPS members who were arrested in a predawn raid in June 2020. Also another example, the fact that at national level nearly a 100

officials have been doing business with SAPS between 2014 and 2019 despite it being illegal. The 20 most lucrative contracts amounted to nearly R6,8 million.

Deputy Speaker, I say this because I believe that policing should be increasingly devolved, not centralised, in order to effectively fight crime. Deputy Speaker, the identification of policing needs and priorities is the constitutional requirement and I quote, it is meant to influence the allocation, distribution, and utilisation of policing and safety resources in line with identified policing needs and priorities and safety concerns. For the benefit of the House and various stakeholders and the public at large I wish to briefly report that the Committee on Community Safety was briefed by the Department on its 2020 Policing Needs and Priorities Report (PNPs) which indicated a steady rise in assault, attempted murder, common robbery, robbery with aggravating circumstances and sexual offences.

Deputy Speaker, common assault tops the list with an increase from approximately 34 000 to 39 000 cases over the last ten years. Even more shocking is the fact that the Western Cape murder ratio per 100 000 of the population is 61% higher compared on a national level during the last financial year.

Deputy Speaker, I do not think I have to remind the House again that I highlighted the negative 6% gap between provincial and national policing resources in this regard. I will say this, that it is yet another concrete piece

of evidence for the needs of more policing resources where improved SAPS presence has shown to discourage criminal activity.

In fact, one of the key findings, Deputy Speaker, in the Western Cape PNP report is that no member in this House is unfamiliar with. It is more resources, and this will directly address another key finding of more visible policing.

Deputy Speaker, the report shows a third of representatives sampled do not feel safe in their own homes while the confidence of the police service is below 70%.

Deputy Speaker, I put it to this House – why is it that we still do not see an increase in the SAPS budget to supplement resources and build confidence in this critical service? SAPS, as a national competency under the ANC Government, voted to cut the SAPS budget despite the high levels of crime. Yet, the ANC and some other political parties here in the Western Cape has the audacity to question the relevance of the Western Cape Safety Plan at each and every opportunity; when they come up with no actual solutions themselves, when in fact the plan that the Western Cape Government has is the only hope that residents have at this stage, and I want to get back to this, but let me first get to some good news, Deputy Speaker.

I firstly welcome the upward adjustment of R8,4 million to the Department of Community Safety to a total new appropriation of R784 million. This

represents an increase of R25 million for provincial policing functions under Programme 3, of which R2 million is earmarked to the implementation of Area Based Teams, another R2 million for the training and recruitment of peace officers and R20 million for the implementation of safety ambassadors.

Speaker, this is money spent to address the root cause of crime in our province. It is allocated to those at risk in the areas in the province where it is the most needed. Deputy Speaker, though this decreased for the Department, I welcome the shift to the Department of the Premier of R1,6 million to develop software systems for safety projects to ensure that the response is data and evidence led, as promised by the Premier.

Furthermore, and in particular I wish to also welcome the spending on safety officers at schools as this concerns school safety, features in the priorities and needs in our province as well. I commend the Government for this effort. It speaks volumes about the values of accountability and responsibility of our Government.

Deputy Speaker, National Government's Wage Bill is not only a threat to the entire country for the foreseeable future, it also drives a wedge between the need of improved safety for residents. The Department of Community Safety had to surrender a total of R13,3 million from all four of its programmes to the Provincial Revenue Fund due to the reduction of the compensation of employees and the National Government wage freeze. Deputy Speaker, this really can only be blamed on yet another empty promise by National

Government during 2018 when it aimed to please its allied unions.

Now it may be up to another standoff with a body that represents a 1,3-million strong public sector employment base, and Deputy Speaker, we do not even have enough cops officers for this looming strike from the public officials.

Deputy Speaker, but that is not all. The freeze on the Wage Bill means that there is actually no more room to employ public servants, teachers, nurses, policemen and women alike. Deputy Speaker, there is simply no more money for staffing our frontline services.

The ANC-led Government is stuck between a rock and a hard place when it comes to prioritising priorities. Deputy Speaker, this could have been prevented had we prioritised the needs of residents and not that of cadres. When watching the Zondo Commission of Inquiry closely, we see how close the ties of the African National Congress expose each other slowly for looting billions out of the State coffers under the Zuma Administration.

Deputy Speaker, I said yesterday that if the second quarterly stats do not speak to the needs for more boots on the ground, I am not sure what will. Today I have moved beyond the numbers and presented information from the comprehensive analysis by DOCS on what the priorities and safety are for our people in our province, yet, I am afraid it is only the DA-led Government who is taking the plight seriously.

Deputy Speaker, I support Vote 14 accordingly. At its Federal Congress the DA adopted a resolution to decentralise the police service. Deputy Speaker, I think it is clear that at the provincial level where we govern we have not only proven that we are more serious about supplementing crime-fighting initiatives but we have also shown that we put our money where our mouth is.

The best solution for defeating crime is where it happens, made clear in our Western Cape Safety Plan which has already started to reap fruits in various gang-ridden areas, and I welcome the adjustment to see this plan through for our people, since it is clear that National Government is out of touch with the reality of South Africans despite the many years of governance.

In closing, Deputy Speaker, I wish to thank the Minister for his leadership and further commend the Department and Advocate Pillay, the newly appointed HOD, and all officials for their dedication. I also wish to thank all the members of this Committee for their commitment and robust engagement, and last but not least, Deputy Speaker, a special thanks to our procedural officer, Mr Waseem Matthews as well as our assistant, Mary-Anne Burgess for their assistance to the Committee. It is highly appreciated. I say again, I support the Vote. Thank you.

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

recognise hon Minister Fritz.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I want to start off by just also reiterating the fact that we have an amazing team within the Department of Community Safety, from all our team directors, our CFO within the Department, everyone and all the people working within the Department. It is really a department where people organically contribute to the bigger picture and they are all part of the bigger picture, so I just want to acknowledge them this morning and really say, we are proud of you. And I think with this new HOD and the innovations you already showed in the last six months, I think we are just going to move from place to place, and I think a lot of what hon Kama said is so predictable, and hon Xego, you know he wants me now to give land. I do not know where I must get land. You must stop arranging protest actions that create more havoc and disorder in our City and in the Western Cape, and they do not adhere to anything; where they apply for a 100 people and then 5 000 people, 20 000 people turn up. They just do not believe in anything called the rule of law, and then they come into this House and talk the most about law and order. I think it is an absolute absurdity, so I would not even respond to him.

I also want to say to him, he must go say to the people of Hanover Park, hon member Xego must go to the people in Hanover Park and say to them that this law enforcement Safety Plan in Hanover Park is a waste of time because you will see on the ground what it means to people, to ordinary

people, in the lives of ordinary people, and we really need to look at that.

I want to say to hon Christians, we are really busy looking at the amendment of the Western Cape Community Safety Act specifically in how we can enhance the oversight role, and I really want to say we have even in our partnership with the Economic Development Partnership, the EDP, in how do we do the oversight when we distribute resources to municipalities, and I must say to you I think we are on an absolutely good [Inaudible.] at the moment. I know we are going to just be better, it is going to continue to just do better.

We also said that we need to go and look at that whole principle of the insurance for Neighbourhood Watches and I know there is a technical legal issue around whether you are employed or not employed, but perhaps we must see what is possible and not just wipe it off the table, but to really look at what is possible. And then I really want to say, I think hon Allen really hit the nail on the head, foundational – and no-one is addressing it. Foundational in this province and specifically in our province, it is the police resourcing that is deliberately being undermined; human resourcing in terms of policing, our POPS units, you get to see every part of resourcing is deliberately being undermined, and that is the foundation, and I think what hon Reagen Allen has been saying is that that is why we are asking and advocating for decentralisation of the police force and that it comes back so that we can take control of it and that we look at proper resourcing. That is the fundamental issue. That is the elephant in the

room – the resourcing of police resources in the Western Cape.

On that note I really want to also just say thank you to all our role-players, our NGOs, our Neighbourhood Watches, and everyone is always trying to play us up against the Neighbourhood Watches, CPFs. We work very well together with them. So all our Neighbourhood Watches, our CPFs, our religious bodies, can I just say something? There is a COVID increase, a surge. We cannot have programmes in December. We cannot. We have been told not to get any people gathering, and that is the reason now. We cannot help it if the religious bodies are going to lose out; but we are going to have infections in this kind of space, and that is the point. It is just basic logic. Now I do not know when people are going to get this into their heads.

So, thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. Again thank you to everyone, to all the colleagues, to everyone for the support that this Safety Plan has. We will continue to implement the Safety Plan whether people like it or not. We will just continue and I talk about these people here in the House who talk a lot about it, but they phone me in the middle of night when they have a problem around the Safety Plan, so thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

[Debate concluded.]

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

concludes the debate on this vote. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Vote 12 – Economic Development and Tourism – *Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 7 -2020].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much Mr Secretary. I now recognise the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to begin, like many of our other colleagues, by recognising the hon Peter Marais who, despite his seniority and of course long service, remains, to twist his own words, a live lion in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Deputy Speaker, I am pleased today to be able to table the Adjusted Estimates of Vote 12: The Department of Economic Development and Tourism. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has played a critical role throughout the Covid-19 pandemic to support businesses, back businesses, not just to open, but to open safely in the Western Cape. From the start, we have actively engaged with National Government so that where sectors were able to open safely and responsibly, they were allowed to do so. Throughout our persistent efforts, we have had considerable successes in e-commerce, in construction and in the tourism sector. The Department also played a critical role in enabling the opening of George Airport, which is

critical, particularly to business travellers and now domestic tourists.

And the Department also played a critical role working closely with Transnet Port Terminals management and the Department of Health, to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the performance of the Port of Cape Town, which of course, is critical to the export and import industry in the Western Cape. And tomorrow, we will be hosting the second annual Port Stakeholder workshop to identify further opportunities for collaboration across the sector to prioritise port congestion challenges that need to be dealt with in 2021.

But alongside these efforts the Department, to get the economy back open, we have also put an immense amount of effort behind workplace safety. We have continuously engaged with key sectors such as tourism, hospitality and retail on the strict adherence to the implementation of Covid-19 health protocols. We have helped businesses find Personal Protective Equipment and suppliers through our PPE Marketplace. We have made several valuable resources for the workplace available so that businesses can keep staff and customers safe. And we have provided a mechanism for the public to report businesses that are not following the necessary health guidelines to stop the spread of the Covid-19 in the workplace. This work will continue as we now turn our attention to rebuilding the economy in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Main Appropriation of R604,6 million was adjusted down by R57 million in the First Adjustments Budget, to R547,5 million.

That revised appropriation has now been adjusted down by a further R4,9 million for the 2020/21 financial year. While there has been an overall reduction to the Department of Economic Development and Tourism's budget, this is largely as a result of Cost of Employees reductions. Alongside these reductions, there have also been significant increases linked to our goal to recover and move forward in the Western Cape.

From the policy-based funding facility R12 million has been transferred to the Department for an additional allocation to the Western Cape Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises Covid-19 Business Relief Fund. What is important to note, of course, is that these are additional allocations over and above what has been provided for in the baseline, which in this case means that we have mobilised a total of R39 million to support small businesses hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic - which of course is made up of R27 million in the First Adjustments Budget and R12 million in the Second Adjustments Budget. And which we hope will support 230 small businesses and save at least 2 000 jobs in the Western Cape.

The Department has also received funds shifted from other departments, including R2 million shifted from the Department of the Premier and the Department of Community Safety for the facilitation of the establishment of area-based teams, to which the hon Minister referred not too long ago. And finally, the Department's own receipts have increased as reflected in the Adjustments Budget.

Hon Deputy Speaker, every year at this time, I of course have the pleasure of attending the Western Cape Entrepreneurship Recognition Awards and this year was no different. After tabling of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement last week, I headed across to the Cape Town International Convention Centre to recognise and reward 12 inspiring entrepreneurs for their hard work and resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic, with Ntombi Nonxuba from the Rise Uniforms winning the title “Business of the Year”. Rise Uniforms is based in the Philippi area and employs 46 people from the surrounding area and is a manufacturer and supplier of locally produced uniforms, corporate wear and complementary garments.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Rise Uniforms pivoted their business to also provide Personal Protective Equipment and in so doing, were able to keep their business going and staff employed. Entrepreneurs like Ntombi deserve to be celebrated because they play a critical role, not only in creating jobs, but also in supporting skills development and providing opportunities for those who need it most. And of course, they are role models for others, especially young people who can learn, and be inspired, and hopefully, eventually start their own small businesses. I am incredibly proud of what we have done to assist our entrepreneurs in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in conclusion, we have worked hard to open our economy safely during the Covid-19 pandemic in the Western Cape. We cannot afford another hard lockdown and so now all of us have a critical role to play in ensuring that the economy remains open. Getting out and

supporting local businesses, I think, has never been more important and I encourage everyone to do so over the festive season, but when you do so, please make sure that you do so safely and responsibly. Please wear your mask, sanitise, social distance and stay at home if you are sick. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise hon Mvimbi. Hon Mvimbi, are you there? Can we just check that hon Mvimbi is online? Can I proceed to the EFF and then, we will come back if the Deputy Chief Whip from the Opposition is okay with that. Thank you very much, hon Sayed. We will move over to hon Makamba-Botya and we will come back to hon Mvimbi. Hon Makamba-Botya, are you online?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you. The reality facing us today is that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism has lost direction in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and it is unable to steer the province out of this bad economic climate.

The DA Government inherited a province with a well-situated city, great landscape, which attracts people beyond our shores. They found the province also well-structured in terms of doing business with the outside world and on that score, the party contributed nothing. Today, they are facing a real test as

a result of Covid-19 and they are throwing money all over the place with the hope that the invisible hand of the market will drive business, and all of a sudden jobs will be created.

It has now become apparent that the Government does not know much about job creation beyond over-relying on the private sector. This is a government that does not understand the economic climate and business dynamics of the province where it governs. Every time they speak about job creation, they are referring to those jobs that require unskilled labour. Beyond that, this Government has nothing to offer and the future looks gloomy. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very, hon Makamba-Botya, for helping me to come in earlier. I now recognise hon Mvimbi, I think he is online. Hon Mvimbi, can you hear us?

An hon MEMBER: Good morning, hon Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, good morning, hon member.

An hon MEMBER: I am trying to get hold of Ms Candice. Member Mvimbi is unable to log into the system. Can you please call him in?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked her to call him in. I see he is online. If you actually look, he is online, he just probably needs to unmute himself.

An hon MEMBER: All right. Thank you, hon Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Members, I need to make a decision here.

Mr L M MVIMBI: Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, there you are. You can hear us, hon Mvimbi? You may begin.

Mr L M MVIMBI: Yes. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you loud and clear.

Mr L M MVIMBI: Okay. No, thank you very much, hon Speaker. My apologies for the inconvenience I might have caused the House. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and to hon members, ladies and gentlemen, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress today to decline support for this Vote. For the last two days we have been hearing complaints about the budgetary cuts and how the Provincial Government is struggling under these cuts. But we have also had to hear in the last decade how supposedly efficient and effective the Provincial Government is and yet, of course, our people remain without basic services.

Of course, if this Government was as efficient and effective as they claim to

be, then they would not be complaining, but grabbing the opportunity to do more with much less. The reality is that they have not been doing more, but simply moaning about and complaining about budgets.

Across this Provincial Government, almost every single department has to surrender funds back to the Provincial Revenue Fund because invariably they were not spent. In a climate of vast unemployment it is convenient for this Provincial Government to use Compensation of Employees funds as a means to cut back on funds, but invariably it is simply because in most cases these posts were not filled.

Across the Provincial Government we have had to hear how not much could have been done because of the cuts and because of Covid-19. Yet, hon Speaker, if the BPO skills project could produce more than 5 000 job opportunities for young people, then why could other departments not perform? Commendably, the Department reports that up to 11 tourism products could create or sustain more or less more than 400 jobs. Correctly, the Department and the Provincial Government must prioritise economic recovery. Truth be told that the people of the Western Cape are not getting value from their money from the Provincial Government.

It is reported that economist J P Landman recently suggested that:

“Treasury modelling indicates that the five parts of the Recovery Plan can add 1,9% to GDP growth a year. If we limit ourselves to the three

with the best chance of implementation, leaving infrastructure and industrial growth aside, we are looking at an increase of 1,3% in growth per year. Treasury's base case for growth over the medium-term is 1,6%, rising to 2%. Add 1,3% and growth can reach 3% per year. Not enough, many will say, but we have not seen that for a long time. It is also comfortably above the population growth of 1,61%.”

From a National Treasury perspective there is light at the end of the tunnel, but we can only realise this growth if all of us do our bit, and the Provincial Government works with and not against the National Government.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Section 79 petition made by the MEC of Finance and championed by the Premier, is once again in line with the decade-long adversarial approach that the DA Provincial Government in the Western Cape has taken towards the National Government. The more the ANC National Government calls for cooperation and maturity in leadership, the more the Provincial Government declares disputes. We are told that this approach to governance has ended with the former premier, Helen Zille. Unfortunately, it continues under her successor.

The Section 79 petition was hastily followed by a communiqué from the Premier yesterday, pre-empting the outcome of the meeting between himself and President Ramaphosa on the situation concerning Covid-19. Hon Deputy Speaker, the people of the Western Cape can really do without the kindergarten politics that we see at play, and all only to score cheap political

points and win votes back from the Freedom Front, instead of concentrating on the economy and its recovery, and instead of providing a proposal as to what measures will be put in place and how this Adjustment Budget [Inaudible.] because we hear nothing.

On 22 October 2020 the hon Premier addressed this House [Inaudible.] Vote. We have launched an emergency economic relief and recovery programme. This will address the major blow to our economy, which will result in over 150 000 job losses in the Western Cape this year alone. This plan, under the guidance of our Economics Cluster, aims to create nearly 20 000 new jobs through rapid intervention.

This Department's Adjustment Budget, the Department tasked with economic development and which is supposed to be leading the Economics Cluster, has given no indication as to how these 20 000 new jobs mentioned by the hon Premier will be created.

The hon Premier went on that day and further stated that this focus on private sector led growth and job creation is also why we will do everything [Inaudible.] with our entity [Inaudible.] 26 private sector investments still in the pipeline, which will create over 2 000 jobs and pump more than R30 billion into the economy. This includes investments in the property and construction sector, logistics, health, technology and investment at the Saldanha Bay Industrial Zone and at the Atlantis Spatial Economic Zone for green technology.

The Economic Development and Tourism Adjustment Budget speaks to none of these initiatives this province, unlike other provinces which have developmental agencies, this bloated market entity adds little value to economic development. Yet even more, hon Speaker, the ANC remains unconvinced that the people who really need to benefit from these opportunities are not getting them.

This budget adjustment does not seek to restructure the economy of the Western Cape. Instead, it simply seeks to keep those already empowered. Those who get these opportunities are on a better footing than the majority of the people who have potential and who really need the push in order to become economically successful. The DA does not believe that the black economy matters, and it is for this reason that the ANC rejects this Budget Vote. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans, I rise today to debate Vote 12 of the Western Cape Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill dealing with Economic Development and Tourism. And hon Deputy Chair, I think I need to start with reminding members that an adjustment budget and a second adjustment budget is a change to the main budget. So, if you are looking for money that was allocated to Saldanha Bay IDZ or to the Atlantis Green Sector, you must go

to the main budget because the money is still there.

But hon Deputy Speaker, let me start in terms of the current funding for small businesses. To date, R34,2 million has been allocated to the BPO Skills Programme of the Department which created more than 5 000 jobs for youth to date. And I welcome this work and the skills programme, as well as the first BPO Academy launched at the College of Cape Town in November this year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Mvimbi mentioned that in the BPO project we created so many jobs and he does not know how other departments are not performing, but he also says that this Department is not performing. So I do think that the members need to make up their minds, is the Department performing or not?

Hon Deputy Speaker, R5 million has been allocated for the Western Cape Tourism Development Fund which has supported 11 tourism products and created and sustained more than 400 jobs. A further R2.4 million so far this year has been allocated to the Design and Innovation Seed Fund, which has supported five prototype innovations. This I mentioned earlier this week as well. Because the Western Cape is serious about energy, R12,2 million has been allocated for the Municipal Energy Resilience Project which aims to support municipalities with utility scale procurement from independent power producers.

Further, within the energy sector, I would like to request that hon Minister Maynier engages Eskom and the National Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, to ramp up the process to import liquefied natural gas into the Western Cape through Saldanha Bay.

Further, on oversight in Mossel Bay, while visiting Total SA to be briefed on the operations in the area, we learned as a committee that the local labour unions are fighting with each other as to who are representing the workers in that area. And due to this, Total's partner on the ground, Afrisure, has been unable to negotiate with these labour unions because they are either unregistered with the National Department of Labour or they do not have their ducks in a row due to infighting amongst themselves.

I thus commend the Provincial Department for creating a Garden Route Oil and Gas Forum in order to engage stakeholders in the area and I would like to request that this Department includes organised labour in the area on this forum because this will encourage a mature conversation amongst local stakeholders.

Further, this year R39 million within the First and Second Adjustment together, has been allocated for the Western Cape COVID Business Relief Fund, which has saved more than 2 000 jobs and assisted 230 SMMEs and the individual business names have been tabled in the book of the Second Adjustment Budget.

Further, R14 million so far has been allocated for the Western Cape SMME Booster Fund, which assisted 500 SMMEs and created 443 jobs, and secured a funding partnership of more than R40 million. Township businesses and other innovative projects have not been left behind, with R5 million allocated to a furniture manufacturing design studio in Nyanga, the expansion of coding labs and prototype maker space programme in Kraaifontein, a rapid product, a prototyping programme in Thembaletu, and an enterprise coding lab and drone accelerator programme at the West Coast College.

R3,3 million has been allocated for SMME toolkits in the Western Cape in order to improve the resilience in all district municipalities, with 11 000 toolkits already being distributed across municipalities and the metro.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism has further allocated R1 million to the Western Cape Business Chamber Programme, which saw five business chambers supported with 6 396 SMME beneficiaries, and which led to the establishment of an informal beneficiary base of 2 159 businesses. There were also more than 300 entrants for the Western Cape entrepreneurship recognition awards and 12 inspiring entrepreneurs were recognised for the hard work and resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic, with financial and non-financial assistance amounting to R750 000.

In the SMME Supply and Development Programme the Department has allocated R2 million to assist 11 SMMEs which sustained 83 jobs. These interventions to support SMMEs in the province, amounts to R65 million.

Hon Speaker, yesterday – hon Deputy Speaker, I apologise – yesterday hon Minister Maynier launched the new Western Cape DashTech Programme in order to strengthen the tech ecosystem in the Western Cape. We want to position the province as Africa’s tech capital, build on the local start-up culture to support the tech ecosystem and support job creation in the digital economy. This programme aims to not only create a platform for diverse stakeholders to meet, to nurture innovation, improve local product development, open new markets and supply chains for local tech businesses, it also aims to fill structural gaps in the ecosystem.

The five ecosystems featured in this year’s edition of the DashTech Programme, as announced by the hon Minister, includes ScreenTech, SafetyTech, FinTech, TownshipTech and 4IR Tech. The ScreenTech will aim to deal with technologies that utilise any form of digital screen, to interface with people, including film, media, multimedia gaming, animation mobile. SafetyTech will aim to deal with safety and security related technologies towards safe and cohesive communities. The FinTech will aim to deal with financial technology, including mobile payments, e-wallets that improve and automate the delivery and use of financial systems. The TownshipTech will aim to deal with a variant of the general smart cities concept, attuned to local township conditions and geared towards technology solutions for township communities. And the 4IR Tech will aim to deal with artificial intelligence, machine learning, blockchain, additive manufacturing, internet of things and other emerging technologies.

Finally, the entries for the digital innovation has opened on 30 November this year with the finalists showcasing in late February 2021 next year and we encourage entrepreneurs in this space to enter into this programme.

Hon Speaker, I would also like to raise some concerns which we have heard as a committee while on oversight in Mossel Bay and George. Businesses indicated that they are struggling with lengthy SARS documents related to finances, VAT and taxes and I would like to request that the Minister and the Department look at the documentation that businesses need to submit for registration on CIPS, as well as for operations and taxes with SARS, and make recommendations to SARS and the National Treasury regarding, where necessary, to cut unnecessary paper work, to cut unnecessary processes, and to make life a little bit easier and more seamless for Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises.

Further, these businesses raised concerns that the major banks are not paying out the Covid-19 loans as part of the funding they have received through the National Government in order to support businesses, especially small businesses, with this financing to survive. The Committee has already indicated that it will look to engage major banks in order to understand the support which they will be providing to struggling businesses during this global pandemic and the criteria they are using to assess loans to these struggling businesses.

I would also like to request that the hon Minister creates a platform, if he has

not done so already, to engage these major banks and make recommendations where necessary, related to unnecessary paperwork and inconsistent, arbitrary and unnecessarily stringent criteria or interest rates for accessing business loans.

The National Disaster Management Lockdown Regulations have already placed a cash flow burden on small businesses and the impact of irrational lockdown regulations need to be funded by those who put them in place. But if the funding is not reaching the entrepreneur on the ground, then we will not be able to ensure that all those who qualify due to the impact of Covid-19 on the enterprises, are able to save their businesses and to save the jobs of those they employ.

Further, hon Deputy Speaker, businesses continue to raise concerns regarding UIF payments by the National Department of Labour. Either funds are not being paid out in full or funds are paid out for some employees and not for others. This creates conflict and distrust in the workplace where business owners need to make difficult decisions on splitting funds between employees, while they wait for the remaining funds to be paid.

Further, the Labour Department have lengthy paperwork processes, they hardly answer their phones and in rural areas, they sometimes only come to the municipalities for half a day and still they come through late on those days. It is unacceptable that the process for accessing UIF funding requires the blood of a unicorn and written proof of the magical pot of gold at the end

of the rainbow. At the very least, business owners should know whether documentation is missing or incorrect within 24 hours and receive UIF funds within two to three working days from its approval. There must also be notification for reasons of non-approval of funds. This does not mean that there are not businesses who have not paid out funds to employees or who, themselves are lying to the employees. And in order to address this I would like to ask that hon Minister Maynier engages the National Minister of Labour in order to firstly address the administration of UIF fund payouts, as well as to, secondly, ramp up compliance monitoring of UIF payouts by businesses.

Finally, it is concerning that in the Vote, R11 million will be surrendered from this Vote due to the reduction on Compensation of Employees related to the National Public Wage Bill and ongoing negotiations. But I will speak about this more in Vote 3 where it is Provincial Treasury, since Provincial Treasury and the Premier and the Minister for that particular department has launched a petition and thus does not fall within the programme of Economic Development and Tourism.

The DA in the Western Cape, hon Deputy Speaker, continues to prioritise and support SMMEs and programmes which create job opportunities and support the dignity of all residents.

And finally, I would like to thank our procedural officer, Ms Zaida Adams in the Economic Development and Tourism Committee, for her hard work and

dedication to accountability in our Parliament and to the residents of the Western Cape, the Minister, the HOD and officials, for helping us make the Western Cape a province for jobs, safety and dignity and to wish all members a safe and joyful holiday season. Hon Speaker, I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. I recognise hon Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Let me begin by assuring the hon Mvimbi that we are committed, of course, to working with National Government. But on the issue that he raised, we exhausted every avenue available to us to meet the Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, in order to resolve that matter, but the meetings that we requested never materialised. And so, we had no choice, but to launch our Section 79 objection to the Second Division of Revenue Amendment Bill. The hon Peter Marais earlier said that sometimes there is a time to rest and sometimes, there is a time to fight. Well, this is a time to fight, precisely so that we can avoid a R2,3 billion hole in our budget and a significant liquidity squeeze in the Western Cape.

I also wish to assure the hon Mvimbi that we are focused both on the formal and on the informal sector and we do care. If the hon member had dug into the budget book, he would have seen evidence of that commitment. I would refer him to, for example, the fact that through the Small Enterprise Development Agency we are supporting the Township and Village Incubation

Hub Programme, where we are supporting five hubs that sustain about 20 businesses in Nyanga, Thembalethu and Kraaifontein. Through the SMME Booster Fund we are supporting the Philippi Economic Development Initiative where we are supporting about 20 small urban-agri entrepreneurs in the Philippi area. We are working with municipalities – the Cape Agulhas Municipality, the Laingsburg Municipality, the Oudtshoorn Municipality, the Witzenberg Municipality – to create dedicated trading spaces for small businesses and informal traders. And, of course, we are supporting spaza shops through the Community Economic Recovery Project, which is a joint project between the Western Cape Government, the EDP and the Murray Trust, where 1 000 vouchers are issued to and redeemed at spaza shops to support about 225 community kitchens across the Western Cape.

We are also supporting the registration of over 100 Early Childhood Development Centre businesses and of course we are distributing approximately 11 000 Covid-19 safety kits to small businesses and informal traders across the Western Cape.

Which brings me to the hon Makamba-Botya, who claims that we are throwing money all around, to use her words. Well, the contrary is true. Our interventions are targeted and I think there is no better example than the SMME COVID Relief Fund to which I referred to earlier, where we have mobilised a total of R39 million which will support 230 small businesses in the formal and in the informal sector and sustain about 2 000 jobs across the Western Cape.

The hon Deidré Baartman raises a question about small business and red tape. We are obviously committed to reducing red tape and making it easier for small businesses particularly, to thrive. And so, we will certainly deal with the matters that she raises in relation, particularly, to excessive paperwork in relation to SARS.

On the major banks and the Covid-19 loan schemes, the Department has a regular bi-monthly meeting with the major banks and certainly, if there are any specific complaints relating to the Covid-19 loan scheme, we can certainly take them up on the affected businesses' behalf.

On the question of the Department of Employment and Labour, and the UIF/TERS, I share the Chairperson's frustration when it comes to paying out UIF and TERS. We have, again, a regular meeting with the National Department and over this year have had some success intervening on certain businesses' behalf, and we have been able to support at least 4 000 employees, I think, to the value of more than R20 million. We have been able to assist these employees receive UIF/TERS payments available to them. Again, I would encourage the hon member or any other hon members, particularly on our Committee, if there are specific cases, please refer those cases to me so that the Department can follow up in order to ensure that UIF/TERS payments are made and that we provide appropriate relief to businesses in the Western Cape.

I would like to conclude then, hon Deputy Speaker, by very sincerely

thanking the hon Deidré Baartman and all members of her Committee who have worked extremely hard under very difficult circumstances this year in Parliament. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That brings us to the end of that Vote. I will now ask the Secretary to read the third Order...

The SECRETARY: Vote 3 – Provincial Treasury – *Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 7–2020].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. I now recognise the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Today we table the Adjusted Estimates of Vote 3: Provincial Treasury.

The Provincial Treasury, of course, may have one of the smallest departmental budgets in the Western Cape, but the important work that is done with that budget, I think, cannot be underestimated.

As Provincial Treasury is itself responsible for the overall budgeting and fiscal management in the Western Cape, it continues to lead by example and has done everything possible to reduce expenditure.

The Main Appropriation of R356,9 million was adjusted down by R11,6 million in the First Adjustments Budget to R345,2 million. That revised appropriation has now been adjusted down by a further R38,4 million to R306,8 million for the 2020/21 financial year.

Hon Deputy Speaker, over the past few years, Provincial Treasury has consistently and prudently implemented our fiscal strategy by continuing to focus on proper expenditure management, proper revenue management, and maintaining a balanced budget, and by continuing to apply the principles of allocated efficiency, fiscal sustainability, fiscal consolidation and fiscal discipline in the Western Cape.

This work has come to bear this year, with our provincial reserves enabling the Western Cape to respond swiftly and effectively to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Provincial Treasury stepped up in the First Adjustments Budget and in support of the immediate health response, humanitarian response, and economic response, mobilised every cent available and allocated R3,05 billion to support the fight against Covid-19 in the Western Cape.

In the Second Adjustments Budget, Provincial Treasury has “leaned in” further and have mobilised an additional R1,4 billion for a support package towards “Jobs”, “Safety” and “Wellbeing”, in this financial year, so that we can bounce back in the Western Cape.

And because the budget cuts we are facing are so severe, Provincial Treasury have also “leaned in” to help departments to transition to what will be a new fiscal reality, in which we have to make difficult decisions on what we will continue to do and what we will no longer do in the Western Cape.

They have done this through the creation of a Fiscal Transition Support Facility, which is a R1,7 billion facility drawn from our reserves, that can be accessed by departments over the medium term to support them to find new and smarter ways of delivering services in the Western Cape.

No one can deny that 2020 has been a year of great turbulence, of instability and of transition. And while those conditions, hon Deputy Speaker, can cause a great challenge, they can also lead to growth and strength if harnessed correctly. And I believe that this has been the case at Provincial Treasury.

This started with an investment in the leadership pipeline, with excellent candidates having filled the Director General’s post and several critical Chief Director posts inside the Department. And it can be seen through the various programmes of the Department.

For example, we have begun critical expenditure reviews which could help inform more efficient and effective ways of achieving our goals.

We have embarked on a review of our public entities which will help drive improved governance. We have led treasuries in South Africa on the way to

manage compensation of employees across provincial governments and we are leading the way on Supply Chain reform, having published the first ever Procurement Disclosure Report. We are moving ahead with new ways to harness Artificial Intelligence and to help analyse and inform the way we do business in our province, and we continue to provide critical support and monitoring within our municipalities to ensure enhanced financial performance across the Western Cape.

In many ways, Provincial Treasury is leading the way, I think, towards being a future-focused, future-ready department.

Of course, hon Deputy Speaker, budget cuts have been dramatic and we are not going to go down without a fight, and we will continue to robustly engage and arm-wrestle with National Government to get a fair deal for the Western Cape. And that is why last week Premier Alan Winde and I submitted a Section 79 petition to President Cyril Ramaphosa to bring to his attention material concerns over the constitutionality of certain aspects of the 2020 Division of Revenue Second Amendment Bill which was passed in the National Parliament on 26 November 2020.

Essentially, National Treasury have transferred significant risk to provinces, by pre-emptively cutting budgets, which assumes that they will win the court case against the unions on the wage agreement, an assumption, of course, which is far from certain.

And so we trust that President Cyril Ramaphosa and his legal team will engage with our arguments, and will return the 2020 Division of Revenue Second Amendment Bill to Parliament on the grounds of what we believe are valid constitutional concerns.

I have said it in the past, and I am going to say it again: we cannot be expected to cough up R2,3 billion that we do not have in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker in conclusion, this year not only did the Provincial Treasury have to respond alongside the rest of the Provincial Government to the Covid-19 pandemic, but as a result of the crisis had to table not one, but two Adjustment Budgets. The scale of this task cannot be underestimated. The hard work and dedication of “Team Finance” at Provincial Treasury deserves to be, I think, applauded.

I would like to thank each and every staff member inside Provincial Treasury for all their hard work and grit during this year.

I have said it again before and I am going to happily repeat myself again: “Team Finance” are certainly the “behind the scenes” heroes in the Western Cape. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon Mvimbi.

Mr L M MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you, hon member.

Mr L M MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, ladies and gentlemen, the ANC declines to support this Budget Vote.

Over the last few days, we have heard the Provincial Government that is simply unable to do more with less. Over the last few days, we have heard from the Provincial Government who is happy simply to submit their Compensation of Employees' funds back to the Provincial Revenue Fund. Take, for example, the Provincial Treasury's excuse of not providing for the bursaries of 30 interns and the 14 CAAs simply because of COVID-19. The challenge, the Provincial Treasury says, is because interns require supervision, mentoring and training which is difficult to perform remotely.

In the age of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, hon Deputy Speaker, this is just not acceptable. Faced with vast unemployment and with an economic climate which requires the closing of the skills gap, it is difficult to understand how innovative ways were not used to pursue this internship programme.

As we move towards digitalisation and a time where people will most likely work remotely, it is fascinating that interns cannot be exposed to this

environment or maybe the officials at the Provincial Treasury simply do not have the capacity to supervise them remotely.

On the other hand, the Provincial Treasury envisages spending nearly R4 million on video conferencing facilities. We are told that the installation of these five video conferencing venues is in order to improve the corporate image of the Provincial Treasury. In this climate of cuts to Compensation of Employees, COVID-19 and an economic downturn, the Provincial Treasury spends nearly R4 million on what could be simply referred to as cosmetics, so officials and the MEC may get video conferencing, work remotely, but interns may not have that opportunity.

At the same time, we are told that the vacancy rates continue to be as high as they are because of COVID-19. Therefore, while the DA Provincial Government expects the economy and everyone else to work and not be under lockdown, they relax at home and use COVID-19 as an excuse. The fact that interventions, such as those made in the Provincial Parliament, which was able to fill most of their vacancies, were not made, remain regrettable.

In the Local Government finance functional area there is a 50% vacancy rate. In the infrastructure functional area third of both – that is 33% – are vacant. In the Supply Chain Management functional area there are vacancies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, all of the three abovementioned areas remain very critical. The challenge we face in Local Government finance: yes, half of the

posts are vacant there. Infrastructure, which is key to economic reconstruction and recovery, has a third of posts vacant. Supply Chain Management remains significant in our stabilising of issues surrounding procurement, but there are vacancies. Little wonder the Provincial Treasury continues to hire consultants at such high levels. Nearly R7 million was spent on consultants and therefore, to in-source capacity seemed not to be a priority of the Provincial Treasury, but rather to continue outsourcing through the use of consultants.

But the philosophy of the Provincial Treasury is apparently to support municipalities ... [Inaudible.] ... critical functional areas remain high and consultants are used, but the Provincial Treasury wishes to support municipalities in services and advice, but not in cash. This contradiction points to an inefficient Provincial Treasury at best and at worst, maybe lazy.

As my colleagues have highlighted in the last two days, it will seem that it is much easier for the Provincial Treasury to advise on Section 79 petition, but not to do the job with the little money that they have been allocated by National Treasury.

The Provincial Treasury leads the pack on complaining about cuts by the National Treasury but is incapable of being innovative and efficient in ensuring that with the so-called little funds allocated by the National Treasury, that more is done with less.

May we also [Inaudible.] the hon Bredell's comment yesterday, that "do more with less" is not something that this ANC caucus came up with. Do more with less is what the hon Premier continuously says and it is only the ANC holding the Provincial Government accountable about their commitment to do more with less. Now, when the ANC blows holes in the Provincial Government and how they are doing less with less, now the hon Bredell turned around and tried to wangle his way out of this.

Hon Deputy Speaker, R2,8 million was spent in this Adjustment Budget on building the Treasury brand, so-called cultural value, cultural journey and business process re-engineering project, but critical vacancies will not be filled.

There is a reduction of R10 million for Transfer of Subsidy Grants to municipalities, especially in corporate governance. Again, with the lack of skills and services in the Provincial Treasury, as well as the decrease of these grants, fees and subsidies, the support to municipalities, especially in corporate governance, makes no sense. It is for this reason that we also believe that this Budget Vote also does not make sense and it is in that regard that we are not in support of it. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. With regards to

avements and shifting of funds within the Vote, one striking feature is found at Sub-programme 1.2 under Management Services. Here, the Department wants to believe that a saving of R780 000 was achieved through applicants declining the tertiary bursary opportunities. I find this to be very shocking in a country where thousands of post-matric learners cannot access tertiary education due to lack of funds, where students in the universities burn buildings in protest as a result of lack of funding by the National Financial Aid Scheme.

Now we are here, a government department is telling us that in the whole of the Western Cape, or South Africa by extension, the learners who made efforts to apply for a bursary have subsequently declined the very same bursary upon it being granted. That is a shocking revelation, to say the least. As if that was not enough, the very same Department takes the very same funds and spends it on video conferencing facilities.

Furthermore, the Ministry, which has been preaching about job creation, surrenders more than 50 million to the Provincial Revenue Fund, the same money that was earmarked for job creation and the compensation of the employees. The Government of the DA does not take people seriously. I now wonder whether the hon Premier and the Provincial Minister of Finance understand the word “dignity”.

On that note, the EFF will not support Vote 3. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, fellow South Africans, I rise today to debate Vote 3 of the Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill dealing with Provincial Treasury.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to commence with welcoming the publishing of the fifth edition of the Procurement Disclosure Report by Provincial Treasury. This edition of the Procurement Disclosure Report confirms that, to date, R1,7 billion has been committed towards COVID-19-related expenditure across departments and public entities in the 2020/2021 financial year in the Western Cape.

For the period 1 April 2020 to 31 October 2020, the Provincial Department's total COVID-19 expenditure, R1,7 billion, and Provincial Public Entities' total COVID expenditure is R2,9 million.

Of the total spent on COVID-19 expenditure in the 2020/2021 financial year, R731 million or 42,87% was spent on SMMEs by the departments and public entities in the Western Cape. The national target requires that 30% of spend goes to SMMEs via subcontracting mechanisms, and so the Western Cape Government has exceeded this target through direct procurement for the period, and meaningfully contributing to the business growth and employment opportunities in the province. This provincial report is available

on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis to the public and this serves as a clear demonstration, yet again, of this Government's commitment to transparency and openness.

Hon Deputy Speaker, before I move on to some of the other topics, I would like to address the comment by hon member Mvimbi where he is upset that you cannot do training with interns remotely. Hon Deputy Speaker, if you have a finance bursary it is likely in accounting, in auditing or possibly, economics and I do not know whether hon member Mvimbi knows what exactly happens when you do your practicals in auditing or accounting. Does he know that if you audit, for example, a chocolate factory in the private sector, you must go and do stock take and count all of the chocolates, and if someone accidentally ate one because they were hungry, then the stock take is invalid and you must do it all over again?

Hon Deputy Speaker, this might sound like a ridiculous example, but we need to be realistic. We were in a national lockdown ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, if you could just hold on one minute. There seems to be a raised hand. Hon Lekker, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I have got two concerns: one is that hon member Baartman needs to be told that she must address another member of Parliament through you as the Chairperson of the House. Two, hon member Baartman is casting

aspersions on hon member Mvimbi by saying he does not know what happens in accounting and therefore, hon Chair, I want you to rule on that aspect. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lekker. I think the speaking through me, I would just like to remind hon Baartman to talk through the Chair, but I really do not believe that there were aspersions cast directly at hon Mvimbi. Rather than [Inaudible.] to a point of clarity, I cannot ascertain a tone or rule on any tone, so I am going to dismiss that. Thank you very much. You may proceed, hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I was not aware that I addressed hon member Mvimbi directly since I did say, hon Deputy Speaker beforehand, but if I did, please note that I was trying to speak through you. But hon Deputy Speaker, I was indicating that this might sound like a ridiculous example, the example of the chocolate factory for example, but we need to be realistic. We were in a lockdown, a lockdown imposed by the National Government. So hon member Mvimbi, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, must please WhatsApp his colleagues about the fact that we could not train interns due to the impact of the national COVID-19 lockdown disaster regulations.

Similarly, hon Deputy Speaker, if a student gets more than one bursary, they will decline the one they do not want. So, if hon members want to know the reasons why students are declining their bursaries, then they must †asseblief

[please] attend meetings.

Also, hon member Mvimbi, hon Deputy Speaker, spoke about hon Minister Bredell, but the Minister of this vote is hon Minister Maynier. In the previous bit he spoke about Premier Helen Zille ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Baartman, if you can just pause? Hon Lekker, is that your hand up once again?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, it is up, hon Chairperson.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: My apologies. What is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): My point of order is on the ruling that you have made on the latter, where you said hon member Baartman is not casting aspersions. Hon member Baartman said, I quote, "I do not know if member Mvimbi understands" and by way of definition when you do that, you are casting a doubt on someone and therefore, hon Chair, I really want you to ask the Table staff to assist you on that ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, thank you very much. With all due respect, you are now questioning a point of order on a decision that I have made. So, in terms of 66(d) I have ruled on the matter. And then, with regards to a further concern you have, you may actually write to the Rules Committee if you are not happy with my decision and that is in terms of Rule

66.5. The ruling applies. Thank you very much. I am asking hon Baartman to proceed.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I was at the point where I was asking – I do not know why hon Minister Bredell is being mentioned in this Vote because the Minister for this Vote is hon Minister Maynier. And also, hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Mvimbi spoke about Premier Helen Zille, but the Premier of this Province is Premier Alan Winde. So, I do not know if he also knows this, hon Deputy Speaker, but the Premier Alan Winde is the one who cycles, he rolls up his sleeves because we work here in this province, he is committed to jobs and he is the one with the white hair. [Interjections.] So Vote 3, you must also know that ... [Interjections.]

Mr L M MVIMBI: Hon Deputy Speaker ... [Interjection.]

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

Mr L M MVIMBI: No, no, it is not a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker. I did not mention hon – I did not mention Ms Helen Zille ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, but I cannot – that is not a point of order.

Mr L M MVIMBI: I am being misquoted.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Kama, what is your

point of order? Okay, hon Kama ... [Interjection.]

Mr M KAMA: Thank you. Can you hear me, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Mvimbi, that was not a point of order.

Mr M KAMA: No, it is member Kama, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, if you are listening to the member on the podium as she continues to make her point, before making the point she keeps on reflecting on hon member Mvimbi, like even when she was making the point now about the Premier. She continues to reflect on hon member Mvimbi, and she does not know whether he knows the Premier of the Province ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Kama, I have already ruled on that. You may not question that again. I have clearly stated that in terms of Rule 66.5, 66.3(d), I have already ruled on that matter. If you are not happy you can follow Rule 66.5. Hon Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I rise on a point of order against hon Mvimbi in terms of Rule 40 which states that:

“A member may not interrupt another member who is speaking, except to call attention to a point of order.”

The hon member interrupted hon Baartman and then said that it was not for a point of order. So we would ask if he would please refrain from doing such.

And then secondly, hon Baartman is rebutting in a debate, as is expected of hon members debating a budget. She is not reflecting on the integrity or the dignity of the hon member. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is noted. If you can all lower your hands and allow hon member Baartman to complete her speech.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Hon Deputy Speaker ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, can I address you, hon Chairperson.
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Can I address, Chair?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Hon Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Chair. Hon Deputy Speaker, I am not

sure what exactly is happening in the House. You have already indicated to me that I must write to the Rules Committee in respect of the ruling that you made which I challenged, but yet again, you are giving an opportunity for hon member Wenger to speak on that same item where she says hon member Baartman was not really challenging the interpreting of hon member Mvimbi. So, why do you allow hon member – what is her name, the Chief Whip – to speak on that issue as a third point that she just mentioned now? Is it okay for you to accept someone else to challenge your ruling, whilst on the one hand you do not accept it? What exactly is happening? I need some clarity.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, first of all I would like to ask that you mind your tone. Secondly, I did not comment on what the hon Chief Whip said because she has a right to rise as a Chief Whip. I did not comment or give a ruling. I made one ruling and I have been very clear to the entire House that that ruling stands. If hon Wenger wanted me to change my ruling, I would have ruled against that. So I did not comment on what she said.

The ruling stands. Hon Baartman has not committed any infringement. In terms of Rule 66.5, if you are not happy with my ruling you may take it to the Rules Committee. I would like to now proceed. Thank you very much.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, Chair, no. I accept the fact that you have made your ruling ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Lekker, you are now ... [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): No, Chair ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ... infringing upon 66.3(d). Can you please look at your Rules?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Allow me to address you, Chair, because you are flip-flopping in your ruling.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am now asking you, you are now infringing upon Rule 66.3(d).

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Are you trying to threaten me, Deputy Secretary? Because I have the right to speak when you are flip-flopping.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: First of all, I am not the Secretary. Secondly, I am the Deputy Speaker presiding in the House at the moment. My ruling stands. Thank you very much.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You are [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed, hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and before I move on to some of my other points, I would also just like to indicate to the House

that to my knowledge and as per the official report of the Committee, which was also indicated in the Budget Committee, there was no minority view raised for this Vote by any of the Opposition parties. The Vote was supported in the Committee with no objections.

Hon Deputy Speaker, there has been a R2,3 billion reduction in the Western Cape budget for Compensation of Employees as required by the National Government and the Province is obviously concerned about the number that National Treasury has reached, saying that the budget may be taking R500 million too much.

The Provincial Treasury then used the Provincial Revenue Fund to cushion some of these cuts, bringing the net reduction of the Provincial Equitable Share to R1,5 million, as indicated in the Provincial Budget, as well as the Division of Revenue Second Adjustment Bill. This is separate to the 1,2 million funding from the Provincial Revenue Fund used to bolster the Provincial Budget during the Division of the Revenue First Adjustment Budget. This is also separate to the net R2 billion equitable share cut by National Government to the Provincial Budget in the Division of Revenue First Adjustment Budget. This brings the net reduction to 3,5 billion this year.

Concerns over the failure of the wage freeze of civil servants have been raised by both the Provincial and National Treasuries, and they have said that they are concerned about how they are going to fund the Government

operations if the public wage bill increases. Currently, the National Government has halted proceedings and is rather working towards settlement with unions. This is part of the reason why hon Minister Maynier and the hon Premier of our Province have submitted a Section 9 to the President to draw attention to material concerns over the constitutionality of the Division of Revenue Second Adjustment Bill.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government has exercised unparalleled fiscal responsibility over the years, allowing the Province to now use its reserves and mobilise R1,7 billion for its Fiscal Transition Support facility, which can support departments in the medium term to find more cost-effective and smarter ways of delivering services. This will support and cushion departments even after the National Government cut, the Provincial Equitable Share. And we therefore commend the Provincial Treasury for being prepared for such challenging economic times. By using its own reserves, the Province is protecting the budgets of critical services, such as education and healthcare, from spending pressures which would otherwise compromise the dignity and hope of Western Cape residents.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in 2019/2020 financial year South Africans had to bail out Eskom with R49 billion. In 2020/21 South Africans had to bail out Eskom with R56 billion. In 2021/2022, R33 billion has already been set aside for Eskom and in 2022 and 2023, R23 billion is being set aside for Eskom, as revealed in the Budget Committee last year. This amounts to R161 billion in bailouts for Eskom over four financial years. Hon Deputy Speaker, and this

year South Africans have to fund R10,5 billion for a bailout for SAA. We cannot continue bailing out failing, mismanaged State-owned Enterprises every single year.

The adjustment of the Provincial Equitable Share as per the 2020 MTEF allocation letter in slides 15 and 16 of the Budget Committee presentation, revealed that for the MTEF period, which is 2020/21 to 2023/24, the budget cut for the Western Cape's Provincial Equitable Share will be R26 billion.

Further, the total conditional grant increases from National Government received during the Division of Revenue Second Adjustment Budget, was R62 million. The total grant decreases were R128 million.

Now, when you take the decreases and you take the increases and you put them together with your calculator, it brings you to a net decrease of national conditional grants of R66 million in the Second Adjustment Budget.

These national conditional grant cuts are separate to the national conditional grant cuts in the First Adjustment Budget. The national budget cuts to our grants in the First Adjustment Budget, include cuts to Education Infrastructure Grants, which were R160 million, the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grants of R162 million, two agriculture grants amounting to R30 million meant for infrastructure and the Elsenburg College and Agricultural Training, the Human Settlements Development Grant which was R202 million and the Title Deeds Grant of R44 million. And in fact, due to

the fact that our equitable share did not increase and the grant cuts in the First Adjustment Budget, 100% of those cuts in the Provincial Budget was due to the National Government cutting our funding.

In the Second Budget Adjustment, the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant which we received from National Government was cut by R61 million. Our Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme grant, Ilima Letsema Projects Grant and Land Care Programme Grant meant for poverty relief and infrastructure development in agriculture, was cut by almost R1,6 million. Our Title Deeds Restoration Grant by the National Government was cut by R23 million. These are essential programmes meant for infrastructure, land reform and title deeds for the people of the Western Cape.

In total, there is a net decrease in conditional grants in both the First and the Second Adjustment Budget.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, it may seem mundane repeating these amounts, †maar dit is omdat ek nie weet watter begroting my kollegas gelees het nie, maar dit was nie die Wes-Kaapse Eerste of Tweede Aansuiweringsbegroting nie en dit was definitief nie die Nasionale Verdeling van Inkomste Eerste of Tweede Wysigings nie [but that is because I do not know which budget my colleagues had read, but it was not the Western Cape First or Second Adjustments Appropriation and it was definitely not the National Division of Revenue First or Second Amendments.]

The Budget Committee has unanimously adopted the resolution to invite the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, and his Department to explain the rationale of the R10,5 billion bailout of SAA. The Committee would like the Department to explain exactly how it came to this figure and how it determined how much money would be cut from each department and each province. We will thus call on the National Minister to account for this decision and I am hopeful Minister Gordhan will participate and address the Committee's concerns.

Furthermore, the Committee unanimously agreed that it would also call on National Government to explain the impact on the finances of the Western Cape, should the attempt by National Government to freeze the public wage bill, be unsuccessful. Both National Treasury and Provincial Treasury, as indicated previously, have expressed concerns over the failure of the wage freeze, saying that should it fail, severe strain will be placed on Government budgets.

Despite drastic budget cuts to the Province this year by National Government, including the cuts to the title deeds ... [Interjection.] ... to land reform and provincial roads, Government, the Western Cape, is committed to creating jobs, dignity and safety for its residents.

We have now also learned today that *News24* established that South Africa ... [Interjection.] ... has missed the deadline of the first payment of the window – hon Deputy Speaker, may I continue?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can we please make sure that everybody is on mute, bar the speaker? Okay. Thank you very much.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. We have also now learned through *News24* reporting that South Africa has missed the deadline of the first payment window to an initiative designed to secure equitable access to a COVID-19 vaccine for middle and low-income countries. It is reported that the Solidarity Fund had to step in to make payment to the COVAX initiative of an estimated R300 million. The first payment is estimated at R500 million that South Africa needs to pay, and it is reported that approval from National Treasury has not been received.

If you cannot even meet a deadline such as this at the most desperate of times, how are you going to instil hope in our communities that you are doing everything you can to spend South Africa's money in a prudent manner? Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC National Government must explain to us why it prefers bailouts for SAA over money for title deeds, why it prefers bailout money for SAA over money for land reform and why it prefers bailouts for SAA over money for road infrastructure?

Hon Deputy Speaker, we support this Vote. I thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to begin by reminding the hon Mvimbi that Premier Alan Winde's refrain is in fact "do less but do it well". It is National Government's refrain, "do more with less", but of course, unsurprisingly, National Government appears to be doing less with less.

Now, the hon Mvimbi raises a question about bursaries and I wish to assure him that we are committed to developing and recruiting talent into the Provincial Treasury. And it appears that he may have misunderstood the information provided because we have not terminated the 31 bursary interns or the 14 CAA interns, as he claims. In fact, in this financial year we will be spending R6,5 million supporting the graduate interns, R5,3 million supporting the CAA interns and a further R1,5 million on bursaries.

But that is not all. We are also spending R93 000 on cash prizes for finalists in our school essay writing competition relating to economics, accounting and mathematics, and we have also allocated a cash prize to the most improved school in economics, accounting and mathematics and that prize was awarded to the Phandulwazi High School.

On the question of vacancies, we have in fact had considerable success when it comes to critical vacancies. We have appointed two DGs, we have appointed a new Chief Director and we will be appointing an additional Chief Director quite soon. Nevertheless, there are challenges finding the right skills, but we are committed to filling critical vacancies in PT.

The hon Mvimbi then goes on to raise the whole question of grants to municipalities, implying that there might be a concern about a decrease in efficiency of our support. Again, I would like to assure the hon member that we are committed to supporting municipalities and we will still be spending, in this financial year, about R21,5 million supporting our municipalities through three grants.

We will, of course, be reviewing transfers to municipalities to find ways to streamline and find efficiencies, but we are absolutely committed to supporting municipalities going forward with both in kind support and also, with support through transfers across municipalities in the Western Cape.

The hon Makamba-Botya again raises the question of bursaries. Those bursaries have been declined for a number of reasons, including possibly the fact that the places could not be taken up at universities or indeed, some students may have found superior universities. But I would like to again assure the hon member that we are completely committed to talent development and it is precisely for that reason why we have continued to support our graduate interns, our CAA interns, and allocate bursaries to support students in the Western Cape.

Then, I wish to compliment the hon Baartman who referred to the whole question of budget cuts, and it is not mundane to set out the full scope and the full horror of the budget cuts, as she so eloquently did. And I wish to compliment the hon Deidré Baartman on summoning the Minister of Public

Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, to come and defend the indefensible R10,5 billion bailout to SAA right here in the Provincial Parliament in the Western Cape.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in closing I would like to thank the hon Deidré Baartman and all members of her Committee, again, who have worked very hard under very difficult circumstances in the Provincial Parliament here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That concludes the debate on this Vote.

†Die SEKRETARIS: Begrotingspos 11 – Landbou – *Wes-Kaapse Tweede Aansuiweringsbegrotingswetsontwerp* [B 7 – 2020].

[The SECRETARY: Budget Vote 11 – Agriculture – *Western Cape Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill* [B 7 – 2020].]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. I recognise the Minister. Hon Min Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and the hon Premier and Cabinet colleagues, and Min Marais in the House as well as the Leader of the Official Opposition and Leaders of the Official Opposition Parties, members of the various Legislatures and also to our good friend, Mr Peter Marais, acknowledging also the longstanding tradition in this

Legislature. Thank you for reminding us of the importance of parliamentary custom and tradition. It is part of this House. It is part of the parliamentary tradition.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today to table the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's Second Adjustment Budget 2020. The Adjustment Budget framed within the context of the Western Cape Government's priorities namely, safety, jobs, dignity and wellbeing. It is further informed by the five ministerial priorities which I have set for this Department of Agriculture, namely:

- Structured Training and Education
- Rural Safety
- Farmer Support and development
- Market Access, and the whole issue of
- Climate Change

Hon Deputy Speaker, R970 million was allocated to the Department of Agriculture in the Main Budget when I tabled it at the beginning of this year, 2020/21 Financial Year. Since then, hon Deputy Speaker, following two rounds of adjustments, as explained by hon member Baartman, this amount stands now at R928 million which I am tabling here today. The detail of the Department's Second Adjustment Budget 2020/21 is as follows:

- R2 million goes towards Phase 1 of the modernisation of the building at Elsenburg;
 - R1,773 million towards 100 000 masks (PPEs) for the agri-workers and farmers.
-
- And the conditional grants are reduced as follows, hon Deputy Speaker:
 - The CASP grant, the Comprehensive Agricultural Support grant is reduced by a further R1 million;
 - The *Ilima Letsema* grant is reduced by R492 000;
 - The Land Care grant is reduced by R60 000.

