
THURSDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2025

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 Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. [Interjection] Order members! I would like to remind all hon members that our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate hybrid Sittings as we are having today, with members having the same privileges within this particular Chamber and online.

I would also want to take this opportunity to welcome guests that are in the gallery. Thank you so much for your attendance here today, and also to each and every person that is watching on the YouTube channel. Members, we will proceed with the business of the House and I now recognise the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I give notice and move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 21, that precedence be given to the Subject for Discussion in my name. I so move.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Chief Whip. We will now deal with the Subject for Discussion in the name of the hon Bosman, but let me first check if there are any objections to the Motion being moved?

There are no objections. Agreed to.

I now recognise the hon Chief Whip.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Mr G Bosman: Condemning the recent surge in shootings in the Western Cape and holding the South African Police Service and the Parole Board accountable for failing to protect citizens.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you once again, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy

Speaker, across the Western Cape families are living through a nightmare. In just one month, August, more than 30 murders were reported in our province. These include mass murders, mass shootings that took place in Delft, Gugulethu, Muizenberg and Eersterivier. These numbers are not statistics, they are parents, sons, daughters, neighbours and breadwinners, and behind each shooting lies the same question: “Where is the State when people need protection?”

Two institutions carry direct responsibility – the South African Police Service and the Parole Board. The South African Police Service is meant to prevent and investigate crime to protect the vulnerable and secure convictions. Yet the Western Cape sees SAPS that is barely operational. There are only 12 908 active officers across the province with an average vacancy rate of 12,39%. In precincts like Diep River, staffing shortages reach over 40%. How can officers investigate cases, dismantle gangs and secure convictions when entire stations are crippled by vacancies and under resourced.

The Parole Board is entrusted with ensuring that those released from prison do not endanger society. Yet, since 2023, thousands of parolees have been released into our communities, over 3 000 in a single year, with hundreds through blanket remissions granted by our State President. On the Cape Flats alone nearly 2 400 parolees re-entered between February 2024 and February 2025. Too many of them are returning to their old networks of violence and gangsterism, fuelling the very shootings that we now condemn.

This is not rehabilitation, hon Deputy Speaker; it is recycling crime back into our communities. The truth is very stark. The South African Police Service and the Parole Board are failing in their mandates. The one cannot prevent crime without sufficient officers and sufficient resources and the investigative capacity to do their job; the other cannot claim to protect society when it releases high risk offenders into communities already so under siege.

That is why the approach must change –

- The South African Police Service must urgently fix the staffing shortages.
- They must restore the investigative capacity within the Police Service.
- They must allocate the necessary resources to the hotspots where crime is at its worst.

The Parole Board on the other hand –

- They must strengthen the risk assessments that they do.
- They must improve the monitoring of parolees, and
- They must place community safety at the centre of every decision.

The people of the Western Cape are not asking for miracles, they are demanding that institutions tasked with their safety do their jobs. Until the South African Police Service and the Parole Board drastically change course, communities will remain trapped in a cycle of violence, fear and grief.

Therefore I table the Subject for Discussion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, today's speech is direct – “Do not shift the blame, you DA, you are complicit on the surge of violent crime in the Western Cape.” Let me start off by commending the Police for their courage at work in discovering about 19 firearms and over 1 500 rounds of live ammunition in Mitchells Plain. The operation itself suggests that if the Police were to be properly resourced and intelligence capacity stabilised, success rate would be high and criminals would be in prison.

But hon Deputy Speaker let us not fool ourselves. The sheer number of weapons uncovered is enough evidence that gangs and criminal networks in Cape Town, [Inaudible 0:09:10] under the wards of the DA-led Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town. You are complicit.

Hon Deputy Speaker, even the framing of today's debate exposes that complicity. What kind of Government that caused a debate not confronts its own failures, but to lament the crimes as if it were a natural disaster. What kind of leadership is it that blames the Police and Correctional Services instead of taking responsibility? A weak government, a liberal government, a DA Government...

Hon Deputy Speaker, in August 2024 the DA-led Provincial Government, City of Cape Town, signed a cooperation agreement with the South African Police Service, yet hypocritical, instead of reporting back to this Parliament on the progress of that agreement, you choose to launch a public bashing of the police. You are exposed.

What we are really dealing with here is not shootings, those are bad consequences. Shootings in Cape Town are consequences of two crisis's – the chronic underdevelopment that suffocates our communities on the one hand and the deliberate destabilisation of police intelligence on the other hand. To reduce this debate to shootings alone, as the DA has done, is to expose the low intellectual capacity of those who frame it. It shows a government incapable of connecting causes to consequences, and therefore incapable of solving the crisis. People of the Western Cape, you are on your own.

Hon Deputy Speaker, also it is evident that the DA is allergic to responsibility; they refuse to admit their role in the economic crisis of underdevelopment in Cape Town. In Cape Town the youth are unemployed, have loss of opportunities, are denied sporting and recreation facilities. When you deny young people hope you drive them straight into the hands of the gangs. That is the DA legacy.

The DA Government refuses to admit that they have no plans to address another feature of [Inaudible 0:11:11] develop the squatter camps that are found across. Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA's allergy to responsibility is plain

to see in the current crisis plaguing the minibus industry with the fight between CATA and CODETA, instead of intervening and resolving, you run to Court, you run to the lawyers.

Let us talk about the DA's so-called Safety Plan, a billion-rand white elephant. They brag about cameras and eyes in the sky, but the truth is damning. Out of 3 297 cameras, 1 530 are not monitored, over 1 700 monitored cameras, there is no evidence that they aided a successful investigation, only in the elite suburbs of Cape Town.

Hon Deputy Speaker, while the DA is quick to point fingers at National Government, they remain silent about their own mess. Where are the 31 firearms that disappeared after [Inaudible 0:12:05] in the City and other local municipalities. These guns are out there in the hands of criminals because of the DA. That is not my claim, hