

---

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2026

---

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Before we proceed, hon members. I would like to welcome all our guests in the gallery and the learners from Bayswater English School who are here today to observe the parliamentary sitting, as well as learners from Manenberg Primary School. Welcome to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Hon members, I want to make some comments about the logistical arrangements. Today's sitting shall be governed by the Standing Rules and in instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the sitting of the House are as provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. The Sergeant-at-Arms will be recording members' attendance. Hon members who are present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Hon members, unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and who are entitled to cast their votes in accordance with our Standing Rules. If a member is considered to be out of order by the Presiding Officer, that member will have their microphones muted and called to order. When an hon member wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer as normal, but must mute his or her microphone when he or she has completed speaking.

Hon members, I kindly request those who are not members of the House, to observe the decorum of the House and for this sitting, language interpreting services are available by using the devices at your disposal.

Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid sittings and, to this end, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. The Secretary and the Administration will ensure that there is a dedicated technical support at all times during the sitting.

Hon members, we will now proceed with the business of the House and I recognise the hon Deputy Chief Whip.

**BUSINESS OF THE DAY****(Motion)**

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1) that deals with the sequence of proceedings, I wish to move that:

The Subject for Discussion receives precedence.

Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved?

No objections, agreed to.

Hon members, we will now deal with the Subject for Discussion in the name of the hon D W Bryant, as printed on the Order Paper and I recognise the hon Bryant.

**SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION**

The impact of the recent severe flooding on infrastructure, agriculture, energy systems and vulnerable communities in the Western Cape, and

the measures required to improve disaster preparedness, recovery coordination and long-term climate resilience.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, the severe flooding that recently ravaged large parts of the Western Cape is a stark reminder that climate change is no longer a future concern. It is here and it is affecting our communities, our infrastructure, our economy and our way of life. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, more intense and more destructive.

The Western Cape is not alone in facing these challenges. The devastating floods in KwaZulu-Natal a few years ago showed the long-term consequences disasters can have on communities and infrastructure. In many parts of that province, the effects are still being felt today.

The question before us is whether this Government is prepared, not only to respond when disaster strikes, but also to build resilience for the future. Before anything else, we extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the 11 people who tragically lost their lives during these storms. More than 103 000 residents across the province were affected, while approximately 13 350 structures in Cape Town alone were damaged, along with 104 schools.

When disaster struck, this DA-led Western Cape Government was prepared and able to respond swiftly and decisively. The Provincial Disaster Risk

Management Centre was activated immediately, while Municipal Emergency Operations Centres were mobilised across affected regions. Provincial departments, municipalities, emergency services and humanitarian partners worked together to coordinate relief efforts and ensure support reached communities as quickly as possible. Through these coordinated efforts, more than 651 people were rescued, while humanitarian organisations provided over 18 000 cooked meals, 3 000 blankets and thousands of additional relief items to displaced residents.

We also acknowledge the remarkable efforts of municipal officials, emergency personnel, volunteers, community organisations, faith-based groups and residents who stepped forward to support those in need. The ability to coordinate so effectively across Government, civil society and humanitarian partners reflects years of investment in disaster preparedness under the leadership provided by Minister Bredell and his team.

The Western Cape Government also took the responsible decision to close schools, where necessary, in order to protect learners, teachers and staff. These decisions are never easy, but effective leadership requires the confidence to act when circumstances demand it, and we know that Minister Maynier certainly has that confidence.

Recovery remains ongoing, but important progress has already been made. Key transport routes, including the N1 and the Huguenot Tunnel, have reopened, while approximately 92 per cent of affected areas have been

reconnected to the electricity grid. Premier Alan Winde has maintained direct engagement with Eskom leadership to monitor restoration efforts and ensure accountability.

Provincial Ministers, municipal leaders and Disaster Management teams have also been on the ground across affected communities, assessing damage and coordinating recovery efforts where they are needed most.

Hon Speaker, while emergency response is critical, resilience begins long before disaster strikes. As global attention shifts to other crises, we cannot lose sight of the growing threat posed by climate-related disasters. Recent years have demonstrated just how rapidly weather patterns are changing, bringing both extreme heat and severe flooding to our province. And that is why the Western Cape Government continues to advance long-term resilience through the Western Cape 2050 Climate Resilience Programme and the 10-Year Water Resilience Plan. These initiatives recognise that climate-resilient infrastructure, effective planning and proactive disaster preparedness are essential in a changing climate.

This work includes investment in stormwater systems, road and bridge maintenance, energy resilience, water security, informal settlement upgrading and improved early warning systems. Importantly, the Western Cape Government has identified 114 new roads and stormwater infrastructure projects for implementation between 2026 and 2029, supported by more than R314 million in municipal infrastructure grant funding. This builds on nearly

R800 million invested in 144 roads and stormwater projects over the previous five years.

The Western Cape has once again demonstrated the value of preparation, capable institutions and good governance. And when disaster struck, this government responded quickly, coordinated effectively and focused on supporting affected communities. That is the approach of the DA-led Western Cape Government, building resilience, strengthening preparedness and governing responsibly in the face of a changing climate. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. I now recognise the Leader of the Opposition, hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, hon members, residents of the Western Cape and our honoured guests, let me begin by extending the ANC's sincere condolences to every family who lost loved ones during the recent severe weather and flooding in our province. We express our solidarity with all communities, farmers, workers, learners, small businesses and households who suffered damage, disruption and hardship. We acknowledge all stakeholders who assisted during this difficult period, including the Gift of the Givers Foundation and the Western Province Cricket Association.

The ANC also welcomes the Education MEC's decision to close schools. This was a necessary decision to protect learners, educators and school

communities during dangerous weather conditions. But while we recognise the work done during the disaster, we must ask a more important question.

What was done before the disaster? The Western Cape does not only have a weather problem, it has a political will problem, a planning problem, an accountability problem and a climate governance problem. This debate cannot become only a discussion about storm damage and relief efforts. The real issue is whether the Western Cape Government, led by Premier Winde, did enough to prepare this province before the rain came. The Premier cannot only appear after the floods, receive reports, issue statements and speak about recovery. The Premier must lead before disaster happens.

Climate change is real. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, but climate change cannot become an excuse for weak planning, poor coordination or vulnerable communities flooding repeatedly. When informal settlements flood, roads collapse, bridges are damaged, farms are cut off, infrastructure fails and learners cannot get to school. That is not only a natural disaster, it is also a governance failure. Disasters expose inequality. That is why disaster resilience must be measured from the ground, not from press conferences or from boardrooms.

We are heading towards the Local Government Elections on the 4th of November and the people of this province are watching closely. They are watching whether Government only arrives after disaster or whether Government plans before disaster.

The lived reality of communities such as Thembaletu, Lawaai kamp, Pacaltsdorp and Rosemoor is that too often they are remembered only when there is a crisis. These communities deserve more than visits after floods. They deserve prevention, infrastructure, drainage, safe roads, housing and proper disaster risk planning. These are the communities under the DA-led George Municipality. The people of these communities have every right to ask why they remain vulnerable year after year. The DA cannot expect the support of communities it neglects when long-term planning, maintenance and infrastructure investment are required.

On 4th November, the people of George and the Western Cape will have an opportunity to hold the DA accountable at the ballot box. Communities must use their vote to demand a government that sees them, plans for them and protects them before disaster strikes. At the same time, notwithstanding the valid criticism of Knysna, the ANC commends the ANC-led municipality and the newly appointed Acting Municipal Manager, Mr Ngubo, as well, for the proactive approach that it has taken towards the inclement weather. This is the type of local government leadership our communities need, leadership that prepares, communicates, coordinates and acts before people are left to suffer, in spite of the critiques and the mistakes.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government has disaster management policies and structures, but are they up-to-date, relevant and applied in the lived reality of our people? A policy on paper does not protect a family from flooding. A framework that is not implemented, does not repair a bridge. A

plan without political leadership does not save a vulnerable community. And we will not ask the Premier for accountability because we will get excuses. We know he will praise DA governance, while communities flood every winter. The truth is simple. People do not choose unsafe living conditions. They are there because this Government has failed to provide adequate housing, services and dignity.

The Western Cape Constitution provides for a Commissioner for the Environment. This is not a decorative aspect, it is not a nice-to-have, it is a constitutional accountability mechanism. A Commissioner for the Environment can strengthen oversight over climate resilience, disaster risk reduction and impact of government decisions on vulnerable communities. But after years of DA governance, there is still no meaningful political will to give effect to this mechanism. Instead of implementing the provision, the DA wishes to seek this House's support to remove the provision for a Commissioner for the Environment from the Western Cape Constitution. The Premier cannot claim to lead a climate-resilient province while his government seeks to remove a constitutional mechanism designed to strengthen environmental accountability.

The ANC supports coordinated disaster recovery and assistance to affected communities, farmers, workers and municipalities, but we reject disaster politics without disaster justice. Relief parcels are necessary, but they are not resilience. Emergency response is necessary, but it is not prevention. People of this province deserve a government that prepares before the rain,

protects the vulnerable during the rain and accounts honestly after the rain. The Western Cape does not only need disaster response, it needs disaster justice. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order. Thank you very much to the hon Leader of the Opposition. Order. I now recognise the hon Adams. Do you need the podium? Order, members, there's a member on the floor. Order. Hon Adams, you may continue.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon members, if the hon Premier can please pay attention. †Agb Premier, gisteraand was ek in George gewees, in my tuisdorp waar ek bly in Conville. Baie mense het foto's gestuur van hoe die water in hulle huise invloei, kniediepte. Dit is nie 'n grap nie. Ons mense sit en sukkel vanaf die laaste storm waarvoor die DA sê hulle voorbereid was. Die slegte DA was nie voorbereid nie. Die mense sit met dakke wat inmekaar val en, ja, agb Hoofswep, die mense sit en wag vir Gunplas wat tot vandag toe kom, wat hulle verlede maand al voor aansoek gedoen het. Jy kan jou gesig maar trek. Die oumense word gevra ... [Tussenwerpsel.]

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[Hon Speaker, yesterday I was in George, my hometown where I live in Conville. Many people have sent photographs showing how the water runs into their homes, knee-deep. It is no joke. Our people have been struggling since the last storm which the DA said they were prepared for. The bad DA

was not prepared. People are faced with roofs collapsing, and yes, hon Chief Whip, the people are sitting and waiting for Gunplas which till today still has to arrive, which they have applied for last month already. You can pull your face. The old people are asked...[Interjection.]

Hon Speaker, I apologise, I apologise, I apologise.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon Walters, is that a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Twice now the hon member referred to the hon Premier and to hon member Philander directly. He must please direct it through you as the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Adams, just a reminder that you must please speak to me.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, I did apologise to you, so the hon member must pay attention.

The SPEAKER: Order. Order, members, there is a member on the floor.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, my time must still be paused.

The SPEAKER: Yes, your time is still paused. Order, members. Hon Adams, you may continue.

†Mnr B ADAMS (PA): Dankie, agb Speaker. Daar word van bejaarde mense verwag om van Maraïskamp af, van Conville af, van Rosemoor af, van Pacaltdorp af, na Thembalethu te gaan vir sandsakke wat hulle uit hulle eie laaste sentjies moet gaan koop. Hoe gemak om die sandsakke in Thembalethu of in Pacaltdorp te gaan kry, of by George Brandweer, om dit self vol te maak en dan dit weer by hulle huise te kry? Die slegte DA verwag dit van ons mense, maar verkiesingstyd kom haal daardie einste mense ons mense by hulle huise en kom klop hulle wakker en trek vir hulle DA T-hemde aan en trek ANC- en EFF- en ander T-hemde uit om te sê: kom stem vir ons. Maar gister en vandag sit ons mense en huil, hulle het nie sandsakke nie, hulle het nie Gunplas nie, hulle het nie noodbehuising nie, want die DA is nie voorbereid nie.

Die vloede gaan weer kom en dit gaan weer die DA onkant vang. Dit is tyd, agb Speaker, dat die DA moet beseef dat ons mense is net so belangrik soos die mense wat aan die anderkant van die brûe bly. Die bome by ons mense in die strate lê nog net so, dit is nie verwyder nie. Die EPWP en CPWP en ander werkers wat die munisipaliteit kan kry, moet in die dorp ingaan en die bome gaan optel by hulle kante. As jy in Perlemoenstraat ry in Conville, waar ek bly, daar lê nog altyd drie bome in die straat langs die sypaadjie. Ek hoop die agb Burgemeester skenk aandag aan dit.

As jy in Pacaltdorp ingaan, as jy in Rosemoor ingaan, die mense moes hulle eie geld gebruik het om die bome van die sypaadjies af te verwyder, wat die munisipaliteit se verantwoordelikheid is. Ek het met 'n ou oom gepraat, 'n

bejaarde oom in Convent Garden in George, en hy het gehuil. Hy is 'n DA-kieser, ek het hom ongelukkig by die DA gekry en ek kan hom weer gaan haal om weg te kom van die DA, maar hy het gehuil en vir my gevra: stamhoof, hoe los die mense ons dan nou? Ek moet my eie boom nou loop en optel hierso en betaal vir mense om af te saag, terwyl die munisipaliteit afwesig is.

Die 4de November, voor die Here, agb Speaker, moet aankom, sodat ons mense ná dit waardeur hulle nou gaan, wyse besluite kan maak op die 4de November.

Ek saluut vir jou, deur u, agb Speaker, agb Premier met die pienk kouse.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[Mr B ADAMS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Old people are expected to come from Maraiskamp, from Conville, from Rosemoor, from Pacaltsdorp, to go to Thembaletu for sandbags that they must buy with their own last cents. What to do to go and get the sandbags in Thembaletu or in Pacaltsdorp, or at George Fire Station, to fill it up themselves and get it to their homes again? The bad DA expects this of our people, but in election time those very people come and pick up our people at their homes and wake them up and dress them in DA T-shirts and take off ANC and EFF and other T-shirts to say: come vote for us. But yesterday and today our people are weeping, they have no sandbags, they have no Gunplas, they have no

emergency housing, because the DA is not prepared.

The floods are going to come again and it is going to catch the DA unprepared again. It is time that the DA must realise that our people are just as important as the people living on the other side of the bridges. The trees in the streets at our people's homes are still lying there, they have not been removed. The EPWP and CPWP and other workers that the municipality can find, must go into town and remove the trees on their side. If you drive in Perlemoen Street in Conville, where I live, there are still three trees lying in the street next to the sidewalk. I hope the hon Mayor pays attention to that.

If you go into Pacaltsdorp, if you go into Rosemoor, people had to use their own money to remove the trees from the sidewalks, which is the municipality's responsibility. I spoke to an old *oom*, and aged man in Convent Garden in George, and he cried. He is a DA voter, I found him at the DA unfortunately and I can go and fetch him again to get him away from the DA, but he cried and he asked me, chief, how can the people now leave us? I must now go and pick up my own tree here and pay for people to chop it up, while the municipality is absent.

The 4th of November, before the Lord, hon Speaker, must arrive, so that our people, after that which they are now going through, make wise decisions on 4 November.

I salute you, through you, hon Speaker, to my hon Premier with the pink

socks. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Adams, your time has expired. Please take your seat. Order. Order, members. I now recognise the hon Masipa. Order, Hon members, there is a member on the floor. Hon Masipa, you may continue.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, our recent oversight visit confirmed what many farmers, farmworkers and rural communities already know. These floods were both a humanitarian crisis and economic disaster. Entire communities were disrupted. Infrastructure was damaged, agricultural production was severely affected, and livelihoods were placed at risk. The reality is that the weather conditions were on a scale rarely seen in living memory. Climate change is no longer a future threat, it is a present reality.

I want to commend the Western Cape Government, led by Premier Alan Winde, for its rapid response and their engagement directly with the affected communities. We also witnessed extraordinary acts of leadership from local businesses and community members who stepped forward to assist displaced farmworkers and households when help was needed most. Their efforts remind us that disaster response cannot be left to Government alone. The whole-of-society approach demonstrated the resilience and compassion that define the people of this province.

However, while emergency relief is essential, the real question before this House is: will farmers be able to recover, survive, and workers retain their

jobs? South Africa lacks an effective agricultural climate risk insurance system or Government protection of its country's biological assets. The climate risks are so big that private insurance products are either prohibitively expensive or unavailable. As a result, farmers are left exposed and agricultural production ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, please take your seat. Hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I want to establish ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The member ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: So, do you want to ask the member a question?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker. I am asking the member through you.

The SPEAKER: Okay, let me ask the member if he is prepared to take a question. Hon Masipa, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Can he allow me to first finish my speech and once I am done, he can ask the question.

The SPEAKER: So the hon member, at this stage, is not prepared to take a question. Hon Masipa, please take your seat. Hon member, is that a new point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I hear you, hon Speaker. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Masipa, you may continue.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, as a result, farmers are left exposed and agricultural production remains vulnerable. This is not sustainable. South Africa must move from disaster response to disaster preparedness. SA must first establish a first loss agricultural insurance programme, supported by Government and administered through a dedicated institutional mechanism similar to SASRIA, or a total government collateral for farmers to help them access funding from commercial banks.

This is not a new idea, hon Speaker. In 2019, the South African Insurance Association proposed a heavily subsidised multi-parallel crop insurance model for commercial farmers alongside index-based insurance products for developing farmers. This included an area yield insurance, pasture drought insurance for livestock producers and weather-indexed insurance products. Government absorbs a portion of the catastrophic risk ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, please take your seat. Hon member, is that a

point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Can you ask the member to read his speech slowly so that the public can be able to follow. He is currently rapping.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not a point of order and also, I wish to remind the hon members that frivolous points of order are not parliamentary. Hon Masipa, my apologies, you may continue.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, Government absorbs a portion of the catastrophic risk, thereby enabling private insurers to participate in making insurance affordable for farmers. Unfortunately, progress has been painfully slow. In 2021, Santam piloted a soil moisture index insurance product within a regulated Fintech environment. Despite the innovation, uptake remained low because affordability challenges persisted. Similarly, Land Bank Insurance is currently piloting area yield and pasture drought products, yet this remains limited in scale and reach.

The challenge is the absence of a coordinated national framework that can bring together government, insurers, farmers and financial institutions. National Treasury, the Department of Agriculture and CoGTA must urgently engage on establishment of a climate risk insurance mechanism or government guarantees for agricultural post-climate disaster. Such a mechanism should have three key objectives. Firstly, it must provide rapid

claims processing, payouts and loan disbursements. Secondly, it must cover first loss risk associated with a climate disaster. And, thirdly, it must encourage private sector participation by reducing catastrophic risk exposure and creating a viable agricultural sector.

The DA further believes that agricultural disaster risk funding must be reviewed to ensure that the Department of Agriculture is empowered with greater authority to manage agricultural disaster response directly. It requires specialised responses that are often distinct from broader disaster management interventions. Land Bank, SASRIA and/or a newly established independent entity must administer such a programme. Previous proposals to house the programme within the Land Bank faced industrial resistance due to concerns about market advantage.

Hon Speaker, if the ANC National Government fails, the Western Cape must take the lead and create conditions for resilience, investment and recovery. That means leveraging international climate finance and establishing a sustainable agricultural insurance framework that protects both farmers and farm workers.

We have a capable Finance Minister whom we believe will do that. Let us build a farming sector that is resilient, competitive and capable of withstanding climate change. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Masipa, please take your seat.

Hon Michels, do you need the podium? Order members, order. Order, there is a member on the floor, hon members.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Speaker, hon members, the recent severe flooding that devastated our province has once again exposed a painful truth. The Western Cape Government under the Democratic Alliance is incapable of protecting the poor, incapable of building resilient infrastructure and incapable of governing beyond press conference and photo flyovers.

Over the past month, communities from the Cape Winelands to the West Coast and Overberg have endured catastrophic damage. Reports confirm rainfall of up to 200 millimetres, winds exceeding 120 kilometres per hour, widespread road failures, collapsed bridges and thousands left without electricity or shelter. Tens of thousands rely on humanitarian relief because the Provincial Government failed to invest in long-term resilience, despite years of warnings.

The agricultural sector, the livelihood of rural Coloured communities, has been shattered. Vineyards, orchards, croplands and entire apple harvests in Grabouw and Elgin were wiped out, with farms cut off due to destroyed access roads and bridges. Power outages crippled irrigation, impacted houses, threatening export chains and livelihoods. Yet, the DA response has been to parade digital access apps and media briefings, while farmers and farmworkers sit with no income, no transport and no certainty.

Hon Speaker, the DA claims to be a government of excellence, but when disaster strikes, they run to National Government, cap-in-hand, begging for classification of a provincial disaster so that national funds can bail them out. This is not resilience, this is not leadership, this is dependency dressed up as competence.

The SPEAKER: Order.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): The NCC has long warned the Western Cape Government ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Michels, your time has expired. Please take your seat.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): The NCC has long warned that the Western Cape Government ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Michels, please take your seat. Order, order, order! Yes, hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thanks, hon Speaker. This could perhaps be a human error on your end but, in all fairness I would like to ask you, hon Speaker, to go on Hansard on the basis that where one ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Order, there is a member on the floor.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): When you stopped the member, he still had a couple of seconds left.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I saw the time is up in front of me, but because you raised that, I will check with Hansard and I will revert back. The hon member, in fact, continued when I told him his time is up, which would have been captured on Hansard in any case. So the member was not disadvantaged at any point.

Order, members. Hon member, is that a new point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Speaker, with what you are saying now, the last statement undermines your commitment to go on Hansard. You are already concluding that the member had already finished speaking. Then there is a problem, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: No, no, no.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): And you infringe his right to finish his speech in a proper manner.

The SPEAKER: I have already ruled and committed to revert to Hansard. What I then said was that even if, coming back from Hansard, the member had additional time to conclude in any case. So the member would not have been disadvantaged because even if we rule next week on the Hansard, the

debate would have been finished. So in the interests of, and protecting, the member, the member already had an opportunity to conclude in any case.

With that being said, I have already ruled. I am not taking any further points of order on that point. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a new point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, it is not a new point of order. I think just for the sake of justice, perhaps for advice moving forward, yes, the member will not get his time back, but our clock there showed two seconds. For you, it was something different. I think perhaps you should conclude by saying that you will look at what is happening between them, because we are not seeing the same thing. Otherwise, saying that you will not get your time back is not going to correct it. Humanly, it is incorrect. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I take the advice of the Chief Whip of the Opposition to check that the two clocks, the one from the Table and the one on the screen, are in sync. With that being said, I recognise the hon Marais, who is on the virtual platform.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. The situation faced by the farming community and the local community of McGregor serves as an important example of why disaster response mechanisms require urgent reconsideration. The McGregor bridge was severely damaged, with sections

completely washed away. Consequences were immediate. Schoolchildren could no longer get to school, farmers were unable to transport their produce to the market and the entire local community was disrupted, with many having to resort to travelling via Bonnievale to get to Robertson. That is almost an extra 65 kilometres.

Now, the community expected emergency intervention that would happen immediately. Local residents, farmers, businesses, were willing to assist and become involved in restoring access and repair to these roads within days. However, this could not happen because, hon Speaker, the normal procurement and contractor appointment process may work during routine maintenance and ordinary circumstances, but they become rigid obstacles during emergencies. When livelihoods are at risk or access routes are destroyed, when local communities are isolated, response mechanisms must be faster, more flexible and focused on restoring normality as quickly as possible. Now, children had to travel extra distances, some even had to sleep over in halls during that period of time, and there are still families sitting without electricity.

Hon Speaker, while progress has since been made and the efforts are acknowledged, responses were simply not good enough. The Western Cape Government must assess whether the current system is truly designed to respond to emergency situations, because when a disaster strikes, communities need action, not long administrative delays and excuses.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Minister of Finance, Minister Baartman. Minister, do you need the podium? Then you may continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Hon Speaker, residents of the Western Cape. Last week I joined the Premier and members of our Cabinet to assess the damage caused by the floods that ravaged our province. While the scale of the damage was overwhelming, I was struck by the resilience of our communities.

†In Piketberg het ons vier vroue ontmoet wat ‘n sopkombuis begin het om warm maaltye aan hul gemeenskap te voorsien. In Malgas het lede van die boerderygemeenskap, wat swaar geraak is, gepraat oor hul vasberadenheid om aan te gaan, ten spyte van hul verliese. In Vredendal het die hoofbrug wat die dorp verbind, ernstige skade opgedoen. Tog het ons selfs daar ‘n gemeenskap gevind wat nader aan mekaar gebring is, ten spyte van die ontwrigting.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[In Piketberg we met four women who have started a soup kitchen to provide warm meals to their community. In Malgas, members of the farming

community that were heavily affected, spoke about the determination to continue, in spite of their losses. In Vredendal the main bridge connecting the town suffered serious damage. Yet even there we found a community that was brought closer together, in spite of the disruption.]

Hon Speaker, extreme weather events have unfortunately become our new normal. There is nothing any political party or government can do to prevent acts of God. We cannot prevent severe weather from becoming more frequent, more intense, or more disruptive.

What we can do is ensure that we are ready, as a province and as communities, to respond and to adapt. Assessments of the damage are still underway, but preliminary estimates already exceed R8 billion for public infrastructure and ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thanks, hon Speaker. I would like to establish from the member, through you, whether she is prepared to take a question.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I will ask the Minister. Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: No, thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Minister is not prepared to take a question, hon member. Hon Minister, you may continue. Hon members, is that a new point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I am rising to acknowledge your feedback from the member. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Order. Hon Walters, is that a new point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): The first time I think it was quite humorous, but now. what hon member Ngqentsu is doing is becoming frivolous.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Please can you make a ruling in that regard?

The SPEAKER: Order, members, order. Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Preliminary estimates already exceed R8 billion for public infrastructure and R10 billion for the agriculture sector. Rebuilding will require significant resources, time, as well as patience. What we also know is that no single sphere of government can carry the financial burden of rebuilding alone. The recovery process will require every stakeholder in both public and private sectors to come to the table.

South Africa must collectively mobilise finances to support rebuilding and

recovery efforts. Natural disasters and extreme weather events affect every province. The infrastructure lost in a matter of days took years to build and cost billions of rands. The damage will inevitably set back infrastructure pipelines, in some cases, by years.

The provincial fiscus alone cannot meet the growing demand for infrastructure in the face of repeated disaster-related shocks. That is why the Provincial Treasury is strengthening our alternative and blended finance mechanisms, including work with the World Bank and National Treasury on a credit guarantee vehicle to de-risk private sector investment and, having established an alternative and blended finance reserve, to support future infrastructure borrowings. Infrastructure investment is a critical part of climate resilience, and that is why, when we build back, we will have to build back better.

†Toe ons Malmesbury besoek het, het die Swartland Munisipaliteit aangedui dat hul dorpe grotendeels gespaar is van die ergste gevolge van die vloede. Dit was nie toevallig nie. Oor die afgelope paar jaar het hierdie munisipaliteit in kritieke infrastruktuur belê, insluitend stormwaterstelsels, om die impak van swaar reënval en oorstromings te verminder. Hierdie benadering moet in die hele provinsie standaardpraktyk word.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]*

[When we visited Malmesbury, the Swartland Municipality indicated that

their towns have mainly been spared the most serious consequences of the floods. It was no coincidence. Over the past few years this municipality has invested in critical infrastructure, including stormwater systems, to reduce the impact of heavy rainfall and flooding. This approach must become standard practice across the whole of the province.]

Rebuilding after each disaster, without changing how we build, will simply recreate the same vulnerabilities.

Hon Speaker, we also need better early warning systems to save lives and reduce losses, and this calls for stronger investment from our national government in the South African Weather Services, so that alerts are accurate, timely, and accessible. We must also ensure that our systems act quickly.

Just for the record, we do not use normal procurement procedures during a disaster. We have disaster, emergency and crisis procurement. Despite this, we will review our disaster and emergency procurement processes again, to enable even faster, yet accountable, decision-making processes during disasters. And we are exploring the role of self-insurance mechanisms and insurance-linked products, particularly in agriculture where repeated climate shocks are placing farming communities under severe pressure.

In the 2026 Budget speech, I outlined a disciplined response to rising unforeseeable and unavoidable events. Over and above the R1.346 billion set

aside in reserve over the MTEF, we allocated a further R949.8 million in this financial year for unforeseen and unavoidable events, including R177.9 million for water resilience and R452.5 million for energy resilience.

But even with these additional allocations, over and above the baselines of different departments, the scale and frequency of the disasters now exceed what any single public sector budget can absorb. No single government or stakeholder can fund the impact of disasters on our communities alone. It will require reprioritisation, as well as coordinated fiscal response across various spheres of government and the private sector.

†As Suid-Afrikaners, agb Speaker, ken ons veerkragtigheid en saam sal ons herstel en herbou. Ek dank u. [As South Africans, hon Speaker, we know resilience and together we will repair and rebuild. I thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis on the virtual platform.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, †Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.] On behalf of Al Jama-ah, we rise to address the devastating impact of the recent severe flooding across the Western Cape and the urgent need for a more coordinated human and climate-resilient response.

These floods have once again exposed a deep vulnerability within our

province. Roads have collapsed, bridges have been damaged, electricity supply disrupted, and vital public infrastructure brought to a standstill. Communities have been cut off from essential services, while schools, clinics and homes have suffered immense destruction. For many farming communities, the flooding has destroyed crops, damaged livestock, infrastructure, and disrupted food production and supply chains.

The consequences extend beyond the agricultural sector. They have threatened food security, employment and the livelihoods of thousands of workers, particularly in rural areas. Yet, as always, it is the poor and vulnerable who suffer the greatest burden. Informal settlements situated near rivers, flood plains, and unstable land remain in the frontline of climate disasters. Families who already face poverty, unemployment and food insecurity are now forced to rebuild from nothing, often with limited support and delayed assistance.

Hon Speaker, climate change is no longer a distant warning. It is our lived reality. The increasing frequency and intensity of floods demand urgent action, beyond temporary disaster relief. Al Jama-ah calls for stronger investment in disaster preparedness through improved stormwater infrastructure, early warning systems, climate-smart urban planning, and the protection of vulnerable communities from high-risk settlement areas.

We further call for enhanced coordination between provincial departments, municipalities, disaster management teams ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you. I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise hon Christians on the virtual platform.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Can you hear me?

The SPEAKER: I can hear you.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. This debate should not be a party political debate. This debate should be to share condolences with those families who lost loved ones and, on behalf of the ACDP, I want to extend my sincere condolences to those families who lost brothers, sisters, aunts, and so on. But this debate should also be to appreciate those role players who bravely assisted those who were affected by the extreme weather conditions. As the ACDP, we want to praise and compliment those who unselfishly assisted the most vulnerable communities. But also, hon Speaker, what is fundamental and what is important is that this debate should be: how we move beyond an emergency response and embrace a proactive, integrated approach to reduce future risks.

So this debate should be about sympathy, empathy, and what is the way forward. It is not a debate to point fingers. It is a debate to thank those

communities, faith-based organisations, NGOs, who came and gave shelter to those who were left without any shelter.

So, hon Speaker, I hope that out of this debate, we will have some substance because, remember, the people of the Western Cape are watching and they are looking at us as leaders and saying, what are you debating? I hope that they can take something home and say, these people are debating a better life for us all. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Order, hon members. I now recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers, on the virtual platform.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, Premier and Cabinet colleagues, members of this House – †maar, baie belangrik, die veerkragtige inwoners van ons Wes-Kaap. [but very important, the resilient inhabitants of our Western Cape.] When floods strike, the first thing communities ask is not: who is to blame? They ask: can I get home? Can my child get to school? Can emergency services reach us? Can my business survive another week? Can my produce reach the market? And this is why infrastructure matters.

Roads are not simply lines on a map. They are the arteries of our economy. They connect people to opportunity, farmers to markets, patients to healthcare and communities to one another. And when those arteries are cut

off, entire communities can become isolated overnight. The recent severe storms and flooding have once again reminded us of a reality we can no longer ignore. Climate resilience is no longer a future discussion. It is a present day governance responsibility.

But before we speak about roads, bridges and engineering assessments, we must acknowledge that this disaster is ultimately about people. It is about families who found themselves cut off from essential services. It is about workers unable to reach their places of employment. It is about businesses, farmers and communities trying to recover from circumstances beyond their control. And it is also about the extraordinary people who stepped forward when the province needed them most.

So, on behalf of this Government, I want to express our sincere gratitude to our engineers, technicians, operators, contractors, Disaster Management teams, municipal partners, frontline workers and, yes, active councillors who were on the ground. When our floodwaters were still rising, teams were already mobilising. While many residents were sheltering from the storm, our infrastructure personnel were working through the night to restore access and reconnect communities. Because during a disaster, every hour matters, every reopened road matters, every temporary bridge matters, every restored route protects livelihoods and reconnects communities.

Hon Speaker, as a department, our immediate priority has remained very clear. Firstly, to restore safe access, implement temporary interventions,

where necessary, thereafter, and undertake permanent reconstruction that improves resilience and reduces future risk. This systematic approach allows us to respond immediately, while also preparing for the realities of tomorrow.

Over recent weeks, residents across the Western Cape have followed our daily district-by-district infrastructure updates. Those updates were not merely reports. They were proof that their government was present, proof that progress was being made, and proof that communities were not being left behind. And we have already seen important progress. The Vredendal bridge has reopened to controlled traffic ahead of schedule. At McGregor bridge, a secure and certified pedestrian crossing has already been installed, while major repair works continue towards restoring full access. Significant stabilisation and clearing operations are progressing at the Cango Caves Road, Bainskloof Pass and numerous other affected routes across our province.

Across every district, teams continue assessing, repairing and reopening strategic transport links and, while these interventions may appear technical, their impact is deeply human. As every route reopens, it strengthens community resilience.

Hon Speaker, an important lesson from recent years is that recovery cannot simply mean rebuilding what existed before. Recovery must mean building back better, stronger, and smarter. A practical example already exists in our province. Following the devastating floods of 2024, the MR310 outside

Citrusdal was reconstructed using more resilient engineering standards. When this latest flood event struck, that upgraded infrastructure held. It withstood conditions that previously caused significant damage. That is not luck. That is resilience through planning, investment, and resilience through capable governance. Because climate adaptation is not an abstract theory. It is an engineering decision, a design standard. It is an infrastructure investment. And, increasingly, it is the difference between recovery and repeated destruction.

But resilience is not only about roads and bridges. It is also about people because, when flooding strikes, it is almost always the most vulnerable communities that suffer first and recover last; families living in informal settlements, communities located along floodplains, households with limited resources to absorb repeated shocks.

For some residents, a flooded road is an inconvenience. For others, it means losing access to work, schools, clinics and basic services. That is why disaster resilience cannot be separated from the broader work of upgrading informal settlements, improving stormwater systems, strengthening municipal infrastructure and delivering safer, more sustainable human settlements. If we are serious about climate adaptation, then we must be equally serious about protecting vulnerable communities before disaster strikes, not only after disaster strikes.

Hon Speaker, these recurring disasters also force us to confront an important

policy question. Are our current funding frameworks doing enough to support resilience before infrastructure fails? Too often, governments are funded to repair damages after disasters occur, rather than to prevent that damage in the first place. As a province, we have consistently argued that infrastructure maintenance, disaster mitigation, settlement upgrading, and climate adaptation should be recognised as investments in long-term resilience.

The same principle applies to broader infrastructure grant reform. We must continue building funding models that reward readiness, planning, maintenance, and sustainability, because every rand spent preventing disaster today saves many more rands in construction tomorrow. The choice before us is thus simple: pay now to rebuild resilience, or pay significantly more later to rebuild after failure.

Hon Speaker, the question before us is not whether climate-related disasters will happen again. The question is whether we are building a province capable of withstanding them. Every bridge we strengthen, every settlement we upgrade, every road we make more resilient, every infrastructure investment we make today, these are investments in the future Western Cape we want to leave to the next generation.

I also want to make a direct appeal to the public. Please obey road closure signs. Please respect traffic management instructions. As water recedes, secondary dangers emerge, landslides, slope failures, undermined road surfaces, and structural weaknesses that are not immediately visible.

Ignoring closures places both motorists and frontline workers at risk. Public cooperation remains one of our most important safety tools.

Hon Speaker, this debate is not only about floods. It is about preparedness, it is about resilience, it is about whether government plans for tomorrow instead of reacting only after disaster strikes. The Western Cape's response has been clear. We respond, coordinate, repair, and build. But, most importantly, we improve. Our responsibilities ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...safer, stronger, more connected ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And more resilient ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker, I recognise you.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. As we debate the impact of recent severe flooding on infrastructure, agriculture, energy systems, and vulnerable communities in the Western Cape, we must do so in an honest and sincere manner.

People lost their lives here and there are still families mourning. The floods left a trail of destruction across the province. Communities in the Garden Route, Cape Metro, Overberg, Winelands, and other regions experienced flooding, infrastructure damage, road closures, and disruption to essential services. Thousands of residents were affected, many losing homes, possessions, livelihoods, and access to basic services.

In recent oversight visits to farms in the Wolseley area of the Witzenberg Municipality, led by hon Nkondlo, the devastating impact of this disaster was visible first-hand. What was particularly distressing was finding six families displaced by the disaster, living in a cold storage facility under extremely difficult conditions. Their circumstances underscore the vulnerability of farm worker communities.

Hon Speaker, we must admit climate change is here, and we need to adapt.

You adapt by putting the right measures and the right people in place to handle such storms. We have been telling the Premier and his MECs, there is a need for an Environmental Commissioner. The Premier is the head provincial executive. He appoints the Provincial Cabinet. He sets the

priorities of this Government. He is responsible for ensuring that departments work together effectively. He is responsible for whether this Government acts proactively or merely reacting when disaster strikes.

Too often, the people of this province see Government leaders appear after floods have devastated communities, after roads have collapsed, after homes have been washed away, and after livelihoods have been destroyed. We see the before and after pictures you are posting on your social media platform. Hon Premier, can you kindly do the same with affected informal settlements? Hon Premier, we know that you will not do such because you know the impact is felt differently, based on the socio-economic factors in the province.

The Western Cape Constitution provides for the establishment of an Environmental Commissioner. This is not a symbolic office. It is a constitutional accountability mechanism designed to strengthen environmental governance, monitor conservation efforts, assess climate resilience, promote disaster risk reduction, and evaluate long-term environmental consequences of government decisions. Yet, despite the increasing frequency of floods, droughts, fires and extreme weather events, the DA-led provincial Government has failed to give meaningful effect to this constitutional provision, and I ask why.

Had there been the political will to establish and properly resource the Environmental Commissioner, the province would have had an independent mechanism capable of asking difficult but necessary questions. Are

municipalities adequately prepared for climate-related disaster? Are environmental risks being properly integrated into infrastructure planning? Are vulnerable communities in the Garden Route, Worcester, Karoo and Overberg receiving the protection and investment they require? Are Government departments implementing their climate adaptation commitments effectively?

As climate-related disasters become more frequent and more severe, the people of this province deserve more than promises. They deserve institutions that can hold Government accountable, measure progress, and ensure climate resilience is not merely a policy aspiration but a practical reality.

We call on the Premier to appoint the Environmental Commissioner as provided for in the Constitution.

For too long, poor working-class communities in this province have carried the burden of under-investment, inadequate infrastructure, special exclusion and reactive governance. Every winter, the same communities flood. Every disaster exposes the same vulnerabilities. Every recovery process leaves the same communities waiting the longest for assistance and rebuilding. The reality is that many poor communities feel systematically neglected by the Provincial Government that too often prioritises public relations over meaningful transformation. While Government celebrates its success through social media, the content and carefully managed narratives, thousands of

residents continue to live in flood-prone settlements without adequate drainage.

Hon Premier, people can see the difference between political branding and genuine service delivery and, increasingly, they are asking difficult questions about who benefits from the priorities of this government and who continues to be left behind. Hon Premier, it is time to get your house in order.

The responsibility of Government is not to govern only for those who voted for it. The responsibility of Government is to serve every resident of this province, every farm worker, every pensioner, every informal settlement resident, every rural community, every working-class family struggling to build after floods, fires and storms.

As we move towards the Local Government Elections, communities will make their own assessment. They will judge Government, not by slogans, press statements or social media campaigns, but by the lived reality of their daily lives.

They will ask whether their roads are maintained, whether their homes are protected, whether their communities are safer, whether their children have opportunities and whether Government has treated them with dignity and fairness. And I can only say, hon Premier, history will judge you. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. Order, members. Hon Minister, before I recognise you, do you need the podium? I now recognise the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, hon Minister Bredell.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dankie, agb Speaker. Die afgelope paar dekades is ons mense van die Wes-Kaap gekonfronteer met reeds toenemende ernstige klimaatsrampe. Ons het verwoestende droogtes beleef, wat uitgeloop het op Dag Zero in 2018. COVID-19 het ons tot 2021 getref, groot veldbrande het ons getref, bek-en-klou-seer het ons getref, en ons het ernstige storms in 2023/2024 ervaar, wat gelei het tot grootskaalse ontwinging van ons gemeenskappe, miljarde rande se skade aan ons infrastruktuur aangerig het en toe, Mei vanjaar, het 'n ernstige afsny-laagdrukstelsel ons provinsie getref, wat uitgebreide verwoesting veroorsaak het.

Meer as 55 000 inwoners het humanitêre ondersteuning nodig gehad. ESKOM het meer as 200 kragonderbrekings op sy netwerk aangeteken, wat gelei het tot meer as 9 000 aangemelde foute regoor ons provinsie. Altesaam 126 van ons paaie was gesluit, terwyl gemeenskappe afgesny en vervoernetwerke ontwig was. Hierdie vervoernetwerke is 75 persent herstel na 'n week. ESKOM met 93 persent van die kragonderbrekings herstel.

Agb Speaker, terwyl ons vandag hier debat voer, bring nog 'n afsny-laagdrukstelsel stortreën na die hele Tuinroete en Sentraal-Karoo. Hierdie

gebeure is nie meer uitsonderlik nie, dit word deel van die werklikheid.

Ek wil graag die opmerking van die agb lid Bryant oor klimaatsverandering net beaam en versterk. Klimaatsverandering is werklik, dit is hier in die Wes-Kaap. Ons streek word oor die algemeen warmer en droër, terwyl uiterste weerstoestande meer intens en meer gereeld voorkom. Storms en droogtes, droogtes duur langer, veldbrande is meer verwoestend. Die bewyse is nie meer bloot teoreties nie, dit is sigbaar in ons landskappe, ons gemeenskappe en ons ekonomie.

Agb Masipa het die impak wat hierdie gebeure op die landbousektor het, aangeraak en dit uitgelig. Landbou bly een van ons belangrikste drywers van die Wes-Kaapse ekonomie. Dit onderhou landelike gemeenskappe, ondersteun voedselsekuriteit en skep werkseleenthede regoor ons provinsie, en ons het die ekonomiese groei brood nodig.

Ons Premier het onlangs gesê:

“We must continue to work as hard as we can. We will intensify efforts to attract and to support investment into critical sectors of this provincial economy, including tourism, manufacturing, agri-business and services, so that job growth accelerates and reaches all corners of this province.”

‘n Groeiende ekonomie bly een van die doeltreffendste instrumente wat ons

het om armoede, ongelykheid en werkloosheid aan te spreek. Om die landbou teen die gevolge van klimaatsverandering te beskerm, is daarom nie slegs 'n omgewingsnoodsaaklikheid nie, dit is ook 'n ekonomiese en maatskaplike noodsaaklikheid.

Agb Minister Simmers het die enorme druk uiteengesit waaraan ons infrastruktuur blootgestel word as gevolg van hierdie toenemende ernstige weersgebeure. Brûe, paaie, stormwaterkanale, infrastruktuur en openbare fasiliteite word blootgestel aan toestande waarvoor hulle nie oorspronklik ontwerp is nie.

Ja, ons moet beter bou. Ja, ons moet in meer veerkragtige infrastruktuur belê. Ja, dit bring hoë koste mee. Agb Speaker, Minister Baartman het tereg daarop gewys dat die herstel na hierdie ramp, samewerking en investering van al drie regeringsfere sal vereis, maar befondsing alleen is nie genoeg nie. Openbare fondse moet beskerm word en vir hul bedoelde doel aangewend word. Ons kan nie situasies aanvaar waar hulprampfondse aan munisipaliteite toegeken word net om later te ontdek dat die geld elders aangewend is nie.

Rampe ontbloom swakhede baie vinnig. Dit plaas bestuur en finansiële tekortkominge onder die vergrootglas. Elke rand wat bestem is vir rampherstel, moet in die gemeenskap en op die infrastruktuur waarvoor dit bedoel is, spandeer word.

Agb Speaker, ons bly bekommerd dat 'n klein aantal munisipaliteite steeds

sukkel om basiese finansiële bestuur en goeie regering reg te kry. Die agb Sayed het 'n vraag gevra, agb Speaker, en deur jou: *“I ask why vulnerable communities suffer.”* Die antwoord is baie eenvoudig.

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

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Over the past few decades our people of the Western Cape have been confronted with already increasing serious climate disasters. We have experienced devastating droughts, that culminated in Day Zero in 2018. COVID-19 hit us until 2021, large veld fires hit us, foot and mouth disease hit us, and we experienced serious storms in 2023/2024 that led to large scale disruption of our communities, billions of rands of damage to our infrastructure and then in May this year, a serious cut-off low pressure system hit our province, that caused widespread damage.

More than 55,000 inhabitants required humanitarian support. Eskom recorded more than 200 power outages on its network, which led to more than 9000 recorded faults across our province. Altogether 126 of our roads were closed, while communities were cut off and transport networks disrupted. These transport networks have been repaired 75% after a week. Eskom repaired 93% of the power interruptions. Honorable Speaker, while we debate here today, another cut-off low pressure system is bringing showers to the whole of the Garden Route and Central Karoo. These events are not exceptional anymore,

it becomes part of reality.

I just want to confirm and reiterate the remark of the hon member Bryant about climate change. Climate change is real, it is here in the Western Cape, our region generally becomes warmer and drier, while extreme weather conditions occur more intensely and more regularly. Storms and droughts, droughts last longer, veld fires are more devastating. The proof is not theoretical anymore, it is visible in our landscapes, our communities and our economy.

Honorable Masipa touched upon the impact that these events have on the agricultural sector and highlighted it. Agriculture remains one of our most important drivers of the Western Cape economy. It sustains rural communities, it supports food security and creates job opportunities across our province, and we very much need economic growth. Our Premier recently said:

“We must continue to work as hard as we can. We will intensify efforts to attract and to support investment into critical sectors of this provincial economy, including tourism, manufacturing, agri-business and services, so that job growth accelerates and reaches all corners of this province.”

A growing economy remains one of the most effective instruments that we have to address poverty, inequality and unemployment. To protect agriculture

against the consequences of climate change is therefore not only an environmental necessity, it is also an economic and social necessity.

And hon Minister Simmers set out the enormous pressure our infrastructure is exposed to as a result of these increasing serious weather events. Bridges, roads, storm water channels, infrastructure and public facilities are exposed to conditions for which they have not originally been designed.

Yes, we must do better, yes, we must invest in more resilient infrastructure. Yes, it brings about higher costs. Hon Speaker, Minister Baartman rightly pointed out that the recovery after this disaster will require cooperation and investment of all three spheres of government, but funding alone is not enough. Public funds must be protected and applied for its proposed purpose. We cannot accept situations where disaster funds are allocated to municipalities to just discover later that the money has been applied elsewhere.

Disasters expose weaknesses very quickly. It places management and financial shortages under the magnifying glass. Every Rand that is destined for disaster recovery must be spent in the community and on the infrastructure it was allocated for.

Hon Speaker, we remain concerned that a small number of municipalities still struggle to get basic financial management and good governance right. The hon Sayed asked a question, hon Speaker, and through you: "I ask why

vulnerable communities suffer?”. The answer is very simple.] Because of 30 years of ANC corruption and misgovernment. That is the answer to his question. It is very simple. The hon Sayed ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Order.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: The biggest disaster, unfortunately, hon Speaker, was a reoccurring disaster where the voters vote for the ANC five terms in a row. So 30 years of ANC corruption, that is our biggest disaster.

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, he mentioned Knysna and I cannot help ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, members.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I cannot help to feel for ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Because, hon Speaker, if you were a member of the ANC, the last word you would use is Knysna. Knysna was just fine. R638 million that the municipal manager alluded to, he was in front of the judge ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: That was ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: R638 million.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Order! Order! Hon members, on my lefthand, order! Hon member Nkondlo. Hon member Nkondlo order! [Interjections.] Hon members! Order, members. Hon member, do you have a point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You voted for Black people to stay in the townships, and today you come here and you tell us ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Nkondlo! Hon Nkondlo, there is a member on the floor.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): There are better persons in South Africa  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member Nkondlo!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I mean, really!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You must be quiet.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I want to establish, hon Speaker...

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Be sensitive to things like that.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...from a member who is from a community that  
presided over apartheid cartels, whether he is prepared to take a question  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon member, what is your point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I want to know whether the MEC who is from the  
apartheid era [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You were supposed to call to order.

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Order!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): That was the time you were supposed to call order.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question? The hon Minister is not prepared to take a question. Hon member Walters, what is your point of order?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): The people on the farms there, go and look at those people staying on the farms.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Walters, please take your seat.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): The Government that is building those poor houses.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, this is the last – hon member Nkondlo, this is the last time that I am going to ask for you to please respect the decorum of the House. Because this is a political debate, I have allowed interjections.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I was listening [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: But you are drowning out the speaker on the floor, and it has now become, it is now affecting the decorum of the House.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I will disrespect that insensitive [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I am on the floor. The same way I provide an opportunity when a member is on the floor, I expect the same when I am on the floor. Hon member Walters, is that a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA); Yes, hon Speaker, I think there is a difference between the heckling and the kind of shouting and screaming that we have just been seeing. Hon Chair, if I can just ask that you ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA); ... review the exchanges that took place there, that you make a ruling. But I think it went far beyond the decorum of the House. It was an absolute assault on the hon Minister.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): It is not!

The SPEAKER: Order! I will – order, hon members. There was a request for a review of Hansard. I will certainly do so, and I will come back to the House with a ruling. Hon Minister, you may continue.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Yoh, hey, hey. This thing that you must sit in the House.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. †Ja, shoos ons sê in Afrikaans: feite maak seer. Waarheid maak seer. [Yes, as we say in Afrikaans: facts hurt. The truth hurts.] Hon Speaker, the fine of R638-million [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): It is okay.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members on my lefthand side, heckling and interjections are allowed, but you are drowning out the speaker. You cannot compete with the speaker on the floor. There are Rules in this House which we all adopted at the beginning of the session. Hon Minister, my apologies, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. The R638-million is real. It is a fine in the Court for Knysna. COVID-19, where is the disaster funding? Can the ANC explain that to us? Where is the corruption with

COVID-19? What has happened with that money? So, just to make my point, the money – †die geld is gesteel, agbare Speaker. Dit is hoekom ons sukkel om voor te kom. Aan die agbare lid Michels van die NCC [Tussenwerpsel.] – [the money was stolen, hon Speaker. That is why we struggle to get ahead. To the hon member Michels of the NCC [Interjection.]]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Your children are rich.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: En dit is ongelukkig feite. Waar is die R140-miljoen wat TWK gekry het vir rampherstelwerk? Waar is die geld? Die geld is weg.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: And those unfortunately are facts. Where is the R140 million that TWK received for disaster repair work? Where is the money? The money is gone?]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Michels, please take your seat. Hon members! Order! Hon Michels. Hon Chief Whip, on my lefthand side, can I please ask that you assist? Hon member Michels. Hon members, order! Hon members, while I understand that this is a political debate, and that there are different views and inputs, you are affecting the decorum of the House.

There are citizens watching this debate online. There are citizens who are directly affected by what you are debating today. Can I please ask, in the interest of those citizens that we are elected to serve, to allow the citizens to hear the inputs, whether you agree or disagree with the inputs. Hon Michels, I am on the floor. Hon members, we cannot continue in this vein. Hon Michels, is that a point of order?

†Mnr J R MICHELS (NCC): Ek wil 'n vraag vra, ek wil geluister het of die agb Minister 'n vraag – ek wil 'n vraag aan die Minister vra?

[Mr J R MICHELS (NCC): I want to ask a question, I wanted to hear if the hon Minister a question – I want to put a question to the Minister?]

†Die SPEAKER: Ek sal vir die Minister vra. Minister, is jy bereid om 'n vraag te beantwoord? Die Minister is nie bereid om die vraag te beantwoord nie.

[The SPEAKER: I will ask the Minister. Minister, are you prepared to take a question? The Minister is not prepared to take a question.]

Hon member, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you, hon Chair. There is this case that on the basis that the MEC is insensitive, given the language he uses, given his historical location that he is from a community that presided over apartheid, and is offending this side of the House, given the content of his messages. So based on that, the content and the language he is using in his speech is quite offending to us.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): And that is the noise.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I was listening very carefully to the hon member's or the Minister's input. He is not offending, or is not offensive to any hon member in this House. And whilst some of us may be offended by inputs, it does not make it unparliamentary. My duty is to ensure that the Rules of Parliament are being applied consistently, and that is what we are doing. If you have an issue with the content, there are other parliamentary mechanisms to challenge the inputs made by hon members, but it is not the job or the duty of the Presiding Officer to preside over the content of submissions. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, to the hon member Marais, the system holds. I am very proud. This disaster hit the whole province. †Dit was nie dat ons mense kon geskuif het van een distrik na 'n ander een toe nie uit die hele provinsie, en die sisteem hou nie. [It was not that we could have moved people from one district to another out of the whole province, and the system holds.] We have protected a lot of people. We saved directly 651 lives, so we are very proud of that work.

†Agb Speaker, klimaatsverandering maak geen verandering nie. Die gevolge word gevoel deur boere, die ondernemings, deur munisipaliteite, die

infrastruktuuroperateurs, en die ergste deur die kwesbare gemeenskappe, dikwels met die minste hulpbronne om te herstel. As jy verlede maand langs die oewer van die Breederivier gestaan het, sou jy die krag van die natuur aangevoel het.

Agbare Speaker, ons kan ons infrastruktuur, en ons moet ons infrastruktuur versterk. Ons kan beter doen om meer rampgereed te wees. Maar ek wil die Huis verseker dat elke winter, voor elke winter het ons munisipaliteite 'n winter-gereedheidsprogram. Die agbare lid Baartman het genoem, goeie bestuurde munisipaliteite soos Swartland het 'n baie kleiner impak [Tussenwerpsel.]

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[Hon Speaker, climate change makes no difference. The consequences are felt by farmers, the enterprises, by municipalities, the infrastructure operators, and the worst by vulnerable communities, often with the least resources to repair. If you had stood on the banks of the Breede River last month, you would have felt the power of nature.

Hon Speaker, we can strengthen our infrastructure, and we must strengthen our infrastructure. We can do better to be disaster ready. But I want to assure the House that every winter, before every winter, our municipalities have a winter readiness programme. The hon member Baartman mentioned, well-governed municipalities like Swartland has a lesser impact [Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Agbare Minister, jou tyd is verstreke.

[The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired.]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: ... as gevolg van die Regering, danksy die DA [Tussenwerpsel.] [Applous.]

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...due to the Government, thanks to the DA [Interjection.] [Applause.]]

†Agb LEDE: Hoor-hoor!

[Hon MEMBERS: Hear-hear!]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Order!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): And seize the disaster.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA); That was very good.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! Hon Windvogel, the debate is concluded. [Interjections.] Order, hon member. If you want to address the Chair, please rise and I will recognise you. Hon member, is that a point of order?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Yes, hon Speaker. Member Masipa is saying we are having them. The people are still staying without houses as we are sitting here

today.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that is not – order! This is not a point of order.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): He is staying in a house. He is going to sleep †*lekker* [nicely] tonight whilst our poor people are ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, that is not a point of order for the record. Hon members, that brings us to the end of this debate.

†Me A P BANS (ANC): Skande!

[Ms A P BANS (ANC): Disgrace!]

The SPEAKER: We will now move on to the Interpellations in terms of Rule 197, and I recognise the hon Premier, Premier Winde.

## INTERPELLATIONS

### *Socio-economic root causes of crime: strategy to address*

#### **1. Ms A P Bans asked the Premier:**

Excluding the boots-on-the-ground strategy used in targeting gang violence, organised crime, extortion and drug trafficking:

What strategy is the Provincial Government implementing to (a) address

the socio-economic root causes of crime and (b) strengthen intergovernmental coordination on safety?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Bans for the question. The Western Cape Government's current strategy towards crime represents a deliberate shift towards an integrated targeted and system-wide approach, which combines violence prevention, strengthened community safety and more effective law enforcement into a coordinated framework aimed at achieving sustained reductions in violence.

The Western Cape Government's approach to safety informed by the 2025/2030 Provincial Strategic Plan, or PSP, has three strategic outcomes – integrated violence prevention, safe and secure communities and infrastructure, effective and responsive law enforcement. Our most notable interventions are thus aligned to these outcomes, expressing a recognition that any approach to violence prevention must be deliberately targeted to where it is most effective.

We see this in our area-based teams, convened by the Department of Health and Wellness' Violence Prevention Unit. We see it in Government departments and partners jointly diagnose the specific social and environmental conditions driving violence in priority areas and coordinated targeted context specific interventions. These interventions are reinforced by programmes that build social cohesion, resilience and youth opportunity.

Interventions include improving access to parenting programmes and rollout of

early adolescent skills for emotions, or EASE Programme, as well as the initiatives like for example the Chrysalis Academy, the MOD Programmes and the Khulisa Care Initiative, and interesting that now our teams have actually gone to the Presidency, because they are also very keen on seeing if this can be replicated in other parts of our country.

Hon Speaker, this House has also been briefed several times on the Planet Youth Survey, which works to understand and address specific problems facing our youth, as directed by their responses. Ultimately though, the greatest tool we have to fight against crime is the creation of jobs through economic growth.

The YearBeyond and PAY Internship Programmes are specifically geared towards ensuring that our young people have a foothold in our growing provincial economy. Nothing stops a bullet like a job, and our stellar record of unemployment in this province represents not only substantial indicators, but also wellbeing of our people. But also, one of our most important weapons to fight against crime, and of course, to fight against poverty.

But despite the fact that this question asked us is to ignore the boots on the ground initiatives, we cannot lose sight of the fact that a strong investigative and enforcement capacity is still necessary, especially from SAPS and the whole criminal justice system. That is why we are going above and beyond to work with our partners in other spheres of government among other collaborative initiatives such as the Provincial Joints Priority Committee, and the Anti-gang Implementation Plan, as well as the collaboration agreement with

the City of Cape Town, the South African Police Services, and also to maintain a Provincial Safety Council.