Additional funding in line with our emphasis on jobs and wellbeing is allocated to this Department as follows:

- R16,825 million for food gardens for food security;
- R8,5 million for transformation of farmer protection by supporting operational expenses and providing technical, market and production assistance, hon Deputy Speaker; and
- R9.6 million for upgrading irrigation infrastructure for 153 smallholder plots to establish lucerne on 80 plots – all at Ebenaezer, which I recently also visited.

Hon Deputy Speaker, from the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)

- R25 million for drought relief. That money has already been spent in terms of the cost of employees. The reduction is
- R18,869 million. This is in line with the National Treasury instruction for cutting the cost of living increases.

We have also surrendered Revenue of:

- R2,876 million for class and hostel fees at the College due to COVID-19. Students were not there, therefore they did not have to pay for that;

Internal Reprioritisation:

- R12 million subsidy for maintenance of 1 333 jobs within the wine tourism sector; and another
- R6,7 million for research and farming equipment.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I table the Department of Agriculture's 2020 Second Adjustment Budget of R928 million for consideration in the House. I thank you.

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

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker, thank you. Good afternoon to everyone in the House. Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Congress Movement to

give input on this Vote and to decide whether we are going to support or decline support for this Vote, but Deputy Speaker, allow me first to also congratulate the hon Piet Marais who is in the House, and as said Deputy Speaker, a tradition by this Parliament to honour longstanding members. Let me do the same.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC supports five priorities as identified by the MEC within the Agriculture Department. We welcome focus on Education, Research and Training, Safety, Farmer Support, Market Access as well as Climate Change. The ANC appreciates the fact that 100 000 masks were made available at the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic earlier this year and acknowledges that more than R16 million was spent on ensuring food security. We commend the upgrading project, especially the 233 plots in the Ebenaezer area.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC is not shy to commend the Department on the R25 million made available for drought relief, the reprioritisation for maintenance of 1 333 jobs in the wine industry and the securing of 2 000 household food gardens. Deputy Speaker, we are not afraid to congratulate the Department on a job well done and especially the 120 graduates, interns and will not hesitate to give credit where credit is due, but we will also not shy away from giving the necessary oversight which seemingly MEC Meyer's colleagues in the DA will fail to do. While the ANC will not fail to give oversight, we will also not fail to speak up for the most vulnerable in this sector. Those whose insurance will not pay out or will not have the

Department to support them when things go rough.

We will continue to insist on education and training for farm workers and the children, so that farm children are not permanently stuck in a cycle of poverty. We will continue to demand safety for farm workers and not just the farmer. We see cameras all over the entrances of farms, but nothing at the entrances where trucks go every morning to fetch these workers. No means in this Adjustment Budget for the safety of farm workers. It is clear that the Premier's Safety Plan is only for the rich. We will continue to demand that women on farms, especially women farm workers and those who suffer from Gender Based Violence on farms are given the necessary support, just as farmers are given support.

The sad reality is that this Department does not care enough about empowerment of farm workers, never mind emerging farmers, especially African, Coloured and Indian farmers. The hon Peter Marais will be interested to know that the Leader of the Official Opposition, the hon Dugmore, asked MEC Meyer whether his Department has a list of municipal-owned land across all municipalities that is being leased to farmers and/or community gardens. To this written question the hon MEC replied and I quote,

“The Department does not have a list of municipal-owned land that is leased to farmers as the municipalities manage their own community's land. The Department only support beneficiaries who do have access to

land.”

In other words, there is no political will by this Department to enquire from municipalities where and how much land is being leased to farmers and to keep such a database. Even more so there is no political will to ensure more farmers coming into the industry. Here we specifically speak about African farmers, more Coloured farmers and more Indian farmers. Rather the Department only supports beneficiaries who do have access to land. If you do not have land this Department could not care less. They will not engage municipalities across this province to release land in their possession for the purpose of agriculture. The MEC’s response to the question by the hon Dugmore is clear in this regard.

Deputy Speaker the hon Marais will also be interested to know that the hon Dugmore further asked the MEC, what is the total amount of hectares of privately owned agricultural land and how much of this land is owned by Africans? What percentage is owned by Coloureds? How much is owned by Indians, by whites and by foreigners? The Minister’s response was that, and again I quote,

“This information was housed with the Deeds Office which is part of the national Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development. The Department therefore does not have access to the abovementioned information.”

In other words, the Department does not care about redress. They have no interest whatsoever in correcting the injustices of the past, the reality that this sector continues to be dominated by whites is irrelevant to this provincial Department of Agriculture and this budget says just that. As you heard, the Department assists only those who have land already. They will not be interested in beneficiaries from National Government Programmes in assisting them. Instead what this Government did is to compare projects spearheaded by National Government versus those they are supporting.

Deputy Speaker, the ANC remains concerned about the stipend paid to the interns in the wine and tourism industry. In Afrikaans we will ask, †“Hoe kan jy ‘n jakkals skaapwagter maak?” [How can you give the wolf the wether to keep?] Many of our farmers still underpay our workers. It does not come as a surprise when this DA Government in the national manifesto suggested for workers to opt out of the minimum wage and accept a wage similar to the old age pension grant which is R1 800. These farmers learn from you, hon Deputy Speaker.

We have also learnt that many farmers who applied for TERS monies for their workers from UIF, never paid over these monies to their workers after they received it from the UIF. Deputy Speaker, in some cases criminal charges have been laid against these employers, but again we are going to make these employers “skaapwagter” and workers will remain beggars. Historically we know where the “dop” system came from. So during this time of disaster when these interns will rely on stipends, farmers will deduct rent for

accommodation. Workers will have to pay for electricity and will end up having far less than their old age pension grant.

Today there is a resurgence of infections in COVID-19 but support especially for farm workers and from the Department have dried up. With the start of the new season in most areas across the province again we see old habits return with workers transported on overloaded trucks with no masks and no social distancing. This situation will become a super spread of the virus over the next couple of weeks. We appeal to the Department to ensure that more PPE's are distributed to those who are vulnerable. Although the ANC have a huge appreciation for work done by this Department and its officials over the last couple of months, it is not enough to say that everyone must take responsibility. Some of us, especially those who run Government departments, have a greater responsibility to make sure that everyone is counted, not only a few. Until this Department realises that, the ANC will decline to support this Vote. I thank you.

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Through you Deputy Speaker, we were still under the Level 4 lockdown when the current MEC led thousands of white racists with old apartheid flags to the gates of the National Assembly, which is a national key point and of which we still get some within the DA-led Administration, trying to condemn the EFF when it assembles, which is a

sign that black people under the current DA have no right to assemble and the right to assemble is only given to those who own land, who happen to be white.

We will remember this Department for its legacy of providing food gardens for the blacks and hectares of farmlands for the whites. This is what happens when deputy whites try to mimic their colonial masters. The myth of farm killings created by this Department without scientific evidence, is just a foul play. The only thing being offered to the people of colour in this sector is learnership and internship. Their aim is for a black person to acquire the minimum skills required in order to be nothing but an employee of a white farmer. As the EFF we do not support this Vote on the basis that it does not provide anything for our people. The Department does nothing for farm workers in the province who are always subjected to all forms of abuse by farm owners. Despite being involved in production of food, these farm workers are paid little wages to an extent that they cannot provide for their own families to put food on the table. The Western Cape needs an agricultural ministry that is awake to these realities and one which is willing to come to the aid of a farm worker and people of colour in that particular industry. We do not support this Vote. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much hon Xego. I now recognise the esteemed hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much, Deputy Speaker, hon members. Minister, I rise in support of your budget. Coloured people were the slaves who helped work and develop agriculture in the Western Cape. We were also the artisans. We were also the garment workers that clothed South Africa. When slavery was abolished in 1834, we became free slaves, settling on communal reserves and mission stations. The Mission and Communal Reserves Act of 1909 enacted by the Cape Colony then placed these rural areas in State trust and it remained there up till this day.

The State has been holding on to this land for more than 111 years. 23 trust lands comprising of approximately 1,23 million hectares of land belong to the coloured people. It has been held in trust by this Government since the demise of the Tricameral Parliament. That land was transferred to National Government control, never transferred to my people. We even have land straddling ~~in~~ the Western and Northern Cape that needs to be given back. We have 20 000 hectares in the Eastern Cape, the †*Oppermans gronde* [Opperman's land] which was part of that deal that England made with the Coloured people before 1910. We became a union. Minister, we want the land to be transferred into community trust and you must help us do it. I have written to the National Minister. On her request she said, give me the facts. I gave it to her. I told her about the Trunk Car Act of 1998 [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, your time is up [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: She has responded saying, yes, she will do it. She will do it by March next year. I will tell you, Minister, it is Freemansheim, Haarlem, Transhoek, Slangrivier, Zoar, Rietpoort, Ebenaezer, Mamre, Saron, Suurbraak, Genadendal, Pniel. We want our land back.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: It is held in trust by the State. It belongs to the Coloured people.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise hon Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members, I believe we can all be extremely proud of the agricultural sector in the Western Cape. It makes a huge and important contribution to the Western Cape's economy and particularly to job creation. In addition to this it is also contributing to food security and a major player in the export market. In this respect it plays an important role in the balance of payments and in protecting the value of our currency, to some extent mitigating the mismanagement of our economy by the Central Government. I also want to use the opportunity to share with the House the good news of the wonderful yield that the winter crops of 2020, particularly wheat and canola, have just seen.

This was due to favourable weather conditions as a result of above normal rainfall figures in the Overberg and Swartland in September of this year. We have also seen a boom in the citrus industry, particularly due to international demand for quality citrus. And there is also a notion that the record export figures can be linked to citrus fruit being seen as a healthy product that can improve one's immune system, which in this COVID-19 years has been prioritised by many consumers abroad. The economy of many of our rural towns are closely linked to farming and we can all be grateful for the many farmers that have seen good harvests. Fortunately, farming has been classified as an essential service by the National Coronavirus Command Council.

This industry could therefore continue with the bulk of its activities during the severest of the lockdown regulations. In this respect it by and large evaded the damage done by the decisions of the National Coronavirus Command Council for many other industries. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of our wine and beer and related industries. As you will soon see, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture plays a huge role in support of the agricultural industry. This support includes research, training, sharing of information, ground support and numerous related activities. We all know by now about the severe financial pressures that the mismanagement of our beloved country's economy and particularly the capture of State resources by certain ANC politicians brought upon us.

It is therefore heart-warming to see a provincial department that has been

allocated some additional money from the Provincial Treasury in the Second Adjustments Budget for 2020/2021. The overall budget for the Department has increased in the Second Adjusted Estimates by R40,4 million to almost R929 million. This increase in budget, however, can easily be misinterpreted as all good news. It hides the severe financial cuts and constraints under which many of the programmes of the Department of Agriculture are forced to be operating under.

It also does not reflect the hardship that so many of our citizens are experiencing and the difference that Department can make in their lives. The available budget also does not provide for the threat of the ANC Government reneging on Treasury's instruction not to budget the salary increases in the current financial year. With the ANC always putting party interests before the interests of South Africa, this is a real threat.

The failures of the Central Government are putting additional financial pressure on this Department. Who would have thought that it would ever be necessary for an MEC of Agriculture and for a province to also accept the responsibility for the safety of its people? Yet the failure of the South African Police Services to keep us and particularly the rural communities safe, forced this Department to mobilise resources towards the design of a rural safety plan.

What a disgrace that the South African Police Services, the very entity that is supposed to protect all citizens and that by law, has the exclusive

responsibility to investigate and fight crime is failing us in its most basic mandate. The ANC is always posturing as the party for the poor despite the overwhelming evidence that they spend more and more of our taxes on the already privileged. Privileged people such as those that can afford to fly with South African Airways, or the privileged upper middle-class that travel on the Gautrain, or those privileged ANC cadres that benefitted from the PPE scandals.

The funding of these come at the expense of those that are most deserving to be given a hand up. In line with this warped view of Government's priorities the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development again cut back on grants that are meant to particularly assist transformation and the poor and I will soon list a number of examples of this. The hon Marran just attacked MEC Meyer for not being able to respond to hon Dugmore's questions on the percentage of land belonging to various race groups.

Now hon Deputy Speaker, we know that the ANC has got this obsession about race, yet no-one in the ANC has been able to give us a definition of race and in this respect even the old National Party, hon Marran's previous party, fared better. They had some definitions and some tests which involved pencils and all kinds of other features of humans to determine race.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon van der Westhuizen, if you could just take your seat. There is a point of order in the House. Hon Sayed, what is your

point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, maybe just clarity. I am not sure whether I heard correctly, is hon Van der Westhuizen saying that hon Marran's previous party was the National Party or hon Marais? I did not hear correctly and if he could please tell us what is the basis for that. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Member Sayed, you are asking me now to verify facts [Interjections.] and that I'm not going to, maybe you could just repeat your sentence hon Van der Westhuizen, but I am not here as a Presiding Officer to verify facts of previous histories of people's parties. So, if you could just indicate your sentence, hon Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Deputy Speaker, I think it is a moot fact that members of the new National Party, some members for mostly personal gain, eventually joined the ANC and therefore the ANC has got the new National Party as one of its partners or former partners before that party eventually rolled up its tent [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going rule on this. Thank you, hon Van der Westhuizen. Before you continue, I am not going to rule on it because I cannot rule on the factual history of individual members. I am going to ask that hon Van der Westhuizen continue with his speech, but bear in mind hon

Van der Westhuizen, please be mindful that you do not cast any aspersions, it is up to hon Sayed to come back in the House next year and verify the facts or not.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, you are correct. I am not expecting you to go into the history. I just expect hon Van der Westhuizen to do as you asked him to do, which is to repeat what he had said. I am sure he has got his notes in front of him, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Van der Westhuizen, I am listening to your speech. Please be careful to not cast any aspersions. You may continue.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. I do not know if somebody's personal history [Interjection.]

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, hon Van der Westhuizen [Interjection.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: ... is casting aspersions, but if that is the case, I am very sorry my hon colleague.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute. I recognise hon Marran. What is your

point of order?

Mr P MARRAN: Deputy Speaker, ja, I am rising on a point of order, because I am of the view that the hon Van der Westhuizen is casting aspersions on my name, because I clearly heard that he was mentioning my name, saying that I was a previous member of the National Party which is not true. He could not even speak, bring facts [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No-no, that is not a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran [Interjections.] with all due respect, as I have said very clearly, first of all you know, anybody's history of anything is not about aspersions. It is history. So, I am not here to decide whether that is an aspersion or not, alright? I would like us to continue. You can look at the Hansard later, but I am not here to verify those facts and it is not a point of order to verify the fact to me. If the hon member can please continue, hon Van der Westhuizen. Thank you.

Mr P MARRAN: Speaker, just for the record, I could have never been a member of a party who have killed innocent kids [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, I fully understand your need to want to [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: ...one of which the hon Van der Westhuizen was part of.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, I fully understand your need to want to justify but this is not the time or the Rules to be able to do that. Thank you very much. Hon Van der Westhuizen, you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order, Deputy Speaker.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, our Rules are very clear about casting aspersions, leave aside the history now, but I would argue on a point of order that you need to rule because anyone who is accused of being a member of the former National Party, the party of Apartheid, that is clearly an aspersion. So it is not about fact. It is actually, I would argue and therefore request that you investigate this matter further and then come back to the House, because I believe there is a case to be made that calling someone a member of the National Party is not casting aspersion.

An HON MEMBER: Point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I am not going to take any further points of order. First, may I address hon Dugmore. Hon Dugmore, I will relook at it

from the Hansard and I will revert back next year, if there is anything but you have to be mindful that it is like saying you come from Rhodes University. Anyway, I will commit to relooking at it more intensely and I will come back to you – or more attentively and I will come back next year. May we proceed please.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Mr P MARRAN: I am actually disappointed by the hon Van der Westhuizen who associated me with [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marran, I did not recognise you. I am going to now ask hon Van der Westhuizen – I have made a ruling in terms of 66(d) and I will ask that hon Van der Westhuizen to continue. Thank you.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, this concept that is so important to the ANC which was first introduced by the new National Party here in South Africa, or his predecessor, the National Party, is a man-made concept, yet the ANC has become completely obsessed as you could have just seen from the responses from ANC members.

Race has got no biological basis. It is absolutely man-made. There is no reason why we should distinguish and there is no reason why the Deeds

Office should put emphasis on a concept that the ANC can clearly not even define. So, the point that I am making is that while the ANC is trying to posture as the party for certain groups then obviously, it is not for the poor, their deeds do not speak to what is then really needed to give certain people a hand-up. And I am going to cite just three examples of how the National ANC Government is failing the poor, particularly in agriculture, in the Western Cape.

More than R1 million was cut from CASP, the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme. The purpose of this programme is to provide post settlement support to the targeted beneficiaries of land reform. This cut shows that there is clearly no commitment to land reform from the ANC.

Hon Baartman also referred to the almost half a million rand that was cut from the Ilima Letsema grant. The purpose of this grant is also to provide effective agricultural support services, promote and facilitate agricultural development again by targeting beneficiaries of land reforms, restitution and redistribution and it says in its vision, and other black producers. Again, the support was cut by National Government. Again, no real commitment to support land reform.

In addition to this, the land care programme has also been but by national and the aim of the land care programme is to assist the very communities that hon Marais referred to earlier with infrastructure to utilise land in a sustainable manner. How can any government that claims to be aiding the poor prioritize

the cutting back on these important grants? Thankfully, in this province, we have a government that cares for agriculture and particularly for the poor. Almost R17 million is being set aside in this budget for support to 2 000 community food gardens. This is a great initiative as it addresses both the scourges of rampant unemployment and potential malnutrition caused by the National Government.

An additional R8,5 million has been set aside to support transformation with technical market and production assistance and MEC Meyer refers to the work at Ebenaezer. The Western Cape Government will be supporting the successful land claimants on the 133 plots with irrigation infrastructure. Those responsible for 80 plots will be assisted to establish lucerne in an effort to achieve both financial independence as well as to provide fodder for animals.

The increase in farmer support that has been made available by this Provincial Treasury exceeds R30,6 million. This is the DA difference and this Department's positive response, in stark contrast to the ANC's reduction in support for emerging farmers. Unfortunately, Deputy Speaker, large parts of the Western Cape and particularly the Central Karoo are still in the grip of a serious drought. Because of the mismanagement of the national budget, the Western Cape only received a small share of the drought relief that is required to allow the farmers in the Karoo and other drought-stricken areas to survive the current drought. And in contrast to some ANC-run provinces, where allocated drought relief is beset by serious delays and corruption, the

money transferred to the Western Cape in this financial year has already been distributed to those in need.

We all know about the devastating effect that the ban on the sale of alcohol and the restrictions on travel have had on the wine tourism industry. I therefore want to congratulate Minister Ivan Meyer and the Department on the recently announced provincial subsidy to protect more than 1 300 jobs in the wine tourism industry.

We again see that the National Command Council is threatening this industry by threatening to restrict the hours of wine sales and while we need to acknowledge the unfortunate link between alcohol abuse and trauma cases in our hospitals, it has not been proven that a ban on alcohol sales is effective in curbing the spread of COVID-19.