This is where we bring together stakeholders from across Government spheres, the judicial system at large, academic contributors and stakeholders to ensure alignment on strategy. I am sure that the hon member would agree that in order to fully realise a safe future, we must make progress along both avenues, enforcement and prevention. We do everything within our mandates to create safer communities, but it is also vital that the SAPS and the NPA in every part of the justice system ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, your time has expired for your first response. I recognise the hon member Bans. Do you need the podium? Can I get the podium to hon member Bans please?

†Me A P BANS (ANC): Asseblief.

[Ms A P BANS (ANC): Please.]

The SPEAKER: Can I get the podium to hon member Bans please? †Agbare lid Bans, is jy gereed? [Hon member, Bans, are you ready?]

An HON MEMBER: I admire the hon Speaker.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I must say that the question here at times, it seems it is not clearly understood. From what I asked was: what

is the strategy of the Provincial Government to implement, (1) address the socioeconomic root causes of crime; (2) strength inter-governmental coordination on safety? When it comes to root causes, the hon speaker one, it really feels that you are speaking next to a wall. It is not understood.

The question before us today is not simply whether there has been an improvement in policing outcomes, nor whether additional officers have been deployed to our streets. The real question is whether the Western Cape Government, after nearly two decades in office, has meaningfully addressed the structural conditions that produce crime in the first place.

The latest crime statistics do show a slight decline in certain categories, and we acknowledge that any reduction in murder and attempted murder represents lives saved.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): But we must not mistake much non-improvement for systematic success. Between January and March this year alone, 983 people were murdered in the Western Cape, with more than a thousand victims of attempted murder. Alarmingly, 225 of those murders were gang-related, meaning nearly one in every four murders in the province is directly linked to gang activity.

Hon Deputy Speaker, despite the deployment of LEAP officers, specialised

anti-gang units, Operation Prosper and even SANDF, gang violence continues to devastate working class communities. This reality demonstrates a hard truth that the deployment of boots on the ground alone cannot resolve a crisis rooted in deeper socioeconomic spatial conditions. More than a decade ago, the DA-led Government commissioned the O'Regan-Pikoli Inquiry into policing in Khayelitsha, spending millions of Rands to do so.

That Commission clearly identified the drivers of crime, including entrenched poverty, unemployment, apartheid spatial-designed social exclusion, weak public service and breakdown of trust between communities and law enforcement. Yet today, the same communities identified in that report, which are Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Delft, Philippi, Mfuleni, Manenberg, Mitchells Plain and Kraaifontein remain amongst the most violent in the country.

†As die Kommissie korrek was, hoekom is die bevindings nie geïmplementeer? En as dit geïmplementeer was, [If the Commission was correct, why have the findings not been implemented? And if it had been implemented,] why do these communities remain trapped in the cycles of violence? The reality, hon Deputy Speaker, is that gangsterism and the drug economy have become survival systems in the absence of meaningful socioeconomic transformation. After almost 20 years, the DA Government, can the Premier honestly tell this House what measurable progress has been made in changing socioeconomic and spatial conditions identified by the O'Regan-Pikoli Commission, as the root causes of crime? I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Applause.]

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA); Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank the hon Premier for his response. It is clear that this Provincial Government is going above and beyond to ensure our youth have every opportunity to live a fulfilling and stimulating life, free from gangsterism and drugs. The Chrysalis Academy is a shining example of a programme that offers development opportunities, that set our youth up for skills to enter the job market. Our Social Development Department is front and centre when it comes to providing psychosocial support to children who are victims of trauma as a result of violence in their homes and communities.

Our Education Department has invested millions in school resource officers to enhance safety in our most at risk schools, ensuring that every child has a fair opportunity to get a quality education. Hon Deputy Speaker, lastly, I would like to emphasise that as the hon Premier said, nothing stops a bullet like a job. The Western Cape's obsession with job creation will result in safer communities for our people.

Hon Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to pose a question to the hon Premier. How does the Government's apex priority of job creation support a safer province for our people?

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you again, hon Deputy Speaker. †Ek dink die Here moet nou self afkom en die vraag bevraag, dat hier net kan verstaan word wat sê ons eintlik, want dit lyk my, daar is geen begrip oor wat ons hier oor praat. Ons is net besig om ons tyd te mors, dit is al.

[I think the Lord himself must now come down and ask the question, that it can be understood what we are actually saying, because it seems to me that there is no understanding of what we are talking about here. We are only busy wasting our time, that is all.]

The hon Premier himself tabled in this House a report of the Western Cape on its ombudsman, arising from the Thulare Judgement, dealing with the allegation of positive infiltration of SAPS, structured by organised criminal networks.

The hon Premier told this House that if these allegations are proven, they would represent one of the greatest betrayals of our democracy. At the same time, South Africa now has the Madlanga Commission investigating serious allegations of corruption, organised crime, criminal infiltration and interference within the law enforcement and criminal justice system. Yet, it is deeply concerning that the Western Cape, the province carrying the overwhelming burden of gang murders, extortion, racketeering, drug trafficking and organised crime is not at the centre of these national investigations.

How can a province responsible for approximately 93% of South Africa's gang-related murders not be a central focus of national investigations into organised crime? †Ek vra nou, man. [I am asking now, man.] How can communities in Nyanga, Khayelitsha, Delft, Mitchells Plain, Gugulethu, including Manenberg, live under daily terror from extortion, gangs, while allegations of criminal infiltration into policing structures are already on record? Yet, there is no urgent or coordinated national focus in this specific province. †Die vraag word nie verstaan nie. [The question is not being understood.]

This House must not look away, especially as our schools in Khayelitsha are forced to pay extortion. We therefore call on the hon Premier to urgently submit the Western Cape Police Ombudsman Report to the Madlanga Commission. †Ek weet nie hoekom steek hy vas nie. [I do not know why he is stalling.] And to formally request that allegations of organised criminal infiltration, corruption and criminal networks operating within the Western Cape be investigated without delay. Hon Deputy Speaker, people in this province are tired. They are tired of being told about plans while their children are buried daily. They are tired of hearing of reports and statements, while gangs tighten the grip on our own communities where we go back home to.

Above all, they are tired of living without safety. This crisis is not only about visible policing. †Dit is nie waar nie. [That is not true.] It is about illegal firearms flooding our streets, weak action against extortion networks, drug trade economies that remain untouched, and the absence of serious intelligence-led attacks on the financial networks of the sustained gangs. We therefore ask

the hon Premier, beyond police deployments and announcements, what real and measurable steps has his Government taken to break the organised criminal networks, driving violence into this province? †Dit kan rêrig nie meer so aangaan nie. Genoeg is genoeg, agb Adjunkseaker. Ek hoop die vraag is nou verstaan. Dankie. [It really cannot go on like this. Enough is enough, hon Deputy Speaker. I hope the question has now been understood. Thank you.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Amen.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Bans. To conclude the interpellation, I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I am going to start with the first part of the question. Excluding the boots on the ground strategy used to target gang violence. In other words, let us focus on the other side of the equation, violence prevention. The hon member asks the question, listens to my response and then reads a prepared speech that she had written, before I responded. It had nothing to do with my response. That is not how interpellations work. She then spoke about policing. If she wants to ask about policing, she should ask about policing. Not talk about not policing and then reply to policing. But I am glad she spoke about the O'Regan Commission or the Khayelitsha Commission. 27 – she should listen now, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members. Hon Premier.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I am not preaching.

The SPEAKER: Hon members.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): In case you forgot.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, previously when the House erupted in this particular way, the hon Speaker already made comments in that regard. The interpellation as printed on the Question Paper is very clear, where there are a number of speakers, and the Premier is concluding this particular interpellation.

†Ms A P BANS (ANC): Jy kan niks sê nie.

[Ms A P BANS (ANC): You cannot say anything.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are residents awaiting the response, and those residents are eagerly listening to inputs from the left of the House, and on my right of the House. I would want us to ensure that the residents are able to listen attentively. But hon member Bans, is that a point of order?

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, can he refer to me as hon member Bans? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, so much. Hon members, I am going to make one comment in that regard. We are in the month of June, which ultimately means that it is the second year officially, almost officially. Next week it will

officially be two years, and that members are familiar with the Rules. Please speak to the hon Chair, and if there is any reference to an hon member, it should be the hon member. Hon Premier, I recognise you.

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I respectfully apologise to the hon member Bans. He, being me, doing so. I am very happy that the hon member referred to the O'Regan Commission or the Khayelitsha Commission as it is commonly referred to. The interesting thing is, the 27 recommendations of that Commission, I mean, unbelievable. You can go through them one-by-one and say, so what difference did that Commission make? She speaks about the millions of Rands spent. So let us say like item two, police should treat residents with respect. Let us look at item four. The number of detectives serving in Khayelitsha needs to be increased.

That is not happening. The Commission itself, and the findings, were not taken seriously. Vigilante killings must be recorded as a category crime. Let us go to number 20. Expand internal investigations beyond just police station level. but you can go one-by-one-by-one, and that is a big problem, Mr Deputy Speaker, in our system. We have these commissions. They are not taken seriously.

Then I was asked to submit the report to the Madlanga Commission. It has already been sent. It was sent to everybody. Of course, with those key names redacted because it was only a page and a half. But the real question is, when a Judge says the gangsters are sitting at the top table of the police. Only one thing happened after that statement. We did an investigation to the ombudsman.

The National Minister did nothing. The Oversight Committees did nothing. No one else in this country did a thing about that specific case.

I then said, post that, the only thing which we would really like to see is lifestyle audits. Well, years later, they are still talking about the lifestyle audits. Those police officers have long gone and retired. It is unacceptable. It is absolutely unacceptable. So this is a very serious issue, hon Deputy Speaker. A very serious issue. I thank the hon member for bringing ...[Interjection.] and we should put proper questions and then listen to those answers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): It is science and you will not understand me.

The PREMIER: So that we actually deal with this as a parliament. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members, prior to hon member Sayed raising his hand for a point of order, I was very close to requesting that the hon Premier take his seat, because even though the hon Premier is 10 feet away from me, it became a struggle to even listen to what the hon Premier is saying, due to the running commentary. Hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I was about to ask if the hon Premier could take a question, but then I have realised no, because the hon Premier is not, I mean, my point of order, first, it was to

ask if he could take a question. But the point of order is relevance. The hon Premier is responding on issues which were not raised in the interpellation or the follow up by hon member Bans. Yet he accused hon member Bans of not speaking to the interpellations. I think really, the question I wanted to ask was, did the hon Premier ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Did the Premier  
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, no, but I am not going ahead and asking. I am just saying, I wanted to ask. I am not going ahead and asking. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, there are 50 seconds remaining. There are 50 seconds remaining to the interpellation.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): It is a waste of our energy here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Walters?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA); Hon Deputy Speaker, I think I am responding to

the call for the point of order there.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): We do not want your response. You are insulting us.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA); There was a request to rule on the relevance. And equally, if I can ask that you can rule on the relevance of the entire input of hon member Bans, because it was all deflecting responsibility away from the SAPS to the Provincial Government, whose constitutional mandate is clearly not understood by the ANC. So perhaps you can also rule on the relevance of her entire submission here today?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am going to – hon member Bans, I am going to make one comment before I recognise the hon Premier again. I am not going to, at this stage, rule on the relevance. Crime and the devastation that it is causing our society, have deep effects, and it leads to trauma in our society. Please let us afford the hon Premier, for the remaining 50 seconds to ultimately wrap up this interpellation.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): We forgive the hon Premier ...[Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. I say again, the question says, excluding policing. Let us go to strategy. I talk about PSP and all of the strategics, but the hon member read both of her replies. So she did not listen to any of it. It was pre-prepared. That is not what an interpellation is about. And then of course, the biggest embarrassment is when the Leader of the Opposition

stands up and asks, he is going to ask a question about relevance. But two things I wrote down from her input, which was preplanned, was the O'Regan Commission and the Ombudsman report, and that is what I was replying on. That is what a debate is about. So, hon Deputy Speaker, this is just idiotic.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): On a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker, we are writing questions here, and we mean this is when we want to be answered. We are representing communities. We are not here in some lesser class by the hon Premier, on how we are supposed to be answering. Winde, hon Premier, if you are not serious, people are dying every day here. For once, serious [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bans ...[Interjection.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): We know you are a joke.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon members! Hon members, I have the floor.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): †Hayi man! [No man!] This cannot be.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we are in a stage leading up to a specific date at the end of this year. Various residents are listening attentively to what inputs political parties are making.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): They are dying. The people are dying.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Obviously, depending on where you are seated, there would be certain views that will be held. On the other side, those views might be totally different. But we must respect the decorum of the House. We might not agree with each and every input that a different hon member gives, but we must respect the decorum of the House as hon members that have taken an oath in this particular House.

That is why there are Rules, and that is why there are speaking times, outwardly to afford each and every party, each and every hon member an opportunity to give that input. It might not be what we agreed to or agree with. I am going to allow the hon Premier to wrap up in 15 seconds.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it a different point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes. Hon Deputy Speaker, I heard, and I am not expecting you to rule now, but you can consult the Hansard. It is unparliamentary for the hon Premier to refer to what hon members are saying as “idiotic”. I clearly heard him say that. If he is not willing to withdraw, then I advise that you consult the Hansard and you come back, just for the sake of progress. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have made a note, and I will definitely then apply my mind in that regard. The hon Premier heard, so hon the Premier can make that comment. The hon Premier heard, and the hon Premier can make that comment, but I can revert back.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, we must ...[Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I had actually finished, and I will wait for your ruling.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): We want to know.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, that concludes this interpellation. We will now proceed in terms of the Order Paper and the Question Paper, and move over to questions in terms of Rule 202.

I wish to advise the hon members that once the hon Premier or the hon Minister has started to reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for this sitting of the House to indicate that they want to ask a follow up question.

There are four opportunities for follow up questions by the hon member who has posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper, and will have the first opportunities for follow up questions. Thereafter, other hon members might ask additional questions, up to four. Hon members, I now

recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Simmers.

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

*Questions standing over from Thursday, 14 May 2026, as agreed to by the House:*

### *Housing backlog: challenges*

#### **6. Mr D J Wessels asked the Minister of Infrastructure:**

(a) What are the current challenges that have an impact on the Province's ability to address the housing backlog, (b) how is his Department responding to these challenges and (c) what outcomes have these interventions achieved in delivering housing opportunities?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and through you, thank you to the hon member for the question. I will accordingly respond thereto. The (a) part, which deals with the challenges. Human Settlements sector continues to face significant challenges that slow the delivery of housing opportunities in the Western Cape. These include, but are not limited to, construction welfare activities, limited, well-located land, poor contractor performance, insufficient municipal capacity, land invasions, health infrastructure constraints, and inadequate or misaligned funding mechanisms.

These challenges are compounded by rapid urbanisation, population growth, expansion of informal settlements, rising construction costs, delays in approvals, and community disruptions at project sites, all of which place increasing pressure on housing delivery. How are we responding to this? To the (b) part of the question. The Western Cape Department of Infrastructure is implementing various interventions to accelerate housing delivery but also improve sector resilience.

These include pursuing alternative funding mechanisms through the Western Cape Infrastructure Framework, strengthening partnerships with municipalities and the private sector, prioritising catalytic and integrated Human Settlements projects as well. The Department is also identifying and releasing suitable land for development, upgrading informal settlements which are listed in our business plan, strengthening contractor oversight, improving infrastructure coordination and working with law enforcement agencies to address unlawful site disruptions and construction mafia activities.

The (c) part, which relates to the outcomes of our interventions, a lot of them we have been able to achieve. These interventions have supported the continued delivery of subsidised housing units, service sites, social housing and informal settlement upgrading initiatives across our province. Progress has also been made in improving access to basic services, advancing catalytic developments and promoting better social integration for maximum impact.

In addition, improving coordination with municipalities has actually

strengthened our projects to being implementation ready, but also proper infrastructure planning, while our affordable housing programmes and title deed interventions have expanded access to housing opportunities. The newer security, but most importantly, asset ownership for the qualifying beneficiaries across our province. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Can the hon Minister confirm whether, despite the challenges, the department is still able to deliver the quality housing that meets the requirement building standards, and if so, what mechanisms are in place to consistent quality housing units across the province? Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and to the hon member. In terms of delivery of quality housing opportunities which entails all the programmes which we deliver on, this is from the service sites to the breaking new ground housing opportunities, to our affordable housing units, our social housing units, but also where we pilot projects such as the deferred ownership in Cape Agulhas, but also the Incremental Housing Initiative, which we are piloting in Melkhoutfontein, in Hessequa.

There is a defined structure to ensure that the quality is not compromised which we deliver, given that we do not chase quantity but quality for our people. But there are also sector partners which play a phenomenal role. Firstly, at municipal level, you do have a stage where the municipality also does quality control at various stages of these units being constructed. You have the NHBRC who also send out their inspectors, and thirdly, you also have our provincial team, which also inspects. All three of these concur or look at issues if they are highlighted in units.

We have noted instances where sadly, certain Opposition parties and the hon members demand localised labour, and we have seen the impact of the quality they produce sadly for us, where multiple units will need to be redone, or have been redone, to ensure that it delivers up to the quality which is expected of our department to deliver.

So many a times there are Opposition parties in this House, hon Deputy Speaker through you to the hon member, which focus on quality, but they do not ask the question, how it is that certain units have to be redone, which we redo. Due to the sad impact of the focus on localisation and the use of local labour, which sadly, we mentioned to hon member Winde, who we empower, delivered substandard quality which we then need to rectify, to be in line with the national laws and standards which have been set, to ensure that our beneficiaries at the end of the day do obtain a quality unit.

But I think it is also important to understand, as we hand over a quality unit, the qualifying beneficiaries, prior to obtaining their keys, hon Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon member, are given induction training in terms of what their duties are. Given that new homes do have specific defects, which do appear at certain stages, there is a three-month lag period after they take occupation of their unit, where such a beneficiary must then, if there is anything in those three months, they then need to ensure that the contractor is then alerted to come and rectify that.

After the three-month cycle, there is a secondary process, which is followed. Then also in terms of the quality of the roof, part of the building, there is a longer period where the NHBRC does ensure that should there be any issues pertaining to the roofing structure, that there is a process which can be followed through our provincial department, through the NHBRC, where assessments would then be done.

So there are sufficient safety mechanisms and quality insurance mechanisms built into the cycle and process to ensure that we do not compromise the quality which we are delivering to qualifying beneficiaries across our province, and also through the various housing programmes, which are funded through various grants. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister. The question that I have for the hon Minister is about the alternative and blended finance reserve that was established by the hon Minister of Finance in their Budget Speech, and allocated R580-million. What or why, what portion of that R580-million has been allocated to address the housing backlog?

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you hon Deputy Speaker, and through you to the hon member Herron. If it is in order with the House, I will prepare a written submission, which will give the hon member a detailed breakdown of where the ABF funding is being utilised in terms of our housing programmes. Given that I would love the hon member to also then keep track of those specific projects which we will be focusing on.

But that, the ABF Fund, is being utilised as one of the various formats of new financial modelling as we move into the future, to ensure that as the HSDG Grant, among others declines, that we sustain our focus on affordable housing, and we are the top province in terms of focussing on affordable housing to ensure that alternative financing approaches are there to ensure that we unlock the true potential of projects within our pipeline, that are actually ultimately implementation ready. So I want to write, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon member, a written breakdown through which the hon member can then

peruse. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you hon Minister. In the absence of additional hands, we proceed, and I now again recognise the hon Minister, dealing with Question No. 13, which stood over. Hon Minister.

*Infrastructure “pipeline”*

**13. Mr B N Herron asked the Minister of Infrastructure:**

With reference to his response to the second Interpellation on 16 April 2026, in which reference was made to an infrastructure “pipeline” that includes a funding-alignment phase:

- (1) Which projects currently included in this pipeline (a) have confirmed budgets in place and (b) do not yet have confirmed funding;
- (1) what proportion of the reported R132 billion infrastructure pipeline is (a) funded (b) unfunded or (c) dependent on future or external financing?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to hon member Herron for the question, and also that I can comment and respond to it today. I will answer the first and second parts of the question together, because they actually intertwine. The single integrated

infrastructure pipeline of projects consists of projects across the three spheres of government. It includes projects of the private sector as well.

This pipeline currently consists, and this is as of last week, 52 projects, and will continue to grow as more projects are added to the list and become market ready to find funding for it. The creation of the pipeline directly corresponds to the need to foster new partnerships with external parties, whether they be development finance institutions or the private sector, and the need to explore innovative and alternative funding, risk sharing, procurement and contracting models in order to scale and fast-track infrastructure delivery.

The vast majority of public sector projects on the pipeline requires a level of blending financing or further project development, as existing budgetary allocations are insufficient to take these projects to realisation at either feasibility or even the bankability stage. The creation of the pipeline and the process associated with it, such as the exploration of alternative and blended funding mechanisms, are directly a response to this reality.

Within this context, the department, in conjunction with our partner, the Provincial Treasury, and the relevant project owners, is currently exploring which funding, risk sharing, procurement, contracting and delivery models could most appropriately be applied to each of the projects on the pipeline, given that each project does differ, and thus, the way that it is funded, among other things, needs to be properly addressed to make it feasible.

The department is also assisting project owners in packaging the relevant project information in such a manner as to attract possible investors or even funder interest. Work already done in this regard can be accessed via our department website, following a link to what we call our elevator pictures, hon member, but also our infrastructure prospectus. I will provide all hon members of the House, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, access to that link, so that they can then also see. Because as the pipeline grows, and as the prospectus grows, all hon members who wish to exercise oversight over what we are doing in terms of this innovative approach, can then be kept abreast as this is updated as per projects through our various stages which we have set. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member who posed the question, hon member Herron. Do you have a follow up?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Yes, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I did not really hear which projects, or what proportion of the pipeline was not funded or unfunded, or dependent on external funding. Let me ask the hon Minister it in this way: what is the drop list in this pipeline? So, which projects are most at risk if we do not achieve private or blending finance for them? Thank you.

The DEPUTY PEAKER: Thank you. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to the hon member for the follow up question. Indeed, the

way that the singular pipeline has been restructured, but more so, specifically the projects which require additional funding to ensure that they go from planning to implementation. There are 52 Human Settlement forms, or Human Settlement projects and programmes which form a core component of that.

Again, the detailed drop-down list of those projects, which are now implementation ready, are available on the link which I will share with all hon members. I will forward that link to the hon member specifically, because those are the projects which are implementation ready, which speak to our focus on affordable housing, a component of social housing, and also on affordable rental options, and which were at risk. Given that we know that SHRA, the issues which they are confronted with, and the fact that we have so many opportunities which are implementation ready in our pipeline, but which would have sadly taken longer for implementation because it was dependent on specific types of grant funding.

Wherever there are linkages to the social housing component, which obviously, SHRA does play a role in that, we are busy in discussions, which are linked ultimately to the pipeline, and our focus on alternative funding to mitigate the risk which the possibility of inefficient or funding does pose to those projects, because we are implementation ready. They are part of the singular pipeline. We are in discussions with the relevant national bodies which are actually interested as possible co-funders and partners, and those discussions are at advanced stages at this stage.

Hon Deputy Speaker, through you, to the hon member, the list is on the dropdown list. The projects which are there would have never come to full implementation stage if we were totally just reliant on grants to fund them. Hence the focus on finding alternative financing models and structures, but also to mitigate the risks and the future risks, among others are being too heavily grant dependent on unlocking their full potential into the future.

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I was partially covered, but in the light of Provincial Treasury that received the award for the blended financing framework, how does this framework assist in the completion of the housing projects that form part of the pipeline? Thanks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. through you, to the hon member. Firstly, I need to acknowledge and thank my partner, the hon Minister of Finance, for them bringing this facility to life. It really speaks to where we are heading in terms of partnerships, even within our own sister departments to unlock the true potential of infrastructure across our province.

Now, in terms of the critical timing gaps that will be bridged by the facility,

we need to understand that this facility will mobilise new money from private, philanthropic and multilateral sources to overcome the constrained fiscal space that limits, or could have limited, our traditional Government funding for large housing projects, given the scale of what we have been announcing over the last few months. It deploys a tailored social sector instrument.

This is where the framework provides a specific toolkit for social infrastructure, recommending the use of donor grants, co-investments with NGOs or construction related organisations, but also/and social impact bonds, or SIBs for projects with high socioeconomic value, but limited commercial viability.

It also enables prudent risk sharing, which means it provides a legally anchored guide to share financial risks with external investors and with development finance institutions, while also reducing the Province's direct groundsheet exposure of keeping projects viable. In terms of securing long term budget integration, we do this with seek to do, by feeding housing initiatives into a central project database that is directly integrated with our multiyear budget process. It thus ensures future financial obligations are secured but are also aligned with the Province's long term infrastructure goals. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr B HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Minister. Hon Minister, the question is with regards to the unfunded projects in the pipeline, and to make them attractive for alternative or investment funding. How will the new Western Cape infrastructure facility derisk these projects? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much indeed, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you, and this is where the infrastructure implementation plan and the parameters which we have set to evaluate projects, and one of those elements is how do we derisk it? Again, in terms of derisking those projects, it needs to be understood that this actually ties into my response, hon member Herron that I just did to the hon member Wessels before you.

Part of the derisking component is legally anchored. There is a guide to ensure that we share financial risks with external investors, but also the development finance institutions, thereby reducing our Province's direct balance sheet exposure, while keeping these projects viable. Again, in terms of the scoring matrices and the principles which we need to utilise, do that.

At an appropriate stage through you, hon Deputy Chair, to the Standing Committee of Infrastructure's Chairperson, I think it is prudent that specifically this one element of our process that we perhaps initiate a discussion or presentation to the Standing Committee which will expand a lot more on what

I am explaining now, so that the hon members have a full, proper understanding of that specific component of our principles. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the absence of any further hands, we proceed to the final stand over question. I recognise the hon Minister again.

*Construction of land acquired in Hout Bay*

**15. Mr M K Sayed asked the Minister of Infrastructure:**

Whether he had previously indicated that construction of the housing development on the parcels of land acquired in Hout Bay through the Housing Development Agency was expected to commence in April 2023; if so, why has construction not yet commenced?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Leader of the Opposition for the question. Due to the ongoing funding challenges within the department and end year budget cuts being implemented by the National Department of Human Settlements, our department is forced to review budgets and prioritise projects that are implementation ready and have existing contextual commitments.

This is further exacerbated by the limited internal professional capacity to undertake and oversee new Human Settlement projects across our province. The Hout Bay project requires significant site enablement processes before it will

actually be implementation ready. This includes various statutory processes and authorisations that are required in terms of the Land Use Planning Act, and the National Environmental Management Act, but in addition to this, the very nature of the site's locality requires significant consideration of the most appropriate development to be undertaken at that specific site.

A typical grant funded Human Settlements development is deemed to be an inappropriate development, without consideration of mixed use, mixed income opportunities, supported by private investment. To this end, the project has been handed over to our Department's Economic Development Hub, who will now seek to conceptualise and package this project to maximise the opportunities that this strategic location involves of this specific project. Planning and site enablement is finally now underway as I speak, as per my previous response which I provided in April 2026. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The hon member who posed the question, is hon member Sayed online? I see no further hands. We will proceed to new questions, and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Bredell.

*New questions*

*Wetlands: restoration and protection of*

- 1. Mr D W Bryant asked the Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

(a) What (i) investments and (ii) maintenance programmes is his department implementing to restore and protect wetlands across the province and (b) what are the main successes of the work thus far?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chairperson, thank you to hon member Bryant for the question. Restoration of ecological ecosystems are undertaken collectively, and information is not disaggregated for wetlands in particular. CapeNature implements restoration and maintenance of wetlands within reserves, it manages, as part of the Protected Area Management Plan for each reserve.

This includes regular cleaning of invasive alien vegetation that threatens wetlands ecosystems, hydrological management, maintaining natural waterflow patterns, and preventing artificial drainage or blockages, routine maintenance of rehabilitated sites, including erosion control and revegetation. Some activities include involving local communities protecting wetlands through awareness campaigns. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning undertakes monitoring and compliance enforcements, ensuring that illegal dumping encroachment, as well as pollution are addressed.

The (b) part, the main success has been the establishment of the strategic partnership with nonprofit organisations to leverage alternative and blended finance mechanisms to members. A recent highlight is the launch of the Cape

Water Bond, where R150-million over five years was secured for ecological infrastructure, including wetlands. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member who posed the question, hon member Bryant.

Mr D M BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you, to the hon Minister. It is fantastic to hear about the work opportunities that are being created through the restoration projects and the EPW programmes working for wetlands. But hon Minister, how can we ensure that those skills that are being created are transferred through to those local communities?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, to the hon Chairperson, to the question. It is a process. It is learning as we go. We understand, and actually, I must take a step back. It started off with the environmental crime that we seized. Just unimaginable how we are going to solve this, because you really need a police force legal system that supports this.

But a lot of these communities are captured by organised crime, actually, and because of the internet and because of the brain behind this, and the profiteers of these crimes, they sit overseas, so they actually capture some of our communities. So, as part of that programme to start to give them something to do in the interim, so, to train them. I am a firm believer that EPWP was never

designed that you must always stay into EPWP. It was a springboard, and from there, you must start to train.

Now, CapeNature is one example of an organisation and an entity who managed this to get EPWP where I think it must be. They entered into a three-year contract. They trained the people. They put them, I think they have got 18 different courses, from a very simple basic course to where we sit with people who now have got their third university degree, and entered permanent employment.

I think it is with that kind of capacity behind you and that kind of thinking, that the same will happen here. Pull in the communities, and because a lot of these communities, you will need to train them. You need to put them through these training courses, but I also think if you look at the biodiversity and our province in its whole, I think there is huge discussion with the new Khoi-San Bill, with people who want to practice their culture, to train them on the importance of protecting the biodiversity, not harvesting all the plants, harvesting some of the plants, and replant, etc, but then also enter into the tourism market.

I think there is a huge space for that, and CapeNature will work with these communities because that is how we are going to get them out of organised crime. You must give them something better to do, and we will work very closely with CapeNature and the Department of Environmental Affairs. Thank you, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I see hon member Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you for the response, hon MEC. Hon MEC, what other measures are in place to prevent further degradation of wetlands due to urban and development pollution and illegal land use activity? Yes, we are quiet about the measures that are there, but what other measures are there also?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Chairperson, we are open for ideas. There are things that we play with, unpopular things, setback lines, it is something that now again is going to come to the forefront because we have got our policy that you are actually not allowed to build within 32 metres of a river, and around the estuary, etc. Municipalities will also need to start to understand if they approve those plans and there are damages to that property, I think there is a case to make that they are also part of, to be found guilty.

So, we have done a huge exercise to do the setback lines throughout the province. It is not only to the estuaries, but it also speaks to our coast, our river systems, etcetera. Alien clearing is a big issue for all of us, to protect our estuaries. Pollution, we are busy with the Alien Clearing Programme, but we have also now learnt, and ja, to be honest, I do not know why we have not picked this up earlier, or myself but you can now see with these floods, that

one of the big problems with alien vegetation and alien clearing is that we clear the alien plants, but it seems like we just stack it at the – top die rante van die riviere [on the banks of the rivers] and when there is a flood like now, all those plants and things gets washed down the river system, it blocks the bridges and then the bridge will go, etcetera.

So, we will need to look at technology like chippers and things like that. So, if you take out the alien clearing plants, you also put them through a chipper and get them out of the way.

We had the same with the rooikrans in Hermanus, with December's fires. So, there is a lot more that we can do. Obviously the budget is a problem and therefore the R150 million will also go a far way to help us to support these kinds of water intensive programmes because there is the benefit on the water side as well as protecting our infrastructure and our people long term. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bryant?

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon Minister spoke about many of the role players involved in wetlands and surrounding communities but a big aspect is also private landowners, who have wetlands on their properties.

Hon Minister, how do we compel or at least encourage private landowners to

take responsibility for the maintenance and protection of their own wetlands?

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: I think it is a crucial question. I think we need to sit down with CapeNature because we do have our contracts that we sign with the farmers on protecting certain pieces of their land that is a high value in biodiversity. I think we must do the same with the estuaries because at the end of the day the estuaries protect the water sources.

I think it can become a crucial programme over the years and the next generation, our children's children will benefit from that because we are building this whole network and linking the farms so that game can start to roam again, etcetera. But the focus is on wetlands. I think there are great incentives that we can put on the table for the farmers that if they have got a certain area and they manage it – wetlands.

And please if you know of some that we can tackle and make a pilot, let us do that and give them a zero rating on the taxes on that piece of land because they also do us a favour. But I think that is a crucial question and I think there is more work for us to do as a department, as well as CapeNature. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER; I see no additional hands. We now proceed to the second question under new questions and I see hon Minister Marais.

*SAPS vacancies: plans to fill***2. Ms B M van Minnen asked the Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:**

Whether she has engaged with the South African Police Service and the Provincial Commissioner regarding urgent plans to fill vacancies at the ten worst-affected SAPS stations; if so, what commitments were received?

†Die MINISTER VAN POLISIE-OORSIG EN GEMEENSKAPSVEILIGHEID:  
Dankie, agb AdjunkSpeaker, Dankie aan agb Van Minnen vir die vraag.

[The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you to hon Van Minnen for the question.]

During numerous community engagements where concerns were raised regarding the negative effects of not having permanently appointed station commanders, commitments were made on public platforms by the senior leadership of the SAPS in the province to prioritise the filling of these posts, including General Patekile.

During these engagements, I consistently emphasised the need to urgently fill all vacant managerial positions at station level, in order to ensure stability, improve accountability and strengthen service delivery within effected precincts.

I also noted that during his Budget speech, the Acting Minister of Police committed to prioritise fixing the top 50 murder stations in the country as part of his turnaround strategy and that would include the appointment of permanent Station Commanders. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER; I recognise the hon member who posed the question, hon member Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. If I can please, through you, ask a question to the hon Minister; whether any specific reasons have been provided by SAPS and the Provincial Commissioner for the high vacancy rates in the worst effected SAPS stations? I thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you for the follow up question. The answer is short. No.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much to hon Van Minnen for posing the question and also the MEC for responding to the question. Here is my follow up question. On the engagements which you are reporting that you embarked on, were there any timelines perhaps reported and which are those positions and whether the position of the Provincial Head of Intelligence was a

part of it?

You also made a point that the position of the Provincial Commissioner was also included. When is he leaving and when will the position be filled? Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before the hon Minister answers, hon members, I do not want to stop the member from asking, but please note in terms of the Rule, it is one follow up. So I will allow the Minister to then respond as she sees fit but it is one follow up question, not multiple questions connected. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you, hon member for the questions. It was specifically the Station Commanders. We did speak about the Head of Intelligence. I have to say that General Patekile and General Mosikili is waiting for National, for the okay to appoint that person.

Then for the second question, †die proses is aan die gang [the process is on the go] to appoint a new – it is a work in progress and he is leaving the end of June. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognize the hon member Van Minnen.

Ms M D VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, we are now in a new

financial year for SAPS. Have any timelines been communicated to the Province regarding the filling of these vacant positions to Station Commanders?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you. We did not get timelines from them. We gave them timelines and we follow up regularly with our meetings but so far some of the timelines have not been met. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final question. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, MEC. Do you think there is a relationship between these vacancies and violent crime in the province?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:  
Thank you for the question. Yes, I do think so. Even though we think more boots will not solve the problem but it is definitely, according to my own perception and what I see on the ground, there is definitely a relationship. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members that concludes Question number 2. I then recognise hon Minister Bredell, Question 3.

*Basket of dignity*

**3. Mr D W Bryant asked the Minister of Local Government,**

**Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

(a) What is meant with the “basket of dignity” when it comes to free basic water and electricity for indigent households and (b) how will this approach improve the quality of life and opportunities for indigent households in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you to the hon Bryant for the question. To enable a dignified life for all so that residents have access to essential services and opportunities to live safely and healthy, the Department conducted research into a basket of dignity. This refers to the quantity of basic services: water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal required to ensure a dignified life for its residents.

Specific to the question in terms of the national framework, the quantum of water is six kilolitres per month and electricity, 50 kilowatts per month for indigent households. However, the research proposes that the amount increases to between nine to 15 kilolitres of water and between 75 to 100 kilowatts of electricity per month, for indigent households.

(b) part: this approach will improve the quality of life and opportunities for indigent households in the Western Cape by increasing basic services allocations to levels that genuinely support a dignified life for indigent households. Amongst others, they should then have reliable access to adequate

water and electricity without being forced to resort to unsafe and more costly alternatives. This will also directly support better health outcomes, economic participation and social inclusion for the most vulnerable households in the Western Cape and improve personal dignity.

However, the proposal for providing additional free basic services should not be taken in isolation as there is financial sustainability of the municipalities to consider. To address this, the research proposes alternative revenue streams. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member who posted the question, hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. It was a comprehensive response and I think its covered the points that I wanted to ask, but I just want to find out from the hon Minister, is he aware of any similar programmes elsewhere in the country that are running as effectively as this one?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, no, I am not aware. This was research that we have done through the University of Stellenbosch. I am a firm believer that Government's role is to see to it that all residents can have a dignified life.

The Dignity Basket, we package it on our function, so its water, electricity, sanitation, etcetera but Agriculture needs to step up and say what food do we need to put up, etcetera, etcetera, so that we can have a broader scope. I think where we get criticised and where people have got some sort of a block is that we are not willing to look at the benefits. First of all, to acknowledge that people need more. Secondly, that if we can get, especially on electricity, if we can get to a stage – now Stellenbosch Municipality already, Overstrand, will give a 100 units of electricity. Now if you can get municipalities to go to 150 kilowatts of electricity, you can then accommodate your children; your children can start to learn on computers, they can do their homework, get them off the streets and I personally think the question is actually, can we afford not to invest in dignity?

Because when our children become gangsters, we must pick them up in the police stations, in the court system, while if we can get them to study, etcetera, they can work themselves out of poverty, they can study. If you have got qualifications you can enter the job market easily, etcetera. The same with water. Unhealthy water. People end up in our clinics. They end up in our hospitals.

If there is clean water, drinking water, then we will save at the end of the cycle. I think we put too much money at the end of the cycle and we need to turn the system if we really want to get people out of poverty, but it is still open for debate. I get criticised a lot on social media also, because people just see their current municipal bill and say what is this going to cost us? I really think we

need a mature debate on this, and I think it is possible, so that we put the money in now and then save at the end of the day but also you would have picked up that my colleague in Treasury, also touched on things close to both our hearts, that we need to get this debate going and make this work. Also on a national level, talk to our national colleagues.

Treasury is going to play a huge role in dismantling this Equitable Share formula and the Equitable Share allocations that we get because currently, I think – I am going to guess – I think there is round about 2 500 000 people on the books but National is paying out about 11 million. They also need to enforce that discipline, so that the people that really fall in that category of poor, poor households get what they deserve and other people must pay.

So there are two policies in the municipal space that are going to become very important; the Credit Control Policy, where we need to get people that can pay, to pay and the Indigent Policy where we help people who cannot pay to also have a dignified life. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Parliament is working. So let me also say this. Hon Minister, kindly refer to the Chair and speak through the Chair to hon member Bryant, so that we just may retain that particular Rule. Member Stoffel, do you have a follow up? I recognise hon member Stoffel.

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Agb Minister, ek wil net weet hoe word die spesifieke dienste en voordele in die mandjie bepaal

in onstabiele munisipaliteite?