Now, to turn to the budget again. I am grateful to see that money is being earmarked for the building of a R10 million tissue culture facility. The funding made available to develop market access is welcomed. What we do see are the decreases in the budgets for Veterinary Services, Research and Technology Development, Agricultural Economic Services, Agricultural Education and Training and Rural Development. This is mostly due to the downwards adjustment within the budget of [Interjections.] this is linked to the instruction by National Treasury that there will be no [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute [Interjection.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: [Interjections.]...the cost of living
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, one minute, hon member. Hon Dugmore, you are not on mute. Could you please mute your microphone. Just if you could mute hon Dugmore's microphone. Thank you. Hon Van der Westhuizen, you may continue.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you Deputy Speaker. Thank you staff for muting him. Hon colleagues, I believe that this budget will allow the Department to particularly help those farmers that are in real need of support. I therefore urge hon members to join me and the majority of the members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Development Planning and Environmental Affairs in our support for the budget of this Department. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon member. I now recognise Min Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to thank hon member Marais, thank you for supporting this Budget Vote. You clearly understand the importance of agriculture in society and I think you have more brains and knowledge than the whole Official Opposition together in this House.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would also like to thank and acknowledge the role and the responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Agricultural Committee for their role in the Western Cape [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute, one minute, hon Minister if you could take your seat. Hon Xego, what is your point of order?

Mr M XEGO: Understanding the point made by the Minister that hon Marais might have more experience, but to say he has got more brains than the rest of us, was a direct offense and a spit in our face. That is a direct casting of aspersion. He can never say that. There is nobody who has got more brains than the other here. If that is the thinking that he has, it is a serious challenge that we have. Can you rule on that? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You know, hon Xego, I am unable to measure who has got more brains or not [Interjections.] so well, he has got his freedom and rights to actually speak with some freedom in this House responsibly. I do not believe that he had cast aspersions on any particular member according to the Rules. So he has basically said there is more brains – I cannot actually measure that and decide that [Interjection.]

Mr M XEGO: Deputy Speaker, he has made the reference. He said, “than the rest of the Opposition parties”. That is a direct insult to us. He can never say we do not have brains here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, you are asking me now to really make a decision on that. I will revert to Hansard and apply my mind if that actually is a direct insult at any particular person here. We might – he may even be right or wrong. I am not going to be able to measure that, but I will cast my mind to that and revert back. Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker [Interjection.]

Mr M KAMA: Hon Deputy Speaker, I am trying to raise my hand.
[Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member Kama, what – hon Minister, if you can take your seat. Hon Kama, I see you. What is your point of order?

Mr M XEGO: No, it is hon [Interjection.]

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker [Interjections.] I wish to bring it to your attention that you run a risk of really allowing the House to deteriorate because Rule 59 says when it speaks on reflections upon members of the House, no member may, here is a) and b) which speaks of improper motives and integrity but c) speaks on verbally abuse other members. Members have contributed to the debate and the MEC in response goes and reflects on the members, because this is reflection, and it is verbal abuse to say to members that there is a particular member who has more brains than the other members. That language, Deputy Speaker, is offensive

to members and it should not be allowed in protection of the decorum of the House. So, I wish Deputy Speaker, you can really take it with that seriousness because we are really offended by the statements of the MEC. Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. As I have stated now members, I am not taking any more hands raised for this matter. I will revert to Hansard and deliver my ruling. Thank you very much. May the Minister continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: First and the second quarter out-performing all other sectors of the economy. Hon Deputy Speaker, I therefore table the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's 2020 Second Adjusted Budget of R928 million for consideration in the House. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Clearly you have nothing to say but insult [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon Minister, that concludes – hon members, order please. That concludes the debate on this Vote. We will now break for lunch and we will resume back at – let us just make it at two o'clock. Thank you very much, hon members. The House is adjourned until 2.00pm. Suspended, suspended. My apologies. On the record, suspended until

2.00pm.

[Business of the House was suspended and resumed at 14:00.]

The SPEAKER: You may please be seated. Hon members, good afternoon and welcome back to the session. Before we go with the next Vote, I just want to read you something. Okay. Alright. Hon members, today we commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, a day for all because disability is part of human condition. Almost everyone will be temporarily or permanently impaired at some stage in life, as reflected in this year's theme of the United Nations in commemorating this special day. The theme is Building Back Better toward a disability inclusive, accessible and sustainable COVID-19 world. We need to foster an inclusive culture and respond to the needs of people with disability in all aspects of society, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am reading this hon members, because it is very important as we continue with our programme, as you know that in the House we also have the interpretation services that includes sign language. It is not just an accident. It is not just a show, but we are displaying a true act, in word and in deed that we do support people with disabilities in the work that we do.

I am actually inspired to see that many of the speeches that were made today, there was sign language and all the time we have been using sign language throughout and we do have members of our staff who live with disabilities

and we celebrate them and commemorate everyone in this society.

Now let us move back to the business of the day. I recognise the hon Minister, Dr Ivan Meyer. The Secretary is coming to me. Minister, do not take the stand yet. Oh, oh thank you. Give me the amended one. Thank you. We cannot vote you out sir, because we have not voted, but you almost unelected me. So, is it – Mr Secretary. Hon members, I now request the Secretary to read the fifth Order.

†Die SEKRETARIS: Begrotingspos 13 – Kultuursake en Sport – *Wes-Kaapse Tweede Aansuiweringsbegrotingswetsontwerp* [B 7 – 2020].

[The SECRETARY: BUDGET Vote 13 – Cultural Affairs and Sport – *Western Cape Second Adjustment Appropriation Bill* [B 7 – 2020].]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, no wonder you are seated here in front of me. Now I recognise hon Min Marais.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Good day, *goiemore, molweni nonke*, all protocol observed. Speaker, in a severely constrained fiscal environment, confronted with a global health pandemic and rising unemployment rates, I table the second Adjustment Budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in the House today.

It is no secret that in times of crises, particularly in a dismal national climate, funds must be reprioritized in the best interest of those we serve, not

only to save lives but livelihoods as well. As the Western Cape is committed to doing its part to restore our nation's fiscal sustainability and spend our resources wisely, extremely difficult decisions had to be taken to reprioritize funds to support immediate financing requirements for the Western Cape Recovery Plan, focusing on jobs, safety and wellbeing. It is for these reasons that the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport's budget was decreased by approximately R21,1 million from R786,5 million to R765,4 million.

As can be expected, the reduction in funds indeed placed DCAS programmes and services at the short end of the proverbial stick as many events were cancelled and projects could not continue in compliance with the mandatory health protocols in place. However, Speaker, when we are challenged to this extreme, I am proud to say that time and again, the DCAS team rises to the occasion in difficult times and becomes innovative in our business to continue to serve all who call the Western Cape home through Cultural Affairs and Sport.

Despite the sad state of affairs, at a time when the National Government closed schools and decided on warped regulations during hard lockdown, our MOD coaches from our Mass Participation; Opportunity and Access Development and Growth (^{MOD}) Programme volunteered to assist with feeding across the province. We were the only province to do so as we know that the meals received through the feeding programmes at our schools were often the only wholesome meals learners received for the day.

During the unprecedented time, surrounded by much uncertainty, we managed to retain the remuneration of these coaches as we are fully aware that their families' livelihoods depend on it. For this reason, Speaker, I am grateful to the officials, senior management team and our valued partners for ensuring that our After-School practitioners did not have to surrender their salaries at a time it was most needed as they do exceptional work in instilling wellbeing and dignity, particularly in our more rural areas across the province. Additionally, they have done a sterling job in promoting public employment by providing hope, nurturing dreams and meaningful work experience for young people by creating first work opportunities for 18 to 25-year-old youth. Speaker, I am therefore happy to announce that R5,5 million has been allocated to the After-School Programme to equip young people with the necessary skills and opportunities to access jobs.

Last month saw 60 new Yeboneers start an induction week which will lead them into three months of training on work readiness skills, generic PC skills, transferable data skills and confidence building office skills. The programme, delivered in partnership with CapaCiti, is providing 62 unemployed youth aged between 18 and 25 with basic data administration, data labelling and data capture skills and at the same time exposure to a personal and professional development programme and valuable first work experience.

At the end of the three months, candidates are placed in an 8-month work experience and quarterly skills refreshers. The combination of these ensures

all are ready to enter the world of work at the end of the experience. The almost 400 youth currently on the YearBeyond Primary School Programme have worked as teacher assistants, literacy and numeracy tutors and “at home” learning activators this year. While gaining this experience, the youth are mentored to discover their superpowers and talents, find a career and develop core work readiness competencies such as communication, teamwork, project management and administration skills. In the process of building these competencies, youth expand their social and economic networks and receive pathway support into studies or employment.

For this cohort their service has culminated in 2 days of progression training, inclusive of learning how to write a winning CV and conducting oneself in an interview in October and then a marketplace of 30 opportunity providers at UCT Graduate School of Business on 13 November. The marketplace was a huge success and provided something for everyone.

Many of the cohort opt to remain in education and four lucky candidates have been selected by NGO Numeric to receive full bursaries to study education and become Maths teachers. While studying, they will work as tutors supporting Grade 7 learners in no-fee schools. This is just one example of the marketplace’s impact on the youth.

Speaker, this kind of pathway success is not a once-off approach. A 3-year alumni study (2015 – 2018) found most alumni secured their next opportunity within 2.8 months of exiting the programme, 81% were economically active,

47% worked fulltime and 52% were studying part or fulltime. 19% had secured a higher-level qualification within three years. And as these young leaders enter the marketplace, around half of them continue to be active citizens volunteering in their communities.

Speaker, the importance of enabling youth to be able to access opportunities to become contributors to the economy must be stressed. Many young people cannot afford or do not qualify for higher education and then become frustrated and bored and turn to social ills. We are trying to prevent this by offering our youth the opportunity to build up some all-important work experience, hone their job seeking skills and also give back at the same time by volunteering in their communities. In this way, we create opportunities for them to start their career paths and we also contribute to the recovery of our economy while uplifting our communities.

In a bid to save the livelihoods of those we serve in our sector, the DCAS provided COVID-19 Relief Funding of R4,7 million to 715 successful Arts, Culture and Heritage applicants and R1 million to 46 sport federations, 39 coaches, 11 technical officials and 24 athletes who successfully applied through their affiliated federations. This provision appears small in proportion but indeed assisted our artists and athletes who were the last to return to their business, even in Alert Level 1, a great deal in retaining their dignity to provide for their families' wellbeing, while sport enthusiasts could continue to hone their high-performance skills. However, Speaker, the R10,5 billion SAA bailout would go a long way in providing the much-needed sustainable

safety net for our artists who were severely devastated by cancelled and postponed gigs, events and programmes. Despite this devastation, we have worked around the clock to do the very most with the very little that we do have as the sectors now safely reopen.

As libraries remained closed until Alert Level 2, the approximate R4,4 million unspent funds received from the City of Cape Town will be used towards the finalisation of the new Swellendam Library Infrastructure Project in the Overberg district. To be constructed at a cost of R12 million, the brand new 889 square metres library will have a community hall, as well as computer room included and will cater to the growing Swellendam community in increasing opportunity in the region. We look forward to officially opening the state-of-the-art facility at the end of next year.

As we now enter Reconciliation Month, we are happy to announce that R1 million was allocated to establish the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Routes in the Western Cape. This is inclusive of the *Roads of Freedom Route* which foregrounds Madiba's long walk to freedom: starting at the Robben Island Museum which is already a World Heritage Site, the Drakenstein Correctional Services facility in Paarl and the Cape Town City Hall. In addition, the *Tussen die Riviere Roete*, will commemorate and officially acknowledge the resistance of the Khoi-Khoi people in the province.

As the sector now recovers, these routes aim to develop nation building and social inclusivity, while contributing to the local tourism economy by

emphasizing the shared heritage of all South Africans and highlight how these sites of global significance assist in the understanding of the development of co-existence in the Western Cape. Additionally, we expect the local, often rural communities around these sites, who often found themselves marginalized, to become instrumental in the conservation and interpretation of these sites.

Speaker, despite all the devastation experienced in the cultural affairs and sport sectors over the past months, it is clear that the arts, culture, heritage, sport and recreation are indeed essential for the wellbeing of everyone's mental health. We experienced a world without sport, without entertainment in the forms of theatre productions and artists showcasing, all of which contribute to the provincial GDP as well as the greater South African economy, but more importantly feed the human spirit in a way little else can and does.

With the resurgence of positive cases in the province, to highlight the important role of the arts, cultural affairs, sport and recreation, I share with the House a poem by Madhu Raghavendra and I quote:

“I do not mind being the non-essential. Even a child takes its mother for granted. It does not run back to its mother until it is hurt. Nobody first thinks of water when they arrive at an exquisite dinner party, until they are choking.

I do not mind being the non-essential knowing you will come looking when things are broken and nothing else works. Art is non-essential until it is not.”

With the above in mind, we have a responsibility to protect the well-being of our artists, sport federations and recreation entities and will not hesitate to take a safety-first approach to our operations over the coming months. We will continue monitoring the situation, and we are committed to work with our partners in ensuring the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our sectors. Affected events and programmes will be minimized to ensure sustainability of the sector.

Our main priority is to prevent a lockdown that would again devastate our economy and livelihoods. The most efficient and effective way to do so is through individuals, businesses and civil society playing their vital role in changing behaviour so to safely move forward. As the fundamental Department advocating for constructive and positive behavioural change through cultural affairs, sport and recreation, we take our role seriously in inspiring the much-needed hope and motivation required to safely move forward.

Speaker, as gazetted by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, male and female initiation practices are prohibited for the duration of the national state of disaster. Guided by the prescribed national regulations, recommendations from the Department of Health and

consultation with the Initiation Forums across the province, the summer initiation season will unfortunately not go ahead as scheduled in compliance with the mandatory protocols currently in place. We will, however, be monitoring the situation on a daily basis and will communicate if any directives are received from the National Government in this regard.

Speaker, I now take this opportunity to thank our dedicated officials, valued partners and Cabinet colleagues for their exceptional collaborative work done in service of the people of the Western Cape, bringing into fruition innovative solutions in response to unprecedented circumstances. We thank you wholeheartedly for creating the enabling environment needed to live healthier lifestyles in safe environments, more prepared for tomorrow's economy. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, our next speaker would have been hon Bans. It is important that I mention here that hon Bans is not feeling well and as such she is unable to join us. There has been a request formally to replace her as the speaker by hon Kama. We wish hon Bans well. I now recognise hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, Speaker, and members of the House. Speaker, the Department has a key role in the provincial strategy plan and the vision inspired priorities, particularly around VIP1, safe and inclusive communities and VIP3, of empowering people. The Department views social cohesion as the glue which binds a society together. The Department has

said that the concept forms the nucleus and centre piece of the work of the Department and will inform its approach in the strategy plan period.

For the 2020 to 2025 strategy plan period the Department's approach to leverage this concept includes,

- 1) activities which give a sense of belonging. For example, cultural traditions, team participation and shared purposes.
- 2) activities which give a sense of participation, for example sport and recreation, arts and after-school programmes.

Also, activities which engender a sense of trust, for example, good governance, clean administration and achieving predetermined objective targets.

Speaker, my biggest concern is that the Department, through adjustments, is moving to an opposite direction to the plans outlined in the five-year strategy plan. The Department has cut the budgets of Cultural Affairs, Library and Archive Services and for Sport and Recreation Programmes. The overall decrease to the Department's budget is over R21 million. This is despite the identified needs for improvement in the Department's functions, as highlighted in the report titled, and I quote,

“The case for sport in the Western Cape, socio-economic benefits and impact of sport and recreation”

The report raised a number of concerns, including that of slower economic growth, troubled financial prospects nationally, including cuts in sport and recreation budgets from public sector funds as well as a severe drought that has impacted negatively on sports fields and the use of facilities. It is also highlighted that the lack of physical education at schools remains to be one of the major impediments concerning sport and recreation and the general wellbeing of school children in the Western Cape. The Adjusted Estimates do not respond to the challenges raised. Millions for sport and recreation, particularly for the MOD and school sport, have been shifted to other programs and used for expenditure such as to increase the transfer payment to the Cultural Commission due to loss of revenue resulting from COVID-19, to museums for provision made to supplement transfers, to province aid at museums for audit fees and to pay for legal fees.

This only proves that this Department and the Provincial Government underrate and devalue the role of sport and recreation in the pursuit of social cohesion as highlighted in the strategy plan. President Mandela once said, and I quote,

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to the youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”

The Western Cape has been making national headlines for all the wrong

reasons, including Gender Based Violence, gangsterism and mass murders as well as drug-related crime wars in the Cape Flats communities. There are also racial tensions in farming communities and schools, like we recently witnessed in the Brackenfell High School.

At all these needs the Department's response to this is through budget cuts. The biggest cut is R19,9 million surrendered to the Provincial Revenue due to the reduction of Compensation of Employees. This is followed by reprioritisation of R5,5 million surrendered due to the impact of COVID-19 on Sport, Arts and Culture sectors. There is R508 000 rolled over from the 2019/2020 in respect of maintenance, utilities and security at the shared facilities.

Speaker, we have been consistent in our demands for the Department to maintain sporting facilities in the working class communities. In the Main Appropriation we raised conditions of poor and neglected sports facilities in Mitchell's Plain and surroundings. This budget is still silent on that. More on the revenue retention, the Province receives R1 million from the National Heritage Council to establish the Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route in the Western Cape.

This is a national mayoral project, aimed and commemorating, celebrating, educating, promoting, preserving, conserving and providing a durable testament of South African's road into independence. The Provincial Government must accelerate the implementation of this project. Moreover,

R4,4 million is received from the City of Cape Town which will be utilised towards finalisation of the new Swellendam Library Infrastructure Project.

Again, we call on dedicated focus towards building new library infrastructures in rural communities. Speaker, while we note some of the positive aspects of the budget adjustments such as the R1,5 million for public employment for youth in the after-school project as well as the R4 million to create first work opportunities for youth in the Sport and Recreation programme, the ANC does not support the budget as it goes against the Department's objectives highlighted in the strategy plan as seen by the budget cuts for all programmes.

In closing, Speaker, the ANC is concerned by the recent announcement of the MEC which was again echoed in the debate today by the MEC of suspending all ritual initiations in the province. While the reasons may be understandable, however such decisions need widespread consultations not to make unilateral decisions. Therefore Speaker, the ANC does not support this Budget Vote. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Kama. Hon members, I now recognise hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this is one Department that we need to commend because it came here and accounted for its own doings. It did not shift the goal posts and blame and telling us about fairy-

tale stories of SAA, Eskom and everything else nationally. I think somehow, maybe even the Premier of this Province might learn a lot from this Department in terms of accountability.

It is safe also to say that the Department, as much as it has accounted in front of us, it has not achieved much in this financial year. Almost all of its projects are reprioritised, and the reasons given is that it is due to efficiency gains which does not make sense at all. Beyond that, funds were not spent because the Department could not fill its posts, under Programme 4 which involves Sports and Recreation, R1 million, which could have been used to build sporting facilities in townships, is now transferred elsewhere. This is so, despite Western Cape townships lacking proper sporting grounds with proper facilities.