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Minister, I just want to know how are the specific services and benefits determined in the basket in unstable municipalities?]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Dis ‘n moeilike een, ek hoop ek verstaan u vraag reg. Of jy in ‘n onstabiele munisipaliteit is of ‘n stabiele munisipaliteit, jy het die reg tot ‘n menswaardige lewe. Dus, ons moet hierdie goed buite dit sien, elke inwoner moet die reg hê en dit is wat ons gaan bepaal het, en eintlik as ons na die dokument kyk, daar is eintlik vier mandjies: daar is ‘n mandjie vir as jy geen inkomste het nie, dis die mandjie waarvan ons nou praat. Dan is daar ‘n mandjie as jy ‘n inkomste het, wat kan jy bekostig? Moet ‘n sekere kategorie inkomste nie teen kosprys dienste kry nie, as jy wins maak; dan kom jy by jou tweede en derde kategorie, maar dit kan nie afhang van of jou munisipaliteit “well run” is, ‘n goedbestuurde munisipaliteit is, dit kan nie dit bepaal nie, ons skuld dit vir elke inwoner om ‘n menswaardige lewe te kan hê. So, die navorsing wys dat jy 10 kiloliter per huishouding benodig, dit werk uit op, as ek my som regkry, 50 liter water per dag per persoon min of meer. Die groot debat kom by elektrisiteit, ons weet elektrisiteit het duur geraak. 150 eenhede, dit kom neer as die munisipaliteite so bietjie terugdruk; ek dink ons kan nog altyd die saak maak, op die ou einde gaan ons spaar daardeur. So dit is waarmee ons werk. Die bestuur van die munisipaliteit, dis ‘n ander been, ons werk nou saam, julle sal hoor dat die Minister, ek kan nou maar namens haar spog, as hulle doen wat hulle moet doen, dan kan Kannaland kom na twee jaar

weens Tesourie se goeie werk en 'n befondsde begroting op die tafel sit. So ons moet daardie dissiplines indwing dan is ons ook besig om etiese waardes deur ons vennote in 'n kursus aan te bied vir munisipaliteite vir politici en vir amptenare en ons sal met die nuwe generasie wat na 4 November verkies word, weer daardie kursus doen, want ek dink etiese besluitneming is krities om te sorg dat ons munisipaliteite nie daar val waar die agb lid Stoffel na verwys nie.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

†The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: It is a difficult one, and I hope I understand the question correctly. Whether you are in an unstable municipality or a stable municipality, you have the right to a dignified life. Therefore we have to see these things outside of that, Every citizen must have the right and that is what we had gone to determine, and if we actually look at the document, there are actually 4 baskets: there is a basket for when you have no income, that is the basket we are now talking about. Then there is a basket when you have an income, what can you afford? Must a certain category of income not receive services at cost price, if you make profit; then you get to your second and third category, but it cannot depend on whether your municipality is well run, a well-managed municipality, that cannot determine that, we owe it to every citizen to have a dignified life.

So the research shows that you require 10 kiloliters per household, it works out at, if I get my sums correct, 50 liters of water per day per person more or less.

The big debate comes with electricity; we know electricity has become expensive. 150 units, it decreases if the municipalities push back a little, I think we can still make a case, in the end we are going to save through that. So that is what we are working with. The management of the municipality, that is another leg, we work closely together, you will hear that the hon Minister, I can now boast on her behalf, if they do what they have to do then Kannaland can, after two years due to Treasury's good work, put a funded budget on the table. So we must enforce those disciplines, then we are also busy to present ethical values in a course through our partners for municipalities for politicians and for officials, and we will with the new generation elected after 4 November do that course again, because I think ethical decision-making is critical to ensure that our municipalities do not fall to where the hon member Stoffel was referring to.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I again recognise hon member Stoffel.

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Baie dankie, agb Minister vir die terugvoer. Minister, my volgende vraag is, hoe sal die departement meet of hierdie ingryping huishoudelike welstand verbeter en armoede verminder?

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Minister for the feedback. Minister, my next question is, how will the department measure whether this intervention improves household wellbeing and reduce poverty?]

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agb Adjunkspeaker, om eerlik te wees ek

dink nie daar is 'n maatstaf, 'n instrument waarmee jy dit kan meet nie, natuurlik deur navorsing maar dit sal natuurlik ook jare vat voor ons daar uitkom. Ek dink dit is bloot logies dat jy outomaties lewensveranderinge sal kan sien as jy 150 eenhede in elke huishouding het wat jy nie kon bekostig nie, en 10 kiloliter water. Dit spreek net tot menslikheid. Dit is wat jy sal sien in die gemeenskappe, die agb Stoffel is ook 'n persoon wat loop in daardie gemeenskap, so ek dink dis 'n logiese gevolg, en natuurlik sal ons oor langtermyn deur ons sensusopnames nou daardie vrae kan begin vra en daardie navorsing kan begin doen. Ek dink ons moet eers in huis die debat hê en dan die formule uitwerk sodat al die munisipaliteite - nie al die munisipaliteite sal dadelik kan opspring na 150 eenhede toe nie, ons dit moet infaseer, sê 60 gaan na 70 eenhede toe, jy gaan na 100 eenhede toe, ens, en dan sal ons ook met Tesourie moet sit om nasionaal te kyk hoe kan hulle kompenseer vir daardie gapings en miskien weer die debat op die tafel sit vir Projek "Konsolideer!" wat ons gehad het in 2000, waar jy jou werklik arm munisipaliteite afsonderlik hanteer met 'n toekenning sodat hulle na die armste van die armes kan omsien. Dankie, Adjunkspeaker.

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, to be honest I do not think there is a measure, an instrument with which you can measure it, obviously through research but it will take years before we get there. I think it is quite logical that you will automatically see life changes when you have

150 units in every household that you cannot afford and 10 kilolitres of water. It speaks to humanity. It is what you will see in the communities, the honorable Stoffel is also a person moving in that community, so I think it is a logical consequence, and obviously we will over the long term through our census surveys now start to ask those questions and do that research. I think we must first have the debate in-house and then work out the formula so that all the municipalities - not all the municipalities will immediately be able to jump to 150 units, you will have to phase it in, say 60 goes to 70 units, you go to 100 units, etcetera, and then we will also have to sit with Treasury to look nationally how they can compensate for those gaps and perhaps put the debate on the table again for Project "Consolidate!" that we had in 2000, where you handle your really poor municipalities separately with an allocation so that they can look after the poorest of the poor. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the absence of any further questions, we proceed to Question number 4. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Meyer.

*Unemployment: increase in*

**4. Ms N D Nkondlo asked the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:**

With reference to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey (QLFS) for Quarter 1 of 2026 that indicates that employment in the Western Cape

declined by 24 000 jobs between Quarter 4 of 2025 and Quarter 1 of 2026, while the province's unemployment rate increased from 18,1% to 19,6%:

What are the primary factors that have been identified by his department as contributing to the increase in unemployment and the loss of 24 000 jobs in the province?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWIKKELING EN TOERISME: Dankie agb Speaker, soos u sê die Parlement werk.

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker, as you say, the Parliament works.] In terms of the question from hon member Nkondlo, I want to thank her for the question. For Quarter 1 in 2026, the South African unemployment rate was about 32.7%, while the Western Cape recorded a significant lower unemployment rate of 19.6%. At a national level, the total employment declined by 345 000, while, as mentioned by hon member Nkondlo, the Western Cape similarly experienced a decline of about 24 000 jobs between Quarter 4 in 2025 and Quarter 1 in 2026.

This pattern clearly indicates that the decline in employment in the province forms part of a broader nationwide contraction, rather than being driven by province specific labour market challenges. The extent of the decline in employment reflects persistent labour market challenges in both the South African as well as the provincial labour markets.

In addition, we have seen also that the job losses specifically in the Western Cape were broad-based affecting both the formal as well as the informal sectors. The formal sector employment declined by approximately 20 000, while the informal sector lost about 13 000 jobs over the same period. This suggests that the weakening labour market conditions were not confined to a singular segment of the economy but were wide-spread across different types of employment. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the member who posed the question.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you hon Minister. We miss you in the House. Having said that hon Minister, I just want to understand, in the Growth for Jobs targets, given the fact that we are in 2026 now, and there would have been a plan, in terms of the number of jobs by 2030. So if you look at the problem of the need, not in education, not in informal employment or training, what is the performance of the provincial economy, because I think for youth in particular it is important to track that number against the target?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you to the hon member about the targets specifically in relation to the Growth for Jobs, as well as the impact on the youth. What we have seen, in addition to the seasonal factors, which are likely to have contributed to the observed decline, is that employment typically weakens, as we know in the first Quarter, followed by increased hiring

during the fourth Quarter, associated with festive season demand.

We see this on a year by year basis. Hon member Nkondlo also understands this. And as a result, some of the job losses observed in Quarter 1, in 2026 can be attributed to the unwinding of temporary or seasonal employment opportunities, and I think it might be interesting for the House to note where these contractions happened, specifically in the formal sector about 20 000 in terms of the informal sector and about 13 000, private sector and households about 9 000.

So the total, if you add that up – this is private households – there was a positive reflection on that. In total it is about 24 000 as she has correctly mentioned. Certainly, we will be watching the impact of this on the Growth for Jobs over a period because we have set a very ambitious target of about 600 000 new jobs that we need to create in terms of Growth for Jobs and that is why we are working very closely and strategically, in terms of our export-led growth because we know if we increase our exports by 5%, we will have a significant increase in employment, particularly in the young and those who are not in education and training, as specifically mentioned.

She will also know that I have mentioned previously in this House, that if we increase our exports by 5%, we will have about 22 900 new jobs. So we are concerned about this and this is Quarter 1. I think it is also in terms of the cyclical nature but I am more concerned about what we can see in the next two quarters, specifically looking at the impact of the war in the Middle East, as

well as the major floods.

I have listened very carefully to the debates and the comments that people have made. The impact is devastating and we will see certainly that coming through in terms of the figures for the next quarter. So, yes, I am concerned and therefore we have also recalibrated some of our figures for employment, because when the tariffs kicked in, our initial plan was to create a R1 trillion economy in terms of the G4J.

That is no longer possible because we are a major export region, and the tariff is a form of taxation and that will certainly impact on our exports and the impact of the war, diesel and food inflation and all of that. So I have asked my team to recalibrate our targets, given what is happening in the world, both in tariffs and in terms of the war in the Middle East. It is devastating what is happening around the world, specifically in terms of global supply chain management.

So I think these are real things and I want to thank the hon member. We will be specifically looking at the impact of youth and focus more specifically on targeting the youth in terms of employment creation and that is specifically one of the priority focus areas of the G4J. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Masipa.

Ms N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you hon

Minister for the answer. Economic analysts consistently point out that first quarter labour data across South Africa is traditionally dragged down by seasonality. You often state, and I might quote you incorrectly, but you state that you do not want the Western Cape to do well, you want the whole country to do well. The Western Cape consistently has the lowest unemployment data in the country. What sets us apart from other provinces in terms of job creation that they lack?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Firstly, thank you hon Masipa for the question. I think it is firstly to understand what were the changes in the Western Cape in terms of the Labour Force Survey, because the figures are very clear. When we deal with economic growth, job numbers, although we discussed a quarter approach, it is more relevant to discuss Quarter 1 of 2026, on a year on year basis. In other words, look at Quarter 1 in 2025 and see what has happened.

If you look at the year on year changes in Western Cape employment by sector, this is what has happened. In the category of Trade, 81 000 jobs were added in the first quarter; Construction, 13 000 jobs were added; Agriculture, 5 000 jobs were added in the Western Cape; Private Households, 4 000 jobs were added; Utility, 2 000 jobs were added.

But to come specifically to the issues that hon member Nkondlo raised, we lost 1 000 jobs in mining; in finance and other business services, we lost 7 000 jobs. We lost in the first quarter, as you rightly also mentioned, in terms of

seasonality, 7 000 jobs in transport; in community and social services we lost 30 000 jobs and very sadly, also in manufacturing, about 37 000 jobs.

What set us apart? I believe and I am absolutely determined that I do not want the Western Cape to succeed, I want South Africa to succeed. For South Africa to succeed, I think we must learn lessons from across the country and our lessons for the rest of the country are very clear; stable government, an ethical government, practice of good governance; focus on key critical areas, like what we do in the Western Cape.

We believe attracting foreign direct investment is very important. That is why we hosted the Western Cape investment summit. We attracted R50 billion and we do not believe in just having an investment summit, like a talk shop. That is why we also had a deal book. We also had all our projects, through a process of due diligence, through the Johannesburg Stock exchange. So that is the first thing that I think we can share with the rest of the country, is to host a foreign direct investment strategy through economic diplomacy. 90% of my time and that of the Premier, and that of Minister Baartman is now more and more in the space of promoting economic diplomacy because that is how you attract foreign direct investment.

About a week ago, I met the European Parliament, the Chairperson of the Trade Committee, because we believe trade relationships are very important to us, and the biggest single block in terms of trade in the world comes from the European Union. It also, in terms of the biggest investment as a block, comes

from the European Union.

So that is what we believe in, building solid relationships, but coming back to South Africa. 96% of all the products that South Africa exports to the European Union, are free from tariffs and so the second thing that I believe ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Okay. The second thing that I think what I want to mention is perhaps to drive economic growth through infrastructure-led growth, and you have seen ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Minister. The time has expired.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: That is sad ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...but I will have a cup of tea with hon member Nkondlo.

The SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, that is the end of Questions

for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard. We proceed in terms of Rule 145. There will now be an opportunity for Members Statements and I recognise the DA.

## **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. As we reflect on Child Protection Week, which forms part of the broader Foster Care Awareness Month observed in May, we are reminded of our shared responsibility to protect society's most vulnerable, our children. Foster care is a lifeline for children who have been removed from unsafe, abusive or neglectful circumstances and placed into the care of loving and responsible foster parents.

In the Western Cape, hon Speaker, the Department of Social Development plays a central role in assessing, approving and supporting foster care placements. Through dedicated social workers the department ensures that children are placed in safe environments and that ongoing supervision and psychosocial support are provided. This work, however, is carried by professionals who are often overburdened and working under significant pressure.

We must also acknowledge the invaluable contribution of foster parents and caregivers who open their homes and hearts to children in need. Alongside them social workers remain the backbone of the system, providing assessments, court reports, reunification services and continuous monitoring of the child's well-

being.

Hon Deputy Speaker, yet foster care does not operate in isolation. It requires strong intergovernmental cooperation. The Department of Social Development, SASSA and Home Affairs must work seamlessly together to ensure that children have access to the documentation, foster care grants and essential services they are entitled to. Too often delays in documentation, expired foster care orders and administrative bottlenecks interrupt the flow of support to children who cannot afford to wait.

In the Western Cape thousands of children are currently placed in foster care and thousands more benefit from the foster care child grant. While these interventions provide critical financial and social support, the system continues to face challenges that require urgent attention ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Please take your seat.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the ANC. The ANC. Oh, you are waiting for the podium. [Interjections.] Hon member Adams.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, can I – am I allowed to make a correction? The Chief Whip did pronounce you as Deputy Speaker. I do not know when you were – what you call it, but ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: That is not point of order.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): I was just out, I am scared that when I came back you were †sommer [all of a sudden] now the Deputy.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Speaker was in the Chair minutes before you came in. Hon member Sayed, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay. No, thank you very much, hon Speaker. Today the ANC raises a serious concern about the integrity of this Legislature's disciplinary appeal system and the responsibility of the hon Premier to ensure that this Province leads by example on accountability and ethical governance.

The current framework, as per the Code of Conduct, creates a serious problem. The Speaker serves as the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee, participates in determining appeals and then presides over the House that must ultimately receive and process matters flowing from that same appeals process. The Code of Conduct compromises the Speaker's neutrality. No fault of his own. This is not merely a technical rules issue, it goes to the heart of public confidence in this Legislature and in the DA-led Western Cape Government's commitment to clean, fair and accountable governance.

The hon Premier cannot speak about good governance, accountability and institutional integrity while remaining silent when the very same systems meant

to hold public representatives, including himself, accountable, are open to serious questions of fairness and independence.

We believe that no democratic institution can afford a code of conduct that creates the perception that one office bearer can be both a participant and overseer of the same process.

We therefore call on the hon Premier, as both the Leader of Government and the DA caucus, to indicate whether he supports an urgent review of this flawed appeals framework and whether he agrees that the matter must be referred to the Conduct Committee or the Rules Committee for the relevant provisions to be amended. The people of the Western Cape deserve a Legislature that protects accountability, not one where Rules can shield those in power from proper scrutiny. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Sayed. Hon members, I will revert to Hansard on that statement just delivered. As you are all aware and it is publicly known, there are matters before the Appeals Committee and I will take guidance from the legal adviser of Parliament and the Table Staff and I will come back to the House with that ruling with regards to that statement just being delivered. I recognise the PA.

An HON MEMBER: They are absent. [Interjections.] Only one left.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Adams, are you ready? Speak to me, please, hon

member Adams.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice that the House notes that historical ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Adams, we are still doing Statements, not motions, Members Statements. Do you have a member statement?

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Yes, hon Chair.

The SPEAKER: You can deliver your statement.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, as the Patriotic Alliance, we want the House to note the floods that are going on in areas such as Beaufort West, at Leeu Gamka, where the rivers are being overflooded and the dams. We want the House to note †die seerkry van ons mense in Thembalethu, in Bongolethu, in Knysna, in Hornlee en natuurlik in die ander dele van George en in die Tuinroete ook.

Agb Speaker, ons doen 'n beroep op die Huis en die Wes-Kaapse Regering om seker te maak dat ons mense die nodige noodbehuising kry so gou as moontlik, want hulle is besig om swaar te kry in die agterplase waar hulle bly, en soos ek vroeër ook gesê het, hulle lewe ongelukkig huidiglik in haglike omstandighede met water wat deur hulle huise gaan.

Ek wil ook aan die agb Premier in sy afwesigheid vra dat hy die probleem van die asbesdakke bespoedig na die Nasionale Regering toe sodat die ou asbesdakke, die mense wat in daardie huise bly, dat hulle gehelp kan word met die dakke wat beskadig is met die val van bome en so aan, gedurende die sterk winde wat in George en in die omliggende areas, in Knysna, Oudtshoorn en Mosselbaai asook in Beaufort-Wes gebeur het die afgelope tyd, met die sterk winde en vloede.

Agb Speaker, dit is 'n baie hartseer tyd vir ons mense, want ons mense kan nie ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

*[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]*

[the agony of our people in Thembalethu, in Knysna, in Hornlee and also in the other parts of George and the Garden Route.

Hon Speaker, we call on this House and the Western Cape Government to ensure that our people receive the necessary emergency housing as soon as possible, because they are suffering in the backyards where they live, and as I also said earlier, they are unfortunately currently living in atrocious circumstances with water running through their houses.

I also I just want to ask the hon Premier in his absence that he speeds up the problem of the asbestos roofs with the National Government so that the people living under the old asbestos roofs can be assisted with the roofs that were

damaged with the falling of trees and so on, during the strong winds that occurred in George and in the surrounding areas, in Knysna, Oudtshoorn and Mossel Bay, as well as Beaufort West, over the past times with the strong winds and floods.

Hon Speaker, it is a very sad time for our people because our people cannot...

[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Adams, your time has expired. Thank you very much. I recognise the DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, the recent events in Mossel Bay, Kwanonqaba, have left our community shaken and saddened. What began as a protest against illegal foreigners has unfortunately resulted in violence, loss of life and the displacement of innocent people. Three people have lost their lives, 55 shacks have been destroyed and many families have been left without shelter.

As we reflect on these tragic events, I want to urge every resident to exercise extreme caution and restraint. We cannot allow frustration and anger to lead to violence and vigilantism. Residents have a constitutional right to peaceful protest and to voice their concerns on matters affecting their communities. Peaceful protest is a cornerstone of our democracy and an important way for citizens to make their voices heard. However, that right does not extend to violence, intimidation, destruction of property or the targeting of individuals

based on suspicion or perception.

South Africa is a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law. There are lawful processes and procedures that must be followed when concerns arise. It is the responsibility of law enforcement agencies and the relevant Government departments to investigate, verify identities and take action where laws have been broken. No individual group has the right to act as judge, jury and executioner.

The tragic deaths reported in Kwanonqaba serve as a painful reminder of what can happen when assumptions are made. We have already seen allegations that one victim may have been mistaken for a foreign national because of a language he spoke. Innocent people can easily become victims when communities take the law into their own hands.

We must remember that behind every person is a family, a mother, a father, a child or a loved one. I therefore call on all residents to remain calm, cooperate with law enforcement authorities and allow investigations to take their course. Our strength as a community lies ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Thank you very much.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the EFF. The EFF. If not, the NCC.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Dankie, Agb Speaker. Die NCC is vandag baie duidelik in terme van die geweld op die Kaapse Vlakte. Dit is duidelik dat die geweld nie gestop gaan word onder 'n DA-regering in die Wes-Kaap nie.

Op 13 Februarie 2026 het die agb Premier besoek afgelê aan Rheinmetall. Dis 'n maatskappy net 30 kilometer van hier af in Macassar, wat wapens vervaardig en wapens wat aan Israel verkoop word om kinders en vrouens te vermoor.

Nou as jy as Premier, wat die hoof is van 'n regering, weet van hierdie dinge, dan sê dit vir my jy gee nie om vir 'n kind wat deur die kop geskiet word nie, wat gee jy nog om vir ons bruin kinders op die Kaapse Vlakte wat so sterf. As die NCC wil ons 'n beroep doen; met die optrede van die agb Premier wat 'n plek gaan besoek het wat wapens verkoop aan Israel, wil ons as die NCC vandag duidelik sê vir die mense van die Wes-Kaap, ons kinders gaan nog daaglik sterf onder die regering van die DA, want jy sit met 'n leierskap wat nie omgee vir kinders wat sterf nie, en dit is 'n bewys dat met die optrede van die agb Premier wat selfs so ver gegaan het om 'n plek te gaan besoek waar daardie wapens gemaak word wat kinders doodskiet. Dankie, agb Speaker.

***[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]***

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The NCC is today very clear in terms of the violence on the Cape Flats. It is clear that the violence is not going to be stopped under a DA government in the Western Cape.]

On 13 February 2026, the hon Premier visited Rheinmetall. It is a company only 30 kilometres from here in Macassar, that manufactures arms, and arms sold to Israel to murder children and women.

Now if you as Premier who is the head of a government, know about these things, then it tells me that you do not care for a child to be shot through the head, what would you care for our Brown children on the Cape Flats dying like that? As the NCC we want to make a call, with the action of the hon Premier who visits a place selling arms to Israel, we as the NCC today want to say clearly to the people of the Western Cape, our children are going to die daily under the Government of the DA, because you have a leadership that does not care for children dying, and it is proof that with the action of the hon Premier, who even went as far as visiting a place where those arms are manufactured that kill children. Thank you, hon Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The DA lacks any sense, let alone empathy, to the livelihoods of the Black communities, whose misery is an engineered manifestation of the apartheid legacy, as it was shown in this House.

The enforcement of existing DA-led municipal planning bylaws against homeowners operating unzoned house shops, stands testimony to this brutality and has drawn an uproar from the Cape Flats. These are home-based enterprises,

†huiswinkels [house shops], spaza shops, being threatened with fines of up to R800 000, and even imprisonment for operating small home-based businesses.

The home-based businesses have a long history in the townships as spaces of self-reliance, thriving entrepreneurship to provide access to goods and services at affordable prices to locals. Born out of survival and resilience from segregation, townships were dumping grounds of cheap labour to sustain the White economy. This is no coincidence, no accident of history, but a deliberate apartheid geography and spatial design that benefited whiteness and protected the White sector of the South African society, who to date benefits from clean, orderly and thriving suburbs.

The DA has done little for 20 years governing the Cape to transform townships into thriving economic spaces. Instead, they remain killing fields and extortion bases.

The draconian bylaws and compliance environment of the City further burden these communities, showing a city with resources to criminalise the survival strategies of the poor. No government has the legitimacy to use a stick of regulation and compliance over township enterprises, whilst being oblivious and refusing to redress the imbalances of the past that strangled the potential of these townships, as it was shown by the hon Premier and hon MEC Bredell here in this House.

The ANC believes that Government should support and develop the informal

economy, not wage war against it.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, the DA's resounding victory in Emfuleni Ward 28 in Gauteng is a clear precursor to the sweeping DA wins that will follow in the Local Government Elections this November.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, just to put it into context. In 2004 the DA was competing with spoilt ballots and the ANC had a majority of over 90% in this ward and now it is a DA ward.

It is an indication that all across the country the ANC's grip on the historic support base has slipped due to its terrible record of delivery, the mismanagement of the economy and of course the love affair of corruption.  
[Interjections.]

Hon Speaker, I would like the House to note that this victory is the first of many that will follow. The DA has shown wherever it governs it governs well. Our people are tired of empty promises, [Interjections.] water and electricity outages, and refuse piling up. Only where the DA governs do we see the building blocks of prosperity being put into place.

I call on all the people of the Western Cape and South Africa to take on the opportunity this November and make their voices heard. To do so you must be registered to vote. You can check your status online at [check.da.org.za](http://check.da.org.za), quick commercial break, and it is important to note that you can only vote where you are registered.

If you want your municipalities to work like they do in the Western Cape, if you want your local economy to grow, if you want accountable, transparent and clean governance, [Interjections.] register to vote DA this November, the new historical force in a second transition in South Africa towards greatness. Thanks. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. [Interjections.] Order. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus. [Interjections.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, municipalities are powerful institutions deriving their executive authority directly from the National Constitution. They are local institutions of first instance in land planning and land use planning.

However, many of these powerful institutions are at the forefront of service delivery failures, corruption, financial mismanagement. Service delivery failures result in loss of public confidence in our local government institutions. Despite this there is a proposal for the amendment to the Land Use Planning Act in terms of giving municipalities even greater discretion in processes

relating to land use related applications by removing existing detailed procedural minimum safeguards to which they must comply in this province.

The Freedom Front Plus believes in adequate public participation and inclusion; meaningful engagement is an important cornerstone of our democracy, and the Freedom Front Plus stands with ratepayers, with our voters out there, with the electorate who wants to be heard in Parliament and wants to be heard whenever there is public participation regarding any matter that affects them or the values of their properties.

We therefore call on this House to ensure that there are additional safeguards for the protection of our public's voice in Parliament and in municipalities and their planning. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. †Bismillah Hir Rahman Nir Raheem. [In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful.] Al Jama-ah extends his heartfelt congratulations to all the hujjaj who have successfully completed the sacred pilgrimage of Hajj and are returning home safely to South Africa.

Hajj is one of the most profound acts of worship in Islam, embodying sacrifice, patience, unity, humility and devotion to [speaking in vernacular].

We commend our hujjaj for undertaking this spiritually transformative journey and for representing our communities with dignity and excellence while in the Holy Lands.

As our pilgrims reunite with their families and communities, we welcome them back with warm hearts and sincere du'as that their Hajj may be accepted as Hajj Mabroor, a pilgrimage filled with blessings, forgiveness, and reward.

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifices made by families and loved ones who supported the hujjaj throughout this important journey. May the lessons of Hajj continue to inspire greater compassion, unity, discipline and service within our society.

Al Jama-ah prays for the continued safety, health and spiritual steadfastness of all returning pilgrims and asks that the blessings of this sacred season uplift not only the hujjaj, but the entire Ummah and nation at large. I thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, today as we observe the second last day of Child Protection Week the ACDP in the Western Cape brings to this House the heartbreaking story of learners who chose to die by suicide rather than being bullied at schools.

Who will ever forget in February 2025 when 14-year-old Naya Smith, a Grade 9 learner, took his own life? In March this year, 8-year-old Emmabangu Natembolelo died by her own hand. Both were victims of bullying. Can we think of the despair that compelled these learners to take their own lives? Their untimely passing is a stark reminder that bullying has devastating effects and life-altering consequences.

Bullying at schools must be stamped out completely. I know in this House we spoke about it on numerous occasions, but bullying continues in our schools. Every child must be taught in environments that are safe, that are supportive and that are free of fear, intimidation and violence.

Hon Speaker, bullying takes many forms, including physical assault, verbal abuse, social exclusion, cyberbullying and ongoing harassment. These emotional scars often remain hidden until it is too late.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired, thank you very much.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I recognise GOOD. If not, I recognise the DA.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Since the severe weather that affected large parts of the Western Cape last month, the DA-led Western Cape has been engaging closely with Eskom leadership through our

daily updates on the restoration efforts in the hardest-hit communities. Progress has been made with 92% of affected areas now successfully reconnected to the electricity grid. This reflects the sustained work of the technical teams operating under challenging conditions to restore essential services.

However, we fully acknowledge the continued frustration and hardship experienced by households, businesses and farmers in areas where these outages remain in place. We understand that electricity is not a luxury, but a basic necessity. Extended outages therefore place a real and immediate risk and burden on families and communities.

Remaining restoration work continues across parts of the Western Cape, Cape Winelands, Garden Route and Overberg, with repairs processing as infrastructure is restored and systems are re-energised in phases. Incidents of cable theft in some of the affected areas are strongly condemned and they continue to delay repair work and undermine the restoration efforts. Communities are urged to report such criminal activity to law enforcement immediately.

The impact of these outages on daily life has been significant and there remains a commitment and ongoing engagement with Eskom and the relevant stakeholders to ensure clear communication and full restoration of electricity services as quick as possible. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, in terms

of Rule 145(6) I now give one or more members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if they so wish.

It does not seem that there are any responses needed and that brings us to the end of Members Statements. Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. No, and it is not a response on behalf of the Executive. I am in the Opposition, in case there is any confusion, but just, hon Speaker, I noted the remarks that you have made regarding going to the legal advice, but just as a precursor, and I do not want to create a ruction by calling you to order here, I think it is just a point of advice, but just to clarify, and I think it is quite clear. I was speaking conceptually on the notion of impartiality and fair process, not looking at all at the content of the appeal whatsoever, purely on the makeup of the committee, which was made public and which was ATC'd.

So I just want to again make it clear that I am not speaking at all to the content of the appeal. That is a debate for another day. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. It would be remiss of me not to respond. Hon Leader of the Opposition, I have in writing informed the Chief Whip of the Opposition that the only way to amend the Code of Conduct in its current form is by resolution of the House.

So that has been communicated and I also want to emphasise that, hon members, in the interest of the integrity of the process can I please caution hon members to not make statements that could potentially undermine the integrity of the appeals process.

So unless directed otherwise by the House, the Appeals Committee in its current form, in its current act and as determined by the Act, will proceed. We now move on to notices – hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, that is noted and we have taken that advice and we will be following that advice of course. Of course, when we make political statements we provide a context for the following of that particular advice. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. With that being said, hon members, we move on to Notices of Motion in terms of Rule 151. All notices of motion by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

### **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the devastating impact of the recent storms in the

Western Cape that has triggered a severe electricity crisis threatening the province's agricultural economy, fruit exports and thousands of jobs.

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the alarming increase and ongoing spate of mass shootings across communities in the Western Cape.

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the continued failures of the City of Cape Town's sewage and storm-water drainage systems, and the devastating impact that these failures have on poor and working-class communities, including recurring flooding, exposure to raw sewage, health hazards, environmental degradation, damage to homes and property, and the indignity faced by residents living in unsafe and inhumane conditions.

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the deepening housing crisis in the Western Cape where more than 440 000 people remain on the housing waiting list while thousands of families continue to live in informal settlements, in overcrowded conditions and in backyard dwellings.

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

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150 and I would like to inform you that in terms of standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolences and congratulatory, were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 2 June 2026.

Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolences will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority. I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 2 June 2026 political parties submitted the names of hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this sitting of the House.

I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved. Hon members, the following members' motions have been recommended for approval by the Programming Authority as follows: hon member Adams, hon member Bans, hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Stoffel, hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Johnson, hon member Van

Minnen and hon member Masipa, hon member Johnson, hon Minister Mackenzie, hon member Masipa, hon member Van Minnen, hon member Masipa, hon member Johnson, hon member Masipa, hon member Van Minnen, hon member Van Minnen and hon member Brinkhuis.

I now put the motions duly submitted and recommended for approval by the Programming Authority to the House.

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

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

## **MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

Mr B ADAMS (PA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the growing demand for accessible healthcare services in Conville and the surrounding communities in George; further notes the pressure placed on the existing healthcare facilities and the increasing need for expanded primary healthcare and emergency services; acknowledges that many residents are required to travel long

distances or endure extended waiting periods to access certain healthcare services; and calls on the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness to conduct a feasibility assessment into upgrading the Conville Day Clinic into a fully operational day hospital in order to improve healthcare access and to alleviate the pressure on surrounding healthcare facilities.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the launch of the Somerlife Social Housing Project in Somerset West by the national Department of Human Settlements, which seeks to deliver 1 034 social housing units in a province facing an acute housing crisis and deepening inequality; further commends the national Minister of Human Settlements, Ms Thembisile Simelane, and the national Department for continuing to intervene in support of working-class and poor communities in the province that continue to endure overcrowding, informal settlements, backyard-dwelling conditions and long waiting periods for access to dignified housing opportunities; notes with concern that the housing-demand database in the Western Cape now exceeds 643 000 applicants, while housing delivery output in the province has declined significantly in recent years despite the growing demand for housing opportunities; further notes that the provincial Minister of Infrastructure, Mr Tertuis Simmers, did not attend the launch of the Somerlife Social Housing

Project despite reportedly having been invited to do so; also notes that this is not the first housing-project launch convened by the National Government that the Minister has reportedly not attended despite being invited; recognises that the absence of the responsible Minister from major housing-project launches has generated serious public concern regarding accountability, cooperative governance and the seriousness with which the Provincial Government is responding to the housing crisis confronting the people of the Western Cape; therefore calls upon Minister Tertuis Simmers to provide a full explanation to the House regarding his absence from the Somerlife Social Housing Project launch and other related housing-project launches convened by the National Government that he reportedly did not attend despite invitations having been extended to him, and to apologise to the people of the Western Cape for his failure to attend these important housing launches; and further calls upon the Premier of the Western Cape to reprimand Minister Tertuis Simmers formally for his failure to attend these important housing-project launches and to indicate whether such conduct is consistent with the standards of accountability, responsiveness and cooperative governance expected from members of the Provincial Executive.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates the Leader of the Opposition, hon

Khalid Sayed, on receiving the international “I Am Peacemaker Champion Peace and Justice” award in recognition of his contribution to peace, justice and advocacy for vulnerable communities in the Western Cape; further notes his participation at the prestigious Billionaires for Peace Summit held in Mumbai, India, where global leaders, peace advocates and policymakers gathered to advance dialogue on peacebuilding, justice and social cohesion; acknowledges that hon Sayed’s participation and recognition serve as a proud reflection of South Africa’s democratic values and commitment to human dignity; and commends him for representing both the Western Cape and South Africa with distinction on the international stage.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates comedians Chuma Bentele and Zachary Esau on being crowned joint winners of the 2026 Jive Funny Championship Final held at the Canal Walk Auditorium in Cape Town; notes that the championship serves as an important platform for discovering and nurturing emerging comedic talent in South Africa; further notes that both winners impressed audiences and judges alike with their creativity, storytelling and uniquely South African humour; acknowledges the growing contribution of the arts, culture and entertainment sector in empowering young people and creating

platforms for expression and opportunity; and wishes both comedians success as they prepare to perform at the 27th Annual Jive Cape Town Funny Festival.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B STOFFEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the tragic death of 26 year old Esethu Martins from Litha Park, Khayelitsha, who had been reported missing since 17 May 2026 after allegedly leaving home for a job interview; further notes the anguish and trauma endured by her family, friends and community during the search for her; and expresses deepest condolences to her loved ones during this painful time.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House notes with sadness the tragic death of 13 year old Daylin Adams from Elsies River, who lost his life while reportedly trying to protect his younger cousin during a senseless shooting incident; expresses deepest condolences to the Adams family, friends, learners and educators of the Valhalla Primary School and the broader Elsies River community during this painful time; and calls for justice and intensified efforts to end violence affecting children and communities in the Western

Cape.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the tragic and brutal murder of Ernst Marais (71) and Dina Marais (73) of Mossel Bay whose bodies were discovered in the Kruger National Park following a horrific attack; extends heartfelt condolences to the Marais family, friends and the Mossel Bay community during this difficult time; and calls on law enforcement agencies to ensure that those responsible are swiftly brought to justice.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the tragic death of 12 year old Morgan Mentoor from George who took his own life shortly after excelling at a karate competition where he earned two gold medals and one silver medal; further notes that Morgan is remembered by his family, school and community as a joyful, disciplined and ambitious young boy who dreamed of one day becoming a minister; conveys sincere condolences to his mother, family, friends, classmates, teachers and all who loved him during this time of immense grief; acknowledges the

importance of strengthening mental health awareness and emotional support for children and young people; and calls on communities, schools, families and support services to continue working together to ensure that no child suffers in silence.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House expresses condolences to the families and friends of Wayne Delpont and his three-year-old granddaughter who tragically lost their lives in a horrific motor vehicle crash on Winery Road on Sunday 24 May 2026; notes that Mr Delpont, a dedicated employee at the Department of Labour in Somerset West, was a beloved community member and husband; extends condolences to Debra Fuller-Delpont and her grandson currently receiving medical treatment in hospital, wishing them a full and speedy recovery; and stands in solidarity with the grieving loved ones as they navigate this unimaginable loss.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Sonderend Road Primary School in Manenberg on the successful launch of its Grade 7 Career Club on 22 May 2026; notes the collaboration between the Sonderend Primary