Similarly, R100 000 which was earmarked for schools sport is now shifted to be used to pay the legal fees which is typical of a DA-administration in terms of its priorities, whereby you do take whatever is necessary to be made in terms of investment in the communities, especially as the poorest of the poor, but it will be utilised for legal battles in court. The money that could have been used by the Department to add value, to build sporting facilities in townships public schools is now used to pay some legal fees incurred by the Department. And the very same Department surrenders [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Xego. Thank you very much.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Your time is up. Hon members, I now recognise hon Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, thank you. I rise in support of Vote 13. The Minister is a very active minister, and she is doing her very best with a very miniscule budget. I do believe that you cannot blame somebody for not doing something he has never been empowered to do. The mention of Cultural Affairs pricked my ears, but we should leave sport to sport administrators. That is my personal view. Let us rather spend our budgets on promoting Cape Culture like the Jazz Festivals of Dollar Brand and Tony Schulde, the cooning and musical talents of Goby Martin, Taliep Pietersen, Zayne Adams, Charles McWallace of bygone eras must be heard in the Cape Town streets again. The Guma-Guma music and the samba that brought the Cape to the world's attention as a tourist destination should be heard in our streets. It is not there. I only hear of Nico Malan.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon, I painfully have to ask you to take your seat.

Mr P J MARAIS: Is it a point of order, Sir?

The SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr P J MARAIS: Oh.

The SPEAKER: I was enjoying the samba, the Gumba-Gumba's and the Coon's but unfortunately [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Ja, that was a quick [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr P J MARAIS: Okay.

The SPEAKER: The Premier says he enjoys that too. May I request [Interjections.] Ja, the Jazz Festival. May I request the hon Allen? Thank you.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. On this third day of December 2020 I rise in support of Vote 13, Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. On that note I also wish member Ayanda Bans well in her recovery but Speaker, we are reading from the same book today, because I have also noted today is celebrated as International Day of Persons with Disabilities, an international observance promoted by the United Nations since 1992. This observance as the Speaker also highlighted, aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilise support for dignity, rights and wellbeing of persons with disabilities.

It also seeks to increase awareness of games to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social,

economic and cultural life. Speaker, Minister Marais has been at the forefront of advocating for persons with disabilities. Her track record speaks for itself and as recently as two months ago, she empowered the Drakenstein Municipality with four new libraries including the new state-of-the-art Groenheuwel Library, House of Learning. This new library, Speaker, offers free Braille and audio-book services for people with temporary or permanent low vision, blindness or any other physical disability that prevents them from reading or holding the printed page.

Through you Speaker, to the Minister, well done! As well as to all the officials within the Department. Speaker, the Department of Cultural Affairs renders a frontline service to residents here in the Western Cape and its service delivery footprint across the province continues to increase. When we consider Budget Vote 13 and note the decrease in the budget, one quickly realises that the debate over budget increases or decreases, is so much more than just numbers on a page. It is more than just increasing or decreasing the budget. It is about a future we want. It is about a future that we need and want as South Africa. It is about a future that South Africa deserves.

Speaker, the ANC highlighted the Department's five-year strategic plan, but they fail to properly assess the budget. The ANC failed to acknowledge the fact that R17,75 billion – I am going to say again, the ANC failed to acknowledge the fact that R17,7 billion will be cut from the Provincial Equitable Share of all provincial budgets in the Second Adjustment Budget. From here to Gauteng to KZN, all over. Furthermore Speaker, of which

R1,53 billion will come directly from the Provincial Equitable Share allocation of the Western Cape Provincial Government. This is surely not the South Africa that we deserve.

So, when we consider the decrease to Vote 13, Speaker, and considering the effects of COVID-19, I commend the Department on this budget that despite the decrease the Department remains true to its aim, to encourage excellence and inclusivity in sport and culture through effective, efficient and sustainable use of resources, despite the limitations that has been placed on the Department, on the Western Cape by an incompetent ANC National Government.

Speaker, considering the aim of the Department, it is evident that there is a belief that we are all connected. A belief that expresses itself in a conviction that each resident here in the province deserves to feel free, equal and secure. And so, Speaker, the Department contributes under Programme 4, Sport and Recreation a total of R5,5 million of which R1,5 million for public employment in after-school services, by providing hope, nurturing dreams and meaningful work for young people under the provincial policy, priority for jobs.

Furthermore, R4 million for the youth service programme by creating first work opportunities for 18 to 25-year old's under the provincial policy priority on dignity. Speaker, we are the best run province in South Africa and even under difficult financial pressures as we believe in providing young

people a hand-up by working tirelessly to ensure that each and every person in our province is able to reach his or her dreams, in creating those conditions for young people to thrive, a capable state is required. Many young people in our country are aching for a national government that is free of corruption, where you are afforded opportunities to excel and where you are not merely given a job because you are connected to a certain political party.

Speaker, I am further encouraged by the increase of transferred payment to the Western Cape Cultural Commission. The Commission is key towards advising and assisting the Minister and the Department of the preservation, promotion and development of arts & culture within various communities. The increased transfer towards sports federations should also be commended and welcomed.

Speaker, as we all know, sporting federations play a vital role in bringing communities together and I have no doubt that the increased transfer of R1 million will go a little bit further to assist federations after a very challenging year and go a long way towards rebuilding social cohesion.

Furthermore, Speaker, I welcome the provision made to provincial-aided museums and this provision to supplement operational costs due to under-collection of revenue as a result of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which shows the importance of museums. All over the world, for centuries, Speaker, museums have played an integral role in preserving the history of

our society. Exhibits tell us stories about how our nation, our communities and our cultures come to be and without them those stories could be forgotten. And like museums, Speaker, preserving history based on some of the speeches here today I am afraid that some of us will be on the wrong side of history by declaring their objection to this Vote.

Speaker, our fiscal space is severely depleted due to years of spending beyond our means by our National Government, which means that debt services cost is rising faster than all other spending and will soon reach 33% of revenue by 2025 at a national level, but here in the Western Cape I believe that we will bounce back and that we will bounce up.

In closing, I wish to commend the Minister and the outgoing HOD Mr Brent Walters, who has served as the Head of Department for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport for the past decade. We wish him well in his endeavours for when he officially takes up his new role within Government. And again Speaker, a special thanks to Mr Waseem Matthews, our committee procedural officer as well as the assistant, Marianne Burgess for their assistance and help with the Committee. Also to each and every member of this Committee, thank you that we have been able to foster valuable relationships in working together towards effectively holding our Government accountable, but in closing Speaker, I support Vote 13. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Allen. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, Speaker. First of all, I want to thank all the Committee members on their professional leadership of hon Reagan Allen for your positive attitude, always constructive and it is wonderful to have you as an oversight committee. You are very – †ek wil dit nou in Afrikaans sê, hon Peter Marais, u is altyd eerlik en op die man af en baie dankie daarvoor – [I want to now say it in Afrikaans, hon Peter Marais, you are always honest and to the point, and thank you for that.]

I just want to mention that with the initiation it was a very consultative process in coming to the decision. From the meeting, 2 December, to the WhatsApp group with the forums - we also had a meeting with them in person - to taking their proposals and health recommendations to Cabinet to send in the official correspondence before releasing to the public domain. And I would also like to say thank you, hon Kama, for standing in and for your contribution and I want to wish hon Bans a speedy recovery.

And then, to Dr Klimuka. He is not here anymore, he left for KZN. In the absence of Dr Klimuka who left our Department as I have said, thank you for your valuable input and the impact you have made in your Department and heritage communities. And then to our HOD. HOD is not leaving the Western Cape, he is just leaving our Department and I wish him well in Education. And thank you for changing our Department to the award winner we are today. Thank you for your constant reminder of the starfish story and

I wish you well and remember DCAS will always be a safe haven if needed. I thank you so much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Minister. Hon members, the Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: During the course of today's debate on Vote 11 earlier today, Minister Meyer in his reply to the debate said something to the effect that the hon member Marais has got more brains than all the Opposition parties together, to which points of order were raised by different members of the Opposition parties who felt offended by the remark.

Although the remark was not directed at individual members, the inference can certainly be made that he was referring to members of the House belonging to Opposition parties and that members of the Opposition parties could understandably feel aggrieved by his comments.

I am ruling that the comments fall within the ambit of Rule 58 and is regarded as being offensive, and I therefore request the Minister to withdraw the remark. Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, I respect the ruling and I therefore withdraw my remark.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I hand over back to the Speaker.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon members. We now move to the next Vote and I would like to request the Secretary to read the next Order.

The SECRETARY: Debate on Vote 8 – Human Settlements – *Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill* [B 7 – 2020].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, I would like to request the Minister of Human Settlements, Minister Simmers, to address us.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier, hon fellow Cabinet colleagues, hon members on both sides of the House, our virtual guests and media.

It was exactly a year ago to the day, when I addressed the House and said that my Department and I are committed to improving the lives of the most vulnerable in our society. They are the elderly, people living with medically certified disabilities, those on the housing demand database for 15 years and longer, and our backyard dwellers.

Today I am pleased to state that this has not changed in any way. Instead, our resolve to achieve this has become stronger, particularly since our country is faced with a host of challenges at the moment.

Hon Speaker, also allow me to acknowledge our persons who are living with disabilities on this International Day of Persons with Disabilities. I want you to know that we have always been part of this caring Western Cape Government's plans and it will continue to be so. In fact, in all of our housing projects we've included a 5% allocation for persons who are living with a medically certified disability, so that they are also afforded the opportunity to improve their lives significantly and able to live in dignity.

As a department, our role is critical in changing people's lives for the better, especially since the difference we are making is tangible and life-changing. This is not something we are paying lip service to, instead our residents who have already benefitted from housing opportunities this past year, can attest to this.

At the end of October, Local Eersterivier resident and former backyard dweller, Mr Jonathan Cornelius, who moved into his brandnew home in Forest Village said, and I quote:

“Just yesterday, I was living in a *sinkhokkie* with a bad roof leak and today my life has changed for the better. I am very grateful to be living in my new house and want to say thank you to everyone who made it possible.”

In September, 62-year old Ms Xoliswa Patso, a former resident of the Kanana Informal Settlement in Gugulethu, who also moved to Forest Village in

Eersterivier said, and I quote:

“This is great day. I no longer have to live on the water and my many years of suffering in Kanana are over. I am truly grateful to God and the Ministry for changing my life.”

Hon Speaker, here we are seeing individuals from different backgrounds and communities coming together to live as one in a new area. These are the examples why our aim is to continue on this journey of drastically changing people’s living conditions.

Over the last few months, we have had to face a myriad of challenges, with some being quite combative. This did not in any way stop us from engaging our residents, nor did it prevent us from ensuring housing opportunities are created.

Hon Speaker, since I commenced as Minister, I have committed to four key drivers. These are still:

1. A radical acceleration of housing opportunities, which will ensure
2. A radical implementation of innovative solutions to ensure that happens.
3. An integrated approach to human settlements and lastly,
4. The radical empowerment and job creation.

†Hierdie is uiters belangrik, want dit spreek ons doelwitte as 'n regering aan om te verseker dat werk, veiligheid en meer as dit, mense se waardigheid herstel en verseker word.

Agb Speaker, vir baie blyk dit dat dit onmoontlik is om die huidige uitdagings te oorkom, en dalk so met goeie rede, want dit is nie die mooiste prent op die oomblik nie, maar ons wil hierdie Huis verseker dat 'n meer vasbeslote en gedrewe regering sal jy nie kry nie, want die werk wat gedoen word is nie vir onself nie, maar wel vir die inwoners van die Wes-Kaap.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[This is extremely important, because it speaks to our aims as a government to ensure that work, safety and more than that, people's dignity are restored and ensured.

Hon Speaker, to many it seems impossible to overcome these existing challenges, and perhaps so with good reason, because it is not the nicest picture at the moment, but we want to assure this House that you will not find a more determined and driven government, because the work that is being done is not for ourselves, but for the citizens of the Western Cape.]

Hon Speaker, we all know what impact COVID-19 and our poor economy are having on our budgets. In fact, listening to Minister Maynier on 26 November this year, delivering the MTBPS, he used the term "cut" no fewer than 17

times during his speech.

Hon Speaker, for a moment I wanted to interject and ask you to remove the scissor from his hand, but we all know we are in this economic mess due to the ANC's inability to govern and all-round corrupt practices for the last 26 years.

†Die Wes-Kaap is die enigste helder lig wat nog in Suid-Afrika skyn en dit het duidelik deurgekom toe Minister Maynier ons toegesprek het.

[The Western Cape is the only bright light still shining in South Africa and that came through clearly when Minister Maynier addressed us.]

With that said, I am pleased to inform this House that as part of our adjustment, we have allocated R19 million to municipalities to accelerate housing opportunities. R10 million is allocated to the Saldanha Bay Municipality for the Langebaan Seaview Park Extension, while R9 million is allocated to the Hessequa Municipality for bulk services of the Melkhoutfontein project.

In addition to this, a further R16,8 million from the Department's own revenue has been allocated to infrastructure projects, which directly ensures that jobs are protected in the construction industry.

The Department has also agreed with the developers of the Conradie BLM to accelerate the installation of bulk infrastructure and therefore an additional

amount of R25,9 million was moved forward from the 2021/22 financial year to this financial year. This will further ensure that more jobs are created, while the construction programme for this project is also being accelerated.

Further to this, more than R2,9 million has been allocated to augment the HSDG to cover the additional cost due to COVID-19 pandemic, while more than R8,7 million has been allocated to the Rental Housing Tribunal to further strengthen their efforts and delivery of the much needed services.

Hon Speaker, I must add that the Rental Housing Tribunal recently celebrated 20 years of existence and to commemorate this occasion, we have incorporated the use of technology to ensure that more residents with rental disputes are assisted effectively and efficiently.

This year we commenced with virtual hearings to accelerate the current case load. Along with this is the completion of the very first Rental Housing Tribunal web and mobile app solution, which forms part of the Western Cape Government's e-Services Portal. This solution will enable citizens to register and track a complaint online.

Hon Speaker, these appropriations not only speak to our four key drivers, but they also address, as Premier Winde puts it, our "North Stars," which are jobs, safety and well-being, which ultimately restores our people's dignity.

Hon Speaker, let me take this opportunity to officially welcome the recent

announcement by the National Minister of Human Settlements that the decision has been taken to allocate R150 million to the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements, to fast-track informal settlement upgrading, as well as the rapid land release programme.

Even though there was no clear guidance on how the latter will be implemented, we are already putting plans together to roll out what we will term the Western Cape Enhanced Services Site Programme.

My Department is working closely with key stakeholders to prioritise areas and projects both in the Metro and non-Metro areas, to rapidly deliver these enhanced service sites. By ultimately allocating enhanced serviced sites in lieu of top structures to qualifying beneficiaries – and I need to emphasise “qualifying beneficiaries” – this additional funding will assist to accelerate delivery at a time when it is needed the most.

A lot of projects which are implementation-ready or have all their readiness requirements, such as bulk services and development rights, zonings and others in place, could not proceed due to the previous budget cuts. These projects will now be allowed to continue with a special focus on the acceleration of the provision of serviced sites and on the upgrade of existing informal settlements.

The Department has already scoped 60 informal settlements which are at various stages of readiness, and we are in the process of engaging those

municipalities and communities to identify which projects have their procurement completed or where existing work packages can now be expanded to accommodate the increased scope.

The Department has also developed some audio-visual material to assist communities on how to build better structures for the self-build options under the Better Living Challenge initiative, for those beneficiaries who will only be receiving serviced stands.

This will ensure that safer structures are built, but also that the municipalities will be able to access the structures quickly in the event of a fire or any form of other disasters. The first pilot “Pop-up builds” with all stakeholders present, will take place during December in Moorreesburg, which is in the Swartland municipal area, and Grabouw, which is in the Theewaterskloof Municipality.

†Agb Speaker, dit is ook vir hierdie rede waarom die gebruik van volhoubare en alternatiewe bouetegnologie nie meer geïgnoreer kan word nie, veral as ons daarop ingestel is om teen ‘n vinniger pas behuisingsgeleenthede aan die mees kwesbare en verdienstelikse begunstigdes moontlik te kan maak.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon Speaker, it is also for this reason why the use of sustainable and alternative building technology can no longer be ignored, especially if we are

set to facilitate housing opportunities at a faster pace to the most vulnerable and deserving beneficiaries.]

Sustainable Building Technology addresses cost and time saving, while also protecting the environment. At the same time our most deserving residents are benefitting, but at an accelerated pace. An example of this we will soon see at our Transhex Catalytic Project site in Worcester. We dare not allow ourselves to be stuck in the past, instead we ought to embrace the future if we are to continue being successful and creating opportunities at an accelerated pace.

While keeping with all COVID-19 protocols, I trust and encourage that all Standing Committee members will come and witness these events.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, it is important that I highlight a particular matter.

For the current financial year, we have already spent more than 74% of our Housing Development Budget. This is 10% more than the previous financial year during the same period, and we are the only province that has spent this much so far. All of this, even though the COVID pandemic brought our sites to a complete standstill for more than two months.

Hon Speaker, the reality is that the National ANC-led Government is leading us further into the abyss and I have to call on our people to bring about a

change across the country, particularly in failing municipalities. This is critical as we want to ensure that the type of quality service delivery, that most residents of the Western Cape are enjoying, can also be experienced by others.

Hon Speaker, throughout my address today I chose not to highlight our enormous budget cuts. Our people can clearly see that bailing out an airline is more important to the ANC-led National Government than improving their lives.

Over the last few days, the Hessequa Municipality handed over more than 90 title deeds. One of the beneficiaries waited for 48 years to celebrate that joyous day. Due to the cuts to our Title Deed Restoration Grant, with the last one being over R23 million, many Western Cape residents will not have the opportunity to receive their title deed, which means they will never be fully-fledged legal homeowners.

The ANC-led National Government does not regard this nor our citizens as a priority.

Hon Speaker, the inactions by the ANC and its GOOD coalition partner are a clear portrait of what a leaderless world of the bureaucratic bourgeoisie is. The National Democratic Revolution, of which most Opposition parties indirectly referred to over the last two days, is a failed Soviet model for the advancement of a developing country towards socialism.

The fact that the NDR model died with the USSR and today is ridiculed by Russia, has clearly not reached the ANC, its GOOD alliance partner or the EFF, as they are happily stuck in the 1950s and 1960s, as can be seen by their support for the bailout of our zombie State-owned Enterprises.

The ANC, their GOOD coalition partner and EFF's calls are no more than perverse quasi-socialism that is ruthless in the treatment of the working class and poor at large.

The EFF is in fact already demonstrating, and without any shame, their fascist agenda, which part of it is that anyone who disagrees with them will be met with intimidation and violence.

The ANC/GOOD Alliance is hot on its heels. They have a strong desire to take power out of the hands of the people while pretending to place it in its hands. The expropriation of land without compensation is an excellent example of them seeking to ensure that you never own any land, and instead you should lease it from the State. Who will be benefitting? This bourgeoisie pretending to care?

Hon Speaker, we have a track record and part of it is the caring nature and approach of this DA-led Government. We are a clear antithesis of this perverse quasi-socialistic approach, as to us our people truly matter more so in the Western Cape. I thank you.

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

Mr A LILI: Hon Speaker, members, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. Maybe let me start by saying shame on you, MEC, for trying to ... [Inaudible.] on your Budget Vote today.

I rise on behalf of the Congress Movement to give input either to support or not, or to decline support for the Vote 8 of this Budget. Hon Speaker, South Africa attained political freedom in 1994 and the ANC has worked tirelessly too, for the total liberation of the true transformation of the State machinery, with the principle of equality, human rights guaranteed in the basic law of the land.

While progress has been made to extend basic services to the majority, apartheid spatial economy and settlement patterns largely remained unchanged. Our poverty is colour conscious and remains largely black.

National Departmental policies to ensure social emancipation and special integration have been largely blocked by the DA Government in the province.

The Budget proposal presented in the House today, are aimed at maintaining a society largely characterised by the neo-colonialism of a special type, wherein the black majority continues living in the rural outskirts and the Cape Flats, as far away as possible from the CBD and other places of

opportunity.

The economic impact of COVID-19 has exacerbated the spate of land grabs as some people could no [Inaudible – recording distorted.] longer afford. The increased number of new informal [Inaudible – recording distorted.]

Hon Speaker, can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: We can. You just have to leave the mic alone.

Mr A LILI: Sorry, sorry [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Then you can speak [Laughs.]. Please proceed, hon member Lili.

Mr A LILI: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Your network there is problematic, sir.

Mr A LILI: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Mr A LILI: Okay. Yes. The Budget proposal in the same House today, aimed at [Inaudible.] the economic impact of COVID-19 has exacerbated the spate

of land grabs as some people could no longer afford rent.

The increased number of new informal settlement dwellers in the province places a strain on this Department and the municipalities, to ensure provisions of basic services like water and sanitation amid the second wave of COVID-19 infections.

The Budget does not make provision for this purpose, except for the R16,8 million from [Inaudible.] relation retention of previous years. This is now earmarked to argue the Human Settlements Development Grant to cover the additional cost due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This Budget clearly shows that the Department and the DA Government flatly refuse to implement the dedensification of densely populated settlements, particularly the informal settlements. The majority of the COVID-19 hotspot areas are surrounded by informal settlements. The failure of this Department to provide basic services and densely populated informal settlements make the MECs and the Provincial Government continue and contributed greatly, and may be culpable of COVID-19 infections and death.

The DA has made the biggest noise about the reduction to the Title Deeds Restoration Grant in the process. The hon members have been spreading false information. The facts are that National Government made it very clear from the onset that the Title Deed Restoration Grant will end in 2020 to 2021. The Grant established mechanism proposes a capacity within each province to

help eradicate the backlog in the providing title deeds to subsidised houses delivered before 2014. The funds from this grant will be shifted back into the Human Settlements Development Grant from 2021 to 2022, which will fund the housing eradication initiative.

This is not to defend the National Government. I am trying to clarify some of the misconception spread by the DA. If they were serious about the Title Deeds Restoration Programme, why did they not make provision on this budget to sustain it? More funds from that programme [Inaudible.] which could have been used to sustain the programme have been shifted to other programmes, for example, such as provision for clearly early retirement without penalisation of the previous Head of Department in line with Chapter 8 of the Public Service Handbook for Senior Management Services.

Another way in which the DA is misleading the public is through the implementation of the [Inaudible.] Conradie Better Living Model on these adjustments ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Lili ...

Mr A LILI: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Your time is up, sir.

Mr A LILI: Can I round up?

The SPEAKER: Yes, round up and put your microphone off [Laughs.].

Mr A LILI: Okay. Lastly, hon Speaker, [Inaudible.] submitted [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Your line is terrible. Okay.

Mr A LILI: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you, thank you, hon member Lili. We hope that next time you will connect in a better location. Thank you very much.

Hon members, I now recognise hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The Department of Human Settlements has long ago failed to take the poor people of Western Cape seriously. After cutting its budget by more than R200 million in the last Adjustment Budget, there only appears to be an increase of R19,5 million in this recent adjustment.

It is high time that the Department understands that the provision of housing is a constitutional duty that is mandatory. The Department is not being asked to do people favours, it is asked to fulfil the reason for its existence.

Hon Speaker, it cannot be that every time when questions are asked regarding

the provision of housing, then we are being told the same old story that parcels of land have been identified, and then that is the end of the story.

Hon Speaker, when questions are asked about dedensification projects of informal settlements, we get the same old answer which has become a glitch. The same Department, hon Speaker, which prides itself on being committed to accelerating service delivery, appears to be accelerating backwards whilst turning the provincial housing projects into a joke.

On that, hon Speaker, the EFF will not support Vote number 8, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Makamba-Botya. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Maseko. Oh, excuse me. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Marais in the Chamber.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, I rise in support of Vote 8. South Africa is fast becoming a sinking vessel, overloaded with thieves and corruptors of unimaginable proportions.

To criticise the DA for not building adequate housing is like blaming a poor, abused wife for not serving leg of lamb or crayfish to her husband who squanders his money on alcohol.

If the Western Cape is to stop the City from qualifying as the world's slum capital, we need to define what Article 26(1) means when it says everyone has a right to adequate housing. What constitutes "adequate"? Is plastic and cardboard adequate? If not, why is it legal? Anything less than adequate should then be illegal, a privilege and not a right.

Municipal bylaws should therefore be drafted ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: ... to determine procedures to acquire adequate housing. If he does not do this ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr P J MARAIS: ... we will certainly be the capital of slums.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, in an already challenging year the decision by the National Government to immediately downscale the development of housing opportunities across the country, has placed further burdens on the Provincial

Department of Human Settlements, and indeed all provinces.

Too often, it has left provinces to deal with the fall-out of poor management and political decisions made at a national level. The Provincial Government, however, has done everything within its power to give the most vulnerable a dignified home in the Western Cape.

It is proved the excellent work of the Department that, despite budget cuts imposed by National Government, the Provincial Budget is set to increase by R19,5 million. The work of the Department is at the forefront of delivering dignity to the people of the Western Cape, and the self-financing of R16,8 million for the Human Settlements Development Grant means that the Department will be able to keep delivering housing opportunities even after National Government initially cut budget by more than R44 million in the First Adjustment.

A further R25 million has been brought forward from the 2021/2022 Budget for the Conradie Better Living Model, because this development is moving forward faster than anticipated. This is the type of innovative service delivery that we need from Government, both nationally and provincially because it brings together affordable housing, access to employment opportunities, all within a safe, dignified community.

Hon Speaker, it appears that the ANC has backtracked on its promises of housing opportunities and land for the people of South Africa. The National

Government has cut a staggering R23 million from the highly successful Title Deed Restoration Grant for this year and has now announced that the conditional grant will be completely scrapped because National Government does not have the money to correct the spatial inequalities that plagued this country. It does, however, have the money to fund the so-called business rescue plan for SAA for R10,5 billion.

We have heard the hon Leader of the Opposition try to explain away that this is not a bailout. In whatever ways he and the ANC would like to put lipstick on a pig, it is still a pig and it is still a zombie SOE that divorces taxpayers' funds with zero return.

The reality, hon Speaker, is South Africa has been on a steep slope in its fiscal trajectory for some time. Difficult decisions have to be made and Western Cape is not immune to that.

The Western Cape has championed the fiscal sustainability by spending responsibly. This province, under the leadership of Premier Alan Winde, showcased leadership skills which are scarce commodities for the rest of our country. Whilst Gauteng was digging graves for their communities, the Western Cape gave hope to our communities. We showcased the fighting spirit that contributed towards every citizen in our province in fighting the pandemic.

However, Human Settlements is sadly also not immune to the fiscal looting

of our country which we experience under the ANC. On the other hand, title deeds are crucial if the Western Cape is going to be able to improve the socio-economic status of the majority of its citizens.

A house is a way of giving people that which has long been denied to them: a home, the possibility of building generational wealth.

The National Government freezing of financing for future developments and the fact that the development now needs to seek permission from National Government for every development, will slow down the entire process. There is financial strain not only due to COVID-19 and its effect, but also the poor financial management of the ANC-led National Government.

New and innovative solutions need to be found if the most vulnerable are going to receive not only a roof over their heads, but also the security that the roof will not be taken from them.

It appears that these solutions will have to come from the Western Cape Province. Government officials and members of this House need to band together and work for the people of this province. The R23 million cut from the Title Deeds Grant has already cost more than 5,800 people the opportunity to own their homes.

Hon Speaker, in my own constituency more than 890 homes were built by the Provincial Government at the Rooidakke Housing Development in Grabouw,

on land owned by the National Department of Public Works. Despite the fact that development first broke ground nine years ago, title deeds are still not handed over to the beneficiaries because Minister De Lille still has to transfer ownership of the land parcel to the municipality. While Minister De Lille was Mayor of the City of Cape Town, she often called on the National Department of Public Works to transfer its land to the Province. Now that she has the authority to do so, Minister De Lille is dragging her feet, championing the snail pace.

But, hon Speaker, the point of this is not to critique National Government's role in housing developments in the Western Cape, but rather call on National Government to work with us. We need National Government, as the largest custodian of land, to grant us or Housing Development Agency, with power of attorney, and transfer land to the Western Cape Government in order to unlock the potential that land parcels such as Wingfield, Culemborg and Dunoon have.

These parcels, if developed for mixed housing opportunities, will see the spatial inequalities in this province begin to close. It would bring households earning less than R22,000 a month close to the economic opportunities and public services.

I also call on the Provincial Department to play its roles in leveraging projects to further integrate women in the construction of housing developments. The Department is set to spend more than R2 billion on

housing developments in this financial year. By using business owned and operated by women and youth, the Department has the opportunity to deliver not only homes, but business development to construction companies and economically uplift women in a sector which has for far too long marginalised them. It is up to each and every one of us to play our part too. The public sector and private sector must both contribute to meaningful support for a shared future we can look forward to in a very uncertain present time.

A whole of society approach is the key now more than ever. A return to essential human virtues of being united and compassionate as we strive to achieve a common goal because by truly following the rules you are saving others too. Let us keep flattening the curve.

In closing, I would thank the Department for their hard and often underappreciated work. To Minister Simmers, the HOD and all officials, I also want to congratulate the Housing Tribunal in celebrating 20 years. In 20 years, this entity has assisted 35,000 cases and heard more than 16,000 between 2015 and 2020. Thank you again for your dedication.

As the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, I would also like to thank members of the Committee for their contribution in overseeing this incredibly important work of the Executive.

Hon Speaker, the DA supports this Budget and I salute you. Thank you very

much.

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

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you to all the members who have been part of the deliberations, and I will now reflect on some of the inputs, hon Speaker.

Firstly, hon Speaker, it is ironic that both the ANC and the EFF seemingly focus on that as they are actually part of the problem in the Western Cape. There was reference made to constitutionalism and certain segments were quoted by, among others, the EFF, hon Speaker, but one needs to ask ourselves: when we talk of informal settlements, and we have identified 60 across the Western Cape, it is those settlements which were born due to a need for a human settlement or housing opportunity. Not settlements which we have noted over the lockdown period, which were driven by opportunists, criminal elements and even by certain political parties who do not even respect the rule of law, but yet they want to talk in this House about a Constitution.

Hon Speaker, the ANC, the EFF and all their coalition partners are advocates of no more than perverse quasi-socialism because they have invaded land illegally. They have erected structures illegally, this at the cost of law-abiding beneficiaries who have been on the waiting list for many, many

years. This is ruthless in its treatment of the working class, but more ruthless of our poor people and yet they want to be at the vanguard of the poor. They are no more than opportunists, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, when we reflect on where we have been and even now with the Second Adjustment Budget, even with the budget cuts impact on us as a department, we have managed to deliver, we have managed to deliver to qualifying beneficiaries, and we have engaged these communities honestly and transparently because as the Minister, together with the Standing Committee, together with all the members of this House, as hon members our first and foremost duty is to act in the interest of our law-abiding citizens, something which so many sadly tend to forget when they stand up and utter certain aspects which they believe we are doing wrong, but yet in Afrikaans †dan sê ons jy is siende blind en horende doof. [then we say you have eyes and no eyes and sham deafness.] And that, I think, is what the ANC, the EFF and the other coalition partners share, actually tend to forget at the moment.

But, hon Speaker, as I conclude, let me thank the Standing Committee for the important role that they play and for those specific members who actually do take the opportunity to attend the Standing Committee to exercise their oversight role, instead of standing up in this House and making utterances without having all the facts.

Hon Speaker, I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, who holds me and my Department accountable because without

accountability we could have never seen the good quality governance which this DA-led Provincial Government has done over the last decade. But last and not the least, I would like to thank firstly my HOD, my chief directors, all levels of the staff component within the Human Settlements fraternity within the Western Cape, my staff in the Ministry, but more so my family, because if anything what COVID-19 has shown us, if we stand together, if we practice the safety which is required, but we focus on the job at hand, then we can continue to take our communities forward. But, the value of family intertwines through all of us because the value of family will ensure the value which, I think, we all aspire to at the end of the day, which is the value of [Inaudible.] living and ensuring a better and quality life for all, for all our residents in the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. At this stage, hon members, we have just concluded this particular debate on this Vote and I would like to request the Secretary to read the 7th Order of the day.

The SECRETARY: *Consideration of Votes and Schedules – Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B 7-2020]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members, thank you Mr Secretary. Hon members, I have to announce that in the House we have 34 members present and the breakdown is as follows:

DA: 23

ANC: 7

EFF: 1

GOOD: 1

ACDP: 1

FF PLUS: 1

AL JAMA-AH: 0

So that are the 34 members present and that entitle the House to a vote and in case there is a need for us to vote, we do have a quorum. I would like to, at this stage, establish with the members whether there are any objections to the individual Votes and Schedule of the Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill?

HON MEMBERS: No.

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: No objections. Thank you. I see the hand of the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC in the Chamber and I also see the hand of the Chief Whip of the ANC. May I acknowledge the Chief Whip. The ANC Chief Whip, hon Lekker?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, am I audible?

The SPEAKER: Yes, you are, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. There is an objection.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. Seeing that there is an objection, hon members, if there is no request for a division, we note the objection of the ANC.

MsN MAKAMBA-BOTYA: And the EFF.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you, hon members.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Speaker, and please note the EFF also.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya, the objection of the ANC and the objection of the EFF will be noted. Therefore, the Votes and Schedule of the Western Cape Secondary Adjustments Appropriation Bill is therefore approved. Hon members I request that the Secretary read the 8th Order of the Day.

[ANC and EFF dissenting.]

The SECRETARY: Finalisation of the Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill [B7-2020]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, there is no speakers list. I recognise the hon Minister of Finance. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. I propose that the Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill, Bill 7 of 2020, including the clauses and the short title, be finalised.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, as I indicated there is no speakers list, are there any objections to the Bill, the clauses and short title being finalised?

HON MEMBERS: No.

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members, thank you. I recognise that there are objections. The ANC has indicated here, the Deputy Chief Whip in the Chamber. Are there any other objections?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Yes, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Makamba-Botya, is that an objection?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: That is an objection †Somlomo. [Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. Hon members, we have noted and recorded the objection of the ANC and that of the EFF and the

Secretary will read the Bill.

[ANC and EFF dissenting.]

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Second Adjustments Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members, I have to announce that the Bill has been approved and as a result the Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent. Thank you, hon members, we are moving fast, I am impressed. Now the Secretary will read the 9th Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Second Amendment Bill [B24-2020] NCOP.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Order, hon members. The House received the Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Second Amendment 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 the political parties represented here an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish, and this will be no longer than three minutes. I now recognise the ANC. No objections, no speakers?
The Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The African National Congress in the Western Cape hereby supports the Division, the adjustment.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Chief Whip of the ANC. I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Speaker, we are not in support.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. We support the Division of Revenue Bill although we do not support the Budget Committee's position. I do want to raise concern about the report that we have been asked to receive or the mandate that we have been asked to support.

The mandate that is before Parliament is flawed. The report has several errors in it, and it is surprising to me that this mandate is what was presented to the NCOP by our representatives last week, before the mandate was given to our representatives. In particular the Budget Committee recommended that the Bill be rejected for a number of reasons, amongst those reasons are that there is a R65,7 million nett decrease in conditional grants and this is false, there was a net increase of conditional grants to the Western Cape in the amount of R81,9 million. The Budget Committee also recommended that the Bill be rejected because it claims that the Provincial Roads and Infrastructure Grant will be cut by R61 million. The Committee claims that this will affect

services such as road infrastructure. This is also false. The Bill proposes to increase the Provincial Roads Infrastructure Grant by R61,3 million.

So, hon Speaker, to some extent it is an embarrassment that this is the report that is before Parliament and that there is a proposal that it be approved, given the errors. I do not see how the report can be approved and with its factually incorrect – the basis for the Committee rejecting the Division of Revenue Bill is factually incorrect and I have suggested that this report be sent back. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. The ACDP does support the Division of the Revenue Bill. I thank you.

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

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, the FF PLUS supports the Division of Revenue Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Hon members, I recognise AL JAMA-AH. Still absent. Hon members, I recognise the DA.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Today we consider the

Report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Second Amendment Bill B24-2020 NCOP. The Bill contains the final mandate of the Committee on the Bill. The Budget Committee having considered the subject of the Bill referred to it, recommends that the House confers on the Western Cape's Delegation in the NCOP the authority not to support the Bill and the African National Congress expressed its minority view that it supports the Bill and Committee.

In the Second Budget Adjustment, the Provincial Roads Maintenance Grant, which we received from National Government, was cut by R61 million; the Agricultural Grants, Property Relief, Land Reform and Cultural Support were cut by almost R1,6 in total. Our Title Deeds Restoration Grant was cut by the National Government by R23 million. The nett decrease of the National Conditional Grants in total is R66 million in the Second Adjustment Budget and should members look for the Conditional Grant cuts, they can be found on pages 5, 7, 9, 71, 10, 11, 73, 69 and 12 of the Bill itself. And they are also then able to find the views of what the grants contain in the Bill next to the name of the grant.

Further there has been a R2,3 billion reduction in the Western Cape Budget for the Compensation of Employees and Provincial Treasury then used the Provincial Revenue Fund to cushion these cuts pending the nett reduction of the Provincial Equitable Share to R1,5 billion.

Finally, I would like to thank our procedural officer, Ms Waseemah Kamish-

Achmat in the Budget Committee for her hard work and dedication to the accountability in our Parliament, the Minister, HODs and officials of Provincial Treasury for helping us make the Western Cape a province for jobs, safety and dignity and wish all members a safe and joyful holiday season.

Hon Speaker, I ask the House to accordingly support and ratify the decision of the Budget Committee to not support this Bill. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, to the DA, hon Baartman. Can we please make sure that our microphones are off? Hon members, the question put before the House, is that the report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Second Amendment Bill, conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP not to support this Bill, be ratified and be adopted by this House. Are there any objections?

HON MEMBERS: No.

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, thank you. I put the question, thank you. Those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say aye.

HON MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: I do not hear you. Those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say aye.

HON MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Those not in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say no.

HON MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: The ayes have it. Thank you. I think the ayes have it. The [Inaudible.] has been approved. Now the report of the Budget Committee on the Division of Revenue Second Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted. Now hon members, I will request the Secretary to read the next Order.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Customary Initiation Bill [B7B-2018] NCOP.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Order, hon members. The House received the Report of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Customary Initiation Bill, conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford political parties represented here an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. This

shall not be more than three minutes each. I recognise the ANC.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Speaker. It is member Kama. The ANC supports the Bill.

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

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Speaker. The EFF does support the report.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. I now recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker. We support the report.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I now recognise FF PLUS.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, FF PLUS supports it.

The SPEAKER: Your microphone, hon Marais, is it working?

Mr P J MARAIS: We support it, sir.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. Thank you. I recognise that AL JAMA-AH is absent, so I now recognise the DA.

Mr R I ALLEN: Hon Speaker, thank you. I firstly wish to thank all the Committee members for their commitment in ensuring that under difficult circumstances and tight timeframes imposed by the NCOP, that the Committee was able to conclude its final mandate on the Customary Initiation Bill.

Hon Speaker, leading up to our negotiating mandate, the Committee submitted a number of amendments after receiving input from various stakeholders including the public and the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport. Hon Speaker, we made some of our amendments that were proposed to the Department of Traditional Affairs and one is that the Bill should efficiently address the obstacles for the accessibility of emergency medical services to initiation sites in remote areas. Hon Speaker, this was supported by the Department of Traditional Affairs.