School and the Silverstream School of Skills, which provided learners with practical demonstrations in diverse fields; and commends the school and its partners for creating an inclusive environment that empowers learners to explore diverse career pathways beyond traditional professions, ensuring that learners understand their value and potential to contribute meaningfully to the provincial economy.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Rhyle Adams, a Grade 11 learner at the Klein Nederburg Secondary School in Paarl, on his outstanding achievement in helping Team South Africa secure first place at the 8th African Spelling Bee in Zimbabwe; further congratulates him on qualifying to represent South Africa at the international Spelling Bee competition in Shanghai, China, this July; and wishes Rhyle every success as he proudly represents his school, the Western Cape and South Africa on the world stage.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Ms Maceala Samboya of Malmesbury in the Swartland region on her outstanding achievements in women's rugby and for representing both the Western Cape and South Africa with distinction; notes that Ms Samboya earned selection for the Sanlam Boland Dames Provincial Team as well as the Springbok Women's 15s and Sevens teams after taking up rugby in 2023; further notes that she became the first woman from the Boland region to compete in the WXV-2 Tournament in 2023 and 2024, and that she formed part of the Springbok Women's side that qualified for the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup; recognises her dedication, perseverance and role as an inspiration to young women in rural communities across the Western Cape; and wishes her continued success in her sporting career.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House commends the outstanding work of the Cape of Good Hope SPCA and the City of Cape Town law enforcement for their professionalism, compassion and courage displayed during the recent joint rescue operation in Dunoon and on the M5 highway; notes that these officials demonstrated exceptional commitment by successfully rescuing 24 dogs from inhumane breeding conditions, while simultaneously rendering life-saving medical assistance to a school child in distress on the roadside, reflecting the highest ideals of public service and humanity;

and extends sincere congratulations and gratitude to all personnel involved for their selfless dedication to protecting the vulnerable, both animal and human, and for serving the residents of Cape Town with such distinction.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House commends the successful collaboration between the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, CapeNature, provincial traffic authorities and dedicated K9 and sea ranger units that led to the arrest of multiple suspects and the seizure of over 500 kg of illegally harvested abalone on 21 and 22 May 2026; notes that these high-impact operations demonstrate the efficacy of a whole-of-government approach where intelligence-led cooperation between national, provincial and local agencies is essential to dismantling illegal marine poaching syndicates; reaffirms the commitment of this House to a zero-tolerance policy against wildlife and environmental crime; and urges all citizens to report suspicious activity to the environmental crime hotline, ensuring that our natural marine resources are protected from exploitation for future generations.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates local athlete Ezra Solomon on his victory at the recent Barebones MMA Championships in Cape Town; and commends the dedication and discipline of the participants of the competition that highlight the growing depth of talent, maturity and potential in the grassroots mixed martial arts scene in the Western Cape.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Zayaan Abdurahman, a Grade 11 learner at the Mondale High School in Mitchells Plain, on being selected as one of only eight South African learners to represent Team South Africa at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida this July; recognises her outstanding achievement in the South African Space Design Competition, as well as the dedication of her teacher, Ms Boonzaier, and Mondale High School; and wishes Zayaan every success as she proudly represents the Western Cape and South Africa on the international stage.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the South African agricultural industry on a stellar start to 2026, recording an 11% increase in agricultural exports to a total of US\$3,7 billion in the first quarter; notes that this performance, which resulted in a trade surplus of US\$1,8 billion, was achieved despite a challenging global trade environment and domestic logistical hurdles; commends the resilience of our farmers and exporters for maintaining strong trade relations across key regions, with the African continent remaining the primary market at 44%, followed by the European Union at 26%, and Asia and the Middle East at 14%; acknowledges the essential contribution of diverse commodities to our national economy; and calls upon all stakeholders to prioritise ongoing investments in port, rail and road infrastructure to ensure the continued growth and global competitiveness of our agricultural sector.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House commends the members of the South African Police Service in Gordon's Bay for their swift and decisive action in arresting four suspects following two separate armed ambushes of e-hailing vehicles on 21 May 2026; notes with concern the brazen nature of these criminal acts in which victims were subjected to kidnapping, armed robbery and threats of violence while attempting to use legitimate transport services, highlighting the persistent threat posed by organised

criminal elements to the safety of our residents; further notes the effective collaboration between police stations in Somerset West and Gordon's Bay, which allowed investigators to link the suspects successfully to both incidents, ensuring that these individuals now face the full weight of the law in the Somerset West and Strand magistrates courts; acknowledges the bravery of the victims whose quick thinking proved instrumental in the apprehension of the suspects; and reaffirms the commitment to support law enforcement efforts by securing our public transport routes and by ensuring the safety of all who travel in the province.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the City of Cape Town and Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis on the official opening of the Masiphumelele Gateway Market on Monday 5 May 2026; notes that this R20 million investment provides 57 informal traders with a safe, modern and dignified trading environment, moving them from outdoor conditions into a facility equipped with kiosks, food preparation areas, seating and parking; commends the City's commitment to fostering the township economy by including large kiosks specifically designed for light manufacturing, allowing small businesses in the Masiphumelele, Kommetjie, and Ocean View areas to scale their operations; acknowledges that this development

comes at a vital time as winter begins, offering protection from the elements and restoring dignity to both traders and customers who previously operated in muddy and undignified conditions; celebrates this project as a benchmark for urban renewal and economic growth; and resolves to continue supporting initiatives that provide local entrepreneurs with the infrastructure they need to build sustainable livelihoods and to contribute to the provincial economy.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the recipients of the City of Cape Town's Subcouncil 8 Conferment of Civic Honours that was celebrated at the Strand Town Hall on Friday 22 May 2026; notes that these awards serve as a vital recognition of the unseen heroes of the Helderberg basin, including community volunteers, NGO leaders and dedicated civil servants who work tirelessly to uplift their wards, protect the vulnerable and maintain the essential services that keep our communities functioning; commends Ward 85 Councillor and subcouncil Chairperson, Chantal Cerfontein, for highlighting the importance of community-led service; and extends its gratitude to all the awardees for their unwavering dedication to building a safer, more compassionate and well-maintained Helderberg for all its residents.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That that House congratulates Alderman James Vos and the Council of the City of Cape Town on the landmark approval of 693 new informal trading opportunities across the metropolitan area at a single meeting; notes that this unprecedented achievement represents a significant advancement in strengthening Cape Town's public trading ecosystem, providing essential pathways for economic participation and entrepreneurship for hundreds of small business owners; commends Alderman Vos's proactive initiative to modernise the City's informal trading policies, aiming to ensure that trading spaces are not only safer and better managed, but also provide the dignity and infrastructure necessary for traders to support their families and grow their enterprises; and acknowledges the crucial role of the informal sector in driving inclusive economic growth, in creating local jobs and in serving as a foundational pillar for businesses that contribute to the broader South African supply chain.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): I move without notice:

That the House notes the bravery of six pro-Palestine activists from Cape

Town who boarded the Global Sumud Flotilla; further notes that they boarded the Sumud Flotilla to take much-needed aid, such as food and medical supplies, to Gazans in occupied Palestine; also notes that the activists are all from Cape Town (Qutb Hendricks, Ebrahim Peters, Hajar Kagiso Al-Thairah Ahjum Mathee, Ambassador Faizel Moosa, Mogamed Faeek Ariefdien and Yusuf Rahman); acknowledges that their kidnapping from aboard the Global Sumud Flotilla in the international waters by Israeli special forces was illegal; further acknowledges that they were terrorised and beaten by the Israeli special forces; recognises that the activists' brave decision to take much-needed aid to Gazans was based on humanitarian grounds; further recognises their safe but traumatised return to their worried families and homes in Cape Town; and congratulates them for their bravery, an act of humanity despite knowing the dangers waiting for them.

*[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

The SPEAKER: I will now afford the opportunity to hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could include Motions without Notice that were not approved by the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members, you are reminded that 30 minutes are allocated as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d), and the 30 minutes will start as soon as I get the list of the order. Thank you very much, the 30 minutes will start now and I recognise hon member Adams.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the historical, cultural and ancestral significance of Knoflokskraal to the Khoi community; further notes the need to preserve indigenous heritage, social stability, lawful governance and human dignity in the settlement; and therefore calls on the Western Cape Government, together with the relevant stakeholders and community representatives, to explore the establishment of a lawful community trust or similar entity for Knoflokskraal in order to protect the ancestral and cultural rights of the Khoi community, to recognise and respect Khoi customary laws and traditions in line with the Constitution, to promote peace, lawful governance and social order in the community, and to prevent arbitrary evictions or displacement while meaningful engagement processes are underway. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon member Masipa. [Interjections.] Order, hon

members. Hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, thank you. I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the City of Cape Town and Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis on the official opening of the Masiphumelele Gateway Market on Monday, 5 May 2026; notes that this R20 million investment provides 57 informal traders with a safe, modern and dignified trading environment, moving them from outdoor conditions into a facility equipped with kiosks, food preparation areas, seating and parking; commends the City's commitment to fostering the township economy by including large kiosks specifically designed for light manufacturing, allowing small businesses in the Masiphumelele, Kommetjie and Ocean View areas to scale their operations; acknowledges that this development comes at a vital time as winter breaks, offering protection from the elements and restoring dignity to both traders and customers who previously operated in muddy and undignified conditions; celebrates this project as a benchmark for urban renewal and economic growth; and resolves to continue supporting initiatives that provide local entrepreneurs with the infrastructure they need to build sustainable livelihoods and to contribute to the provincial economy. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any objections

to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon member Masipa. [Interjections.] Hon member Masipa, your next motion. [Interjections.] Order. Hon member Masipa, you may continue.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, protect me from the [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: You are protected. I can only protect you if you sit down, but you were standing up, so can you continue. [Interjections.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Alderman James Vos and the Council of the City of Cape Town on the landmark approval of 693 new informal trading opportunities across the metropolitan area at a single meeting; notes that this unprecedented achievement represents a significant advancement in strengthening Cape Town's public trading ecosystem, providing essential pathways for economic participation and entrepreneurship for hundreds of small business owners; commends Alderman Vos's proactive initiative to modernise the City's informal trading policies, aiming to ensure that trading spaces are not only safer and better managed, but also provide the dignity

and infrastructure necessary for traders to support their families and grow their enterprises; and acknowledges the crucial role of the informal sector in driving inclusive economic growth, in creating local jobs and in serving as a foundational pillar for businesses that contribute to the broader South African supply chain. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon Prof Mbombo. [Interjections.] Order! Prof Mbombo. [Interjections.] Prof Mbombo? I move on to hon member Wessels. [Interjections.]

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

That the House notes the extensive damage sustained by the Michell's Pass near Ceres during the recent flood events; further notes the swift response by the infrastructure teams, which restored access to the route within three

days despite the challenging conditions; and acknowledges the ongoing efforts to rebuild and strengthen the road infrastructure to improve resilience against future extreme weather events and ensure the continued safety of road users. Thank you very much.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Wessels. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon member Masipa.  
[Interjections.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House recognises the Democratic Alliance on its historic victory in Ward 28 in Emfuleni, Gauteng; [Interjections.] notes that this was a ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA):

...100% township ward where conventional political wisdom claimed the DA could never win; yet through consistent community engagement, principled leadership and tireless activism, the DA grew from a 1,2% support base in 2004 to a victory in 2026 with 32,4% of the vote; further notes the dramatic decline of the ANC in the ward, from more than 90% support in the early 2000s to only 32,1% today, reflecting the growing rejection by residents of corruption, collapsing service delivery, unemployment, sewage spillage, broken infrastructure and failed governance in Emfuleni; acknowledges that this victory demonstrates that South Africans, regardless of race, geography or historical voting patterns, are increasingly choosing a government that works, delivers services, creates opportunities, protect taxpayers' money and respects the dignity of communities, and that government is of the Democratic Alliance. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Masipa. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Yes! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon member Van Minnen. [Interjections.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you very much. I move without notice:

That the House notes that an oversight visit to Lwandle Police Station on 2 June 2026 revealed the severe impact of the South African Police Service's resource constraints on effective service delivery; further notes with concern that station management reported five murders over a single weekend, underscoring the intensity of violent crime in the area; recognises that the policing burden in the Lwandle precinct far exceeds available resources, with a SAPS visible policing-to-population ratio of approximately one officer to 926 residents in an area characterised by high levels of violent crime, including murder, robbery, drug-related offences and gender-based violence; is further concerned that Lwandle Police Station currently has only 17 detectives, each carrying an average caseload of 141 cases, severely impacting investigative capacity and case outcomes; therefore calls on the South African Police Service and the National Government to urgently upgrade Lwandle Police Station to a full Colonel-level station, allocate additional personnel and vehicles, and prioritise the construction of a properly resourced and fully functional police station building for the province. I thank you.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise hon member Kaizer-Philander. [Interjections.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the critical role played by the Social Development sector in supporting vulnerable children, older persons, persons with disabilities, victims of gender-based violence and families in distress; further notes that millions of South Africans depend on social grants and social welfare services for their daily survival and well-being; acknowledges the dedication of social workers, non-profit organisations and Government officials who continue to deliver these services despite ongoing challenges; and calls for the urgent appointment of a permanent National Minister of Social Development to provide leadership, oversight and accountability in a sector that is fundamental to protecting the most vulnerable members of society. I so move, thank you, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Kaizer-Philander. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the severe weather conditions that have affected the George Municipality area over the past two days, resulting in flooding, road closures, electricity supply interruptions and disruption to municipality services in George, Wildernis, Hoekwil and Uniondale; further notes the efforts of municipal officials, emergency services, infrastructure teams and disaster management personnel to respond to these challenges and support affected communities, and encourages residents to continue adhering to safety advisories, avoid flooded areas and remain vigilant while adverse weather conditions persist. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order! Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being without notice? No objections, agreed to. I move on to hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the decision by the Western Cape Education

Department to close all public ordinary and special needs schools in the Eden and Central Karoo Education District on 3 and 4 June 2026 due to severe weather warnings and the risk posed by heavy rainfall; further notes that this decision was taken in consultation with the Provincial Disaster Management Centre and in the interest of learner and teacher safety; further acknowledges the proactive communication to affected schools and parents, and welcomes the commitment to continuously monitor conditions and reopen schools on 5 June 2026 where it is safe to do so. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. Hon members, before I move on, can I please pause the clock. The previous motion, hon member Masipa, as delivered by you and as a decision of the House was taken on that motion. I will revert back to the House with regards to the motion because I am still needing to be informed if that motion was indeed submitted for being moved in this sitting. So I will come back the House with regards to that. I recognise hon member Kaizer-Philander.  
[Interjections.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes that June is observed as Youth Month, a time to reflect on the aspirations and challenges facing young people in our country; further notes that many young people transitioning from foster care, child and youth care centres, and alternative care arrangements face significant barriers to further education, employment and independent living; recognises the work of the Western Cape Department of Social Development and its partners in supporting vulnerable youth through developmental and empowerment programmes; and calls on all spheres of government, the private sector and civil society to strengthen opportunities that enable young people leaving care to build sustainable and independent futures. I so move, thank you, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon Prof Mbombo.

An HON MEMBER: Absent.

The SPEAKER: I move on to hon member Bryant. [Interjections.]

Mr D BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, can I ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Yes, you may continue.

Mr D BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the participation of 48 learners from the City of Cape Town's Junior River Wardens Programme in a marine conservation and environmental education initiative ahead of World Ocean Day on 8 June 2026; further notes that learners from Red River, Floreat and Ysterplaat Primary Schools worked alongside environmental organisations and City officials to learn about marine ecosystems, shark conservation and ocean stewardship before participating in a beach clean-up; and acknowledges their contribution in removing more than 112 kilograms of litter from Lagoon Beach, helping to protect marine life and promote environmental responsibility among young people. I hereby move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the severe weather conditions and flooding experienced across the Western Cape between 10 and 13 May 2026, which disrupted operations at several SASSA offices and service points; further notes that despite infrastructure damage, power outages and temporary relocations, contingency measures enabled essential social assistance services to continue and grant payment cycles remained unaffected; acknowledges the efforts of SASSA officials and frontline personnel who continue to support vulnerable beneficiaries and provide emergency humanitarian relief under difficult circumstances; and recognises that as adverse weather events become increasingly frequent, it is now more important than ever that disaster preparedness and relief plans include measures to ensure the continued payment of grants and uninterrupted access to social assistance services for vulnerable residents who depend on this support for their livelihood and dignity. I so move, thank you, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon member Johnson.  
[Interjections.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes that Zayaan Abdurahman, a Grade 11 learner from Mondale High School in Mitchells Plain, has been selected as one of only eight South African learners to participate in the International Space Settlement Design Competition and visit NASA's Kennedy Space Center in July 2026; further notes that her selection followed participation in the South African Space Design Competition, which challenges learners to apply science, technology, engineering and mathematic skills to real-world problems; and recognises the importance of providing learners with opportunities to excel in STEM fields, fostering innovation, critical thinking and future skills development in the Western Cape. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Johnson. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the City of Cape Town's ongoing winter readiness programme, which includes an investment of more than R85 million in critical flood mitigation projects across the metro; further notes the work being undertaken to clear canals, rivers and stormwater infrastructure, remove litter and invasive vegetation, and improve drainage systems ahead of the peak winter rainfall season; and recognises the importance of both infrastructure maintenance and responsible waste disposal in reducing flood risks, protecting communities and improving environmental outcomes. I hereby move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: I object. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon member Mbombo. [Interjections.] I recognise hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the ongoing admissions process for the 2027 academic year in the Western Cape, following the release of placement outcomes for on-time applications for Grade R, Grade 1 and Grade 8 learners; further notes that parents and guardians have until 15 June 2026 to confirm placement offers, which will release thousands of additional school places for learners still awaiting placement; and acknowledges the importance of timely confirmations and constructive engagement to support the successful placement of every learner and uphold every child's right to basic education. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Johnson. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Especially based on what we saw in today's news.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection – there is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members, order! There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. There is no need to debate it now, you will have an opportunity to do so. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! I recognise hon member Bryant.

[Interjections.] Order! [Interjections.]

Hon – order! Hon members, you will have an opportunity to debate these motions that you do not agree with. [Interjections.] Hon member Bryant, my apologies, you may continue.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank – what is that?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Sorry.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, there is a member on the floor.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The hon member said he wants to go first.

An HON MEMBER: When?

An HON MEMBER: When?

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister – [Interjections.] order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon – no, no, hon members. Hon Minister, that is not a point of order. Hon member Bryant, you may continue.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes the grant funding awarded by the City of Cape Town to the Greater Tygerberg Partnership to support the restoration of the Elsieskraal River and the surrounding wetland areas in Elizabeth Park in Bellville; further notes that the project will include the planting of indigenous vegetation, community clean-up initiatives and environmental education programmes aimed at improving water quality and restoring biodiversity; and recognises the value of partnerships between communities, civil society and Local Government in protecting and rehabilitating urban waterways for the benefit of both current and future generations. I hereby move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bryant. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise hon member Ngqentsu. [Interjections.] Order, hon

members! [Interjections.] Hon members, order!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, before you continue. Hon members, there is a member on the floor. You do not need to debate the objection now. I have previously indicated you will have an opportunity to debate it in the House during a full debate. [Interjections.] Hon member Ngqentsu, my apologies, you may continue.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House condemns in the strongest possible terms the continued targeting of Cuba and former President Raul Castro Ruz by the United States-led Western imperialist forces, whose objective has been to undermine Cuba's sovereign right to determine its own political, economic and social system; denounces the United States-led economic blockade against Cuba, which for more than six decades has imposed severe hardships on the Cuban people, restricted the country's access to international markets, finance and essential goods, and constitutes a violation of Cuba's sovereignty and right to self-determination; notes that Raul Castro Ruz became a target of imperialist hostility because he refused to reverse the gains of the Cuban Revolution, refused to restore capitalism and instead committed himself to maintaining, defending and

further perfecting the socialist project in Cuba; recognises that despite enduring economic sanctions, political pressure and sustained efforts at regime change, the Cuban people have continued to defend their revolution and pursue a development path centred on social justice, equality and human dignity; acknowledges Cuba's historic contributions to humanity through its internationalist programmes in healthcare, education, disaster relief and solidarity with liberation movements and developing nations, including those on the African continent; reaffirms solidarity with the people of Cuba in their struggle against imperialist aggression, economic coercion and external interference; calls on this House, civil society organisations and the broader public to provide material support to the people of Cuba, including donations of imperishable food items, medical supplies and other essential goods, as a practical expression of international solidarity; notes that Cuba remains one of the few countries in the world where access to essential services such as healthcare and education is guaranteed as a social right rather than treated as a commodity for profit; accordingly pledges its unwavering solidarity with the people of Cuba, calls for the immediate and unconditional lifting of the economic blockade, and rejects all attempts to undermine Cuba's sovereignty, independence and socialist development. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there

any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Once they have elections, we can consider a motion like that. We object.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, Walters, that is unparliamentary what you just did. I did not recognise you. I have put to the House ...[Interjections.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Apologies, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I have put to the House [Interjections.] – hon members, I have put to the House the motion. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House condemns the reckless conduct of the Chairperson of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee for Police, hon member Ian Cameron, for his repeated habit of taking sensitive police and security

matters into the public domain, in a manner that risks undermining the operational effectiveness ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC):

...of law enforcement agencies.

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC):

Acknowledges that ...[interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Ngqentsu, the same as I have ruled with hon member Masipa, that has not been submitted, the motion in that sequence, so I am not going to allow that motion to continue.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Motions without Notice and that also concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all hon members will be exited from the sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:00.