Secondly, the Bill should reference the National Environmental Health Norms and Standards for premises and acceptable monitoring standards for environmental health practitioners to acknowledge the powers and responsibilities given to the Minister of Health regarding the conditions of circumcisions. This was also supported by the Department. Another one was

that the Bill should state that all relevant tests are to be concluded before a medical certificate will be issued prior to the initiation process. The Bill should also address the confidentiality measures to be in place to safeguard the information contained in a medical certificate. This was also supported.

Furthermore, the Bill should address clear guidelines for interprovincial cooperation and collaboration and detail the effects of medical certificates being issued in the province [Inaudible.] to where an initiate is entered into an initiation school. This was also supported. We further suggested to the NCOP that the Bill should state that no child or any person should be forced or coerced to undergo virginity testing as part of an initiation process. This was also supported by the Department.

Another one, hon Speaker, is that the Bill should include other types of abuse and not just reference to mental and physical abuse or use the term abuse to refer to all types of abuse. The Bill should set out measures at initiation schools to prevent harmful practices, such as those that equate to sexual or gender-based violence. The objectives of the Bill should therefore also purposefully aim to prevent sexual abuse and all other forms of abuse. The Department of Traditional Affairs also supports that amendment from our Committee.

Thank you so much again, to our procedural staff as well, Waseem Matthews and everyone who helped us in this regard. It was under Covid lockdown, but we managed to do our work, even via our oversight committees in order to

see how we can come together as a committee. So I am thankful to the Committee and I will call up on this House, hon Speaker, to ratify the final mandate as unanimously supported by the Committee. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Allen. Hon members, I have to indicate to the House that we are still quorate at this stage with 34 members in the House. I wish to put the question which is before us, that the Report of the Standing Committee and Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sports on the Customary Initiation Bill, conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections to this Report?

HON MEMBERS: No.

Agreed to.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, the Report of the Standing Committee on Community Safety, Cultural Affairs and Sport on the Customary Initiation Bill has been adopted as such. Hon members, the Secretary will read the 11th Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Traditional Courts Bill [B1D-2017] Section 76.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, the House received a Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Traditional Courts 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 an opportunity to make a declaration if the political parties so wish to do so, and this shall not be more than three minutes. I now recognise the ANC. Hon Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. We were extremely disappointed that the majority of the Standing Committee was reluctant to come out in support of this Bill. Not only did we have public hearings but a number of the issues that had been raised were responded to by the Department of Justice who is overseeing this particular process. And the issues that were raised were actually addressed in regard to those responses. So on the side of the ANC, we support the Bill, and we are disappointed that the majority of the Committee has decided to confer a mandate not to support this Bill. We believe that Traditional Courts of South Africa and in our province are absolutely critical and are provided for and regulated in a way that this Bill seeks to achieve, and therefore we would want our objection to the view that the Standing Committee has adopted to be noted. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, the Leader of the Opposition. Hon members, I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Speaker, the EFF will abstain from this declaration.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. I now recognise the GOOD party.

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

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, the ACDP abstains. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, I now recognise the FF PLUS.

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, the FF PLUS will abstain because this is a situation where one cultural group is asked to judge other cultural groups, to judge their culture, what they are supposed to be allowed to do and not and until this is stretched out to affect all cultures, not just certain cultures, it is difficult to say, let us set this as a standard where all minorities are treated equally but only certain people have these courts, only certain people have certain powers belonging to certain groups, and for that reason I rather abstain from voting on this.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. AL JAMA-AH is absent. I now recognise the DA.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker, for the opportunity to give input in this Bill. Hon Speaker, I actually left the Committee when they conducted oversight visits on this Bill and public hearings on this Bill and there was general consensus from everyone, and I mean the Traditional Leaders, as we all know in the Western Cape and majority of them have a strong support for the National governing party, and they abhorred, in fact they were disgusted, to be given two or three days' notice to the first public hearings which is what the National Council of Provinces gave us on such an important Bill. It shows the disrespect the National Government has for Traditional Leaders by expecting them in two or three days to read the Bill and then give formal opinion. And that was a first out of many. I can go on.

But the Committee has read through the Bill, we had public hearings and the Department of Justice did respond to some of our concerns but I think the most important ones were the constitutional issues which the Bill did not address.

I know member Dugmore did do it via you, hon Speaker, in the Report from the NCOP – a lot of provinces with strong traditional leadership have raised serious concerns about some of the aspects of the Bill. The Department did respond and in fact I quote from the Chairperson's response, the Chairperson of the NCOP, hon Speaker, she said,

“The Chairperson noted that the issues raised as concerns by provinces should find explanation in the regulations.”

Now hon Speaker, there is no way when members of all the provinces raise serious issues of a Bill that your answer to the issues is, it will find expression in the regulations. That is not how you pass laws. The issues need to be addressed in the Bill and not in regulations.

I wish to raise that these matters in the Bill have still not been addressed and what we find is the majority of the members, which have been in public hearings, which have been in the Committee, did find that those issues were serious enough, that they cannot be trusted with individuals and persons to address it in regulations, and that is why we could not find any good reason to support the Bill.

On the constitutional matters that were raised, our Committee is the Constitutional Committee and when constitutional matters are being raised and yes, one of the matters that was raised, there was the understanding between customary law and how it can exist within the current constitutional framework and the response from the Department, in writing, was that they merely noted it. And I find it serious and I hope other members of this Parliament or any parliament would find serious exception that when the constitutional matters are being raised, the only thing the Department can say, is they noted it. It is not to be noted, it needs to be addressed.

Therefore, based on the facts, hon Speaker, we could not support this Bill and I ask the members of this House to accept our finding. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon McKenzie. Hon members, we still have 34 members present. Now we are proceeding. The question put before the House is that the Report of the Standing Committee on Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Traditional Courts Bill, conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP not to support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections to the Report?

HON MEMBERS: No.

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you hon members. Those in favour of the Report being ratified and adopted, please say aye.

HON MEMBERS: Aye!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the Report being ratified and adopted, please say no.

HON MEMBERS: No!

The SPEAKER: The ayes have it. Now I think because there were objections

raised there, those objections will be noted, but now on the question that has been put, it has been approved.

Hon members, the Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Traditional Courts Bill has therefore been adopted by the House.

The Secretary will read the 12th Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Local Government Municipal Structures Amendment Bill [B19D 2018] NCOP.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, what is before us is that the House deals with the Report of the Standing Committee on the Local Government Municipal Structures Amendment Bill, conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP, to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to our Delegation in the NCOP. Hon members, I will now afford the opportunity for the respective parties to share their declaration with the House, not more than three minutes. I recognise the ANC. Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I just want to check, given that I am remote here, whether any of our other members would like to make a short declaration, member Marran possibly, but I know that we

are very happy that we have been able to reach consensus on these very necessary amendments and it is not often that a Committee of this House agrees and for that reason in our declaration we are happy to support the Report as tabled.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the Leader of the Opposition. Hon members the EFF, do you have anything to say?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon Speaker, we do support the Bill. We are in support of the amendment proposed in this Bill, but we urge that it could have been utilised to usher in more comprehensive changes to the structure and functioning of local government. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. Hon Herron?

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. We support the Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon Christians?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports the amendments of the Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. The hon Marais from the FF PLUS has just walked out, the AL JAMA-AH is not present. I recognise the DA.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Speaker. The Municipal Structures Amendment Bill seeks to strengthen oversight and governance in local government. The Bill regularises existing practices such as municipal public accounts committees and includes refinements and amendments to the electoral system. Many of the Bill's themes touch on the division of roles between the executive and legislative arm of the municipality. This is a challenge in local government because the Constitution does not prescribe a separation of powers, as is the case at provincial and national level.

On 5 May 2020, the Standing Committee was briefed by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Independent Electoral Commission under various clauses that are to be amended. The Bill was then put out for public participation. Due to the Covid restrictions at the time, comments were solicited from stakeholders and the public via newspaper advertisements, social media and written communications to all Mayors and SALGA Western Cape. Written submissions were received and those who wished to make an in-person virtual submission were given the opportunity. That happened on 28 July 2020.

A virtual engagement was held with those who wished to make such oral submissions. Briefings were done by the Department, SALGA Western Cape, councillor Lathiba who is the Impact Chairperson in the Garden Route District Municipality.

So on 15 September 2020, the Standing Committee adopted its Negotiating

Mandate Report on the Local Government Municipal Structures Amendment Bill with all these proposed amendments to be considered by the NCOP. On 3 November, the NCOP Select Committee on COGTA, met and considered the proposals to the various provinces. Of the nine provinces, only five submitted proposals. The most substantive proposals were made by the Western Cape.

The Standing Committee met on 13 November 2020 to adopt the Final Mandate Report on the Local Government Municipal Structures Amendment Bill with the proposals that were accepted by the provinces. Although not all of our proposals were accepted, a number of them were.

Hon Speaker, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Department who were at the forefront of initiating the many proposals that were accepted. Similarly, my appreciation also goes to Alderman Anton Coetzee, Chairperson of SALGA Western Cape, for his contribution towards the formulisation of the proposals that were forwarded to the NCOP. To my colleagues on the Committee, thank you for making this process uncomplicated. Never once did we ever have any major disagreements on the clauses that were considered.

Last but not least, to our procedural officer, Johannes Coetzee, who is a rock star. Thank you for your professionalism and competence in facilitating the smooth passage of the Bill and for keeping me sane. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chair of the Standing Committee.

I would have given you more time hon America, but everyone says they are happy with you and the Report that you have come up with. So that is good. Now let us proceed. Hon members, the question put before us is that the Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government which is on the Local Government Municipality Structures Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape Delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill be ratified and adopted. We do have 33 members now in the House, we are still quorate. Hon members, are there any objections to the Report as proposed?

HON MEMBERS: No.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. The report has been agreed to. Now the Report of the Standing Committee on the Local Government Municipal Structures Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted. Hon members, the Secretary will now read the 13th Order of the Day.

†Die SEKRETARIS: Oorweging van Verslag van die Gedragskomitee, gedateer 25 November 2020.

[The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Conduct Committee, dated 25 November 2020.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programme Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and that political parties who wish to do so will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration of the Vote for a

maximum of three minutes. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration for those who wish to do so. I recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The African National Congress, having considered, read and participated in the Committee, is hereby in support of the Code of Conduct Committee. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lekker. Hon members, I recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Speaker. With regard to the amendment of the Code of Conduct for members, the EFF calls the attention of the House to Section 30 of the Code of Conduct dealing with the composition of the Appeals Committee. Whilst we accept the inclusion of Opposition members on that Committee, it is our recommendation to the House that the number of Opposition members in that Committee must be increased by two more members. The total should be seven members serving in that Committee with the following breakdown: three members from the ruling party and four members from the different Opposition parties in this House.

We already have a Conduct Committee that is dominated by a member of the ruling party in the House. So for fairness sake and in the interests of a member who might feel aggrieved by a decision of that Conduct Committee, it would be fair to have an Appeal Committee that is composed differently. One which would judge fairly by looking beyond party lines.

If the House does not accept this recommendation then we run the risk of having a situation, whereby an Opposition member is brought before the Conduct Committee, and then found guilty by a committee, dominated by the opposition members. If such member is not happy with the decision of the Committee, then it would be useless to even take the matter to the Appeals Committee which will be composed of the majority of the members from the same ruling party. So taking the matter forward will be redundant. So in the interest of justice and fairness, there should be an additional two members in the Appeals Committee who will be from different parties in the Opposition. Hon Speaker, we would then not support this Report. Thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. We support the amendments to the Code of Conduct. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Speaker. The ACDP supports the Conduct Committees Report. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, I recognise in the absence of the FF PLUS and AL JAMA-AH, I recognise the DA.

The DEPUTY CHIP WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Conduct Committee having been established in terms of the Standing Rules of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and governed by the members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament Code of Conduct Act 3 of 2002, requires the Conduct Committee to report to the House, at least annually on its operations and the effectiveness of the Code.

Having been tabled and ATCd, the Conduct Committee held meetings on 15 May 2020, 14 August 2020 and 26 October 2020. Hon Speaker, during these meetings the Registrar reported to the Committee on the submission of disclosures of members' interests forms as well as on the two requests received for access to the public part of the register. The Committee also dealt with one breach of the Code of Conduct.

Hon Speaker, during these meetings throughout the year, the Committee also undertook to review the efficacy of the Code of Conduct. These proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct were ATCd dated 1 December 2020.

I would like to thank all members of the Conduct Committee, the Registrar, Ms Simon, for your assistance and collegiality to ensure that this very important committee fulfils its constitutional mandate without fear or favour. Hon Speaker, I therefore table the Report and Amendments to the Code of Conduct for consideration and adoption by this House. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mitchell. Hon members, we still have 33

members present and therefore we are quorate. The question we put before the House is that the Report of the Conduct Committee be adopted. Are there any objections to the Report being adopted?

HON MEMBERS: No.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Yes.

[EFF dissenting.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. The objection by the EFF has been noted. Therefore the question has been approved. Hon members, at this stage, as is the tradition in our parliamentary environment especially in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, I will now afford representatives of the political parties an opportunity to address the House on the occasion of the end of the year and of course the end of the session. I wish to request the ANC to be the first to address us. I recognise the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, hon colleagues. The year 2020 is not a year that any of us will easily forget. The ANC wants to thank everyone in the House, no matter what their political affiliation, for the cordial and collegial manner in which we have been conducting our business as a collective. As colleagues serving on committees holding the Executive to account, we really do get to know each other and on

various oversight visits and we learn the truth that we all hold dear, that each one of us loves our province and country dearly and wishes to improve the situation facing our people.

We laugh at the hon former Premier Peter Marais' jokes and we also appreciate his wisdom, and we honour him today. We mock each other across the floor and we sometimes have loud shouting matches and points of order, but we do all of this in serving the people of the Western Cape and South Africa. When we differ robustly from the vantage points of our various political homes, we do so to ensure that the citizens of this province are served.

We thank the members of the Executive and our Premier, Alan Winde, for their cooperation and the efforts of the officials in enabling us to hold them accountable. We also wish to extend our thoughts and prayers to our colleague and my dear brother, hon community MEC Albert Fritz and wish him a speedy recovery. We thank our colleagues in the ruling party in this province. We also thank our fellow Opposition parties, especially the EFF and GOOD who keep us even, on our toes. We appreciate the commitment of the ACDP, AL JAMA-AH and the Freedom Front Plus for taking up especially community issues facing the communities they represent.

We thank you, hon Speaker, Masizole Mnqasela, your Deputy Speaker, hon Beverley Schäfer, the Secretary of the Legislature Mr Romeo Adams and all of the staff for their hard work.

The African National Congress will remain particularly focused on staff morale, not only because oversight will suffer if staff morale is low, but we see the huge efforts that the staff and their families make, to ensure that we can conduct our work optimally. Despite this difficult year, our staff of the Legislature have been simply fantastic. We thank the staff of our respective political parties and the South African Police Services for their service to our province and country here in this building.

As we close 2020 and head into 2021, let us remember the people that we serve and the dire challenges most of them continue to face on a daily basis which need our constant attention. We thank our people for consistently holding us also accountable in how we do our jobs. While spending some time resting with our families and loved ones, let us lead by example, let us mask up, sanitise our hands, observe social distancing, act with absolute integrity, free from corruption and be responsive to the calls for help from our communities. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Hear-hear!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Beautiful message, member Sayed. Beautiful.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, yes you are allowed to clap now. Thank you. Hon members, I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Greetings to the House. As the EFF we just want to thank everyone who has allowed us a space in Parliament to air our views, even though some of them were not in the line with what people wanted to hear from us. Hopefully in the next year we will start on a clean slate and serve our people in the Western Cape Province. I thank you, hon Speaker and wishes to all the members of Parliament. Thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, hon Speaker. It has been a difficult year and we hope that the people of the Western Cape will find some peace and rest as we enter the festive season. We hope that we will be able to start the new year having made significant progress in overcoming this terrible virus and that we will be on the road to recovery in terms of our health, our loss of employment, our economy, our personal interests and freedoms.

We wish our residents, our Government, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, members and our staff, a safe and peaceful festive season. We call on everyone to play by the Covid rules over this season and to stay safe. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon members, I now recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. On behalf of the ACDP I would like to wish all hon members and officials a blessed holiday season creating wonderful memories with your family and friends. May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you today and throughout the New Year. Allow me just to read a portion of scripture out of the Bible and this is 1 Chronicles 4 verse 10, and it reads as follows:

“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh that You would bless me and enlarge my territory. Let your hand be with me and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain. And God granted his request.’”

Hon Speaker, my prayer today is that the request of Jabez, which God granted to him, will be granted to all of our hon members and our officials. I just want to now release a blessing on all the members. Now may the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. I thank you.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, member Christians.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Enkosi [Thank you.] I now call on the FF PLUS. He has not joined again. The AL JAMA-AH is also not in. I now recognise the DA.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you colleagues. I do want to echo the sentiments of you

all.

2020 has indeed been a very challenging year and we continue to struggle as a country and as a province under the COVID-19 pandemic and I would like to take this opportunity at this stage, colleagues, and send heartfelt condolences to our friends, family members and colleagues that we have lost during this period and also take the opportunity to wish all those who are grappling with this pandemic, a speedy recovery.

Parliament is indeed a battle of ideas where all of us, as representatives of the people of the Western Cape, on a daily or regular basis, are discussing ways to make their lives better. We shout at each other, we argue, but with the sole aim of improving the lives of the people of the Western Cape. I really want to take the opportunity and thank all my colleagues in this House, the members of the Official Opposition, of the ANC, the EFF, GOOD, AL JAMA-AH, ACDP and Freedom Front Plus. We are of course opponents in this House but out there we have a responsibility to work together for the benefit of the people who elected us.

As we await in anticipation of the announcement by the President, we have a responsibility as public representatives, to lead by example during this festive season. As hon member Sayed has said, we have to make sure that we stick to the regulations and guidelines as presented by the National Command Council and the Department of Health. We must make sure that we are the ambassadors that preach the message to wear our masks regularly, to sanitise

and to keep social distancing.

And lastly, I want to urge all my colleagues. I do want to see you back here in one piece. Let us obey the rules of our roads, let us drive safely as we travel to different destinations over this festive season. As I have said we have a responsibility to make sure that those we come into contact with are also safe by following these guidelines and let us enjoy our festive season with our families. Once again colleagues, drive safely. Let us come back here in one piece and I am certainly looking forward to seeing you again in this Parliament next year.

And last, but not least, to the heartbeat of this Parliament, our staff members. We know that it has not been easy, particularly for them and we can see what is happening across the country, we are expecting massive demonstrations from different unions, but we must continue to treat our staff members like queens and kings and we really appreciate the support that you are giving us as this Parliament. I also want to wish you all the best during this festive season. Thank you, colleagues.

MR R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Madikizela. Very nice message.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon the LOGB. We thank you all, the hon members. I think what has been said by all of you resembles the culture and the spirit within which we engage in this Parliament. I would not have done justice if I do not thank the Table staff, the Secretary, the parliamentary

team, all of them, from the SMT and every single staff member, for the work that you have done to support this Parliament and all of the work that we have done throughout lockdown. It has not been easy but thank you very much for making it seem so effortless in the work you have done and the way in which you have served us. Also, to the hon, the Deputy Speaker and the Office of the Speaker, thank you very much.

Hon members, at this stage I can only wish that all of us, as political parties, as family members, as individuals, that we are able to ask for the intervention from Almighty God to guide us, to lead us, to help us find peace, security and comfort for all our people in the province, and the people of the world. May God bless you all. Thank you very much. This session is adjourned. Enjoy your holidays.

The House adjourned at 16:20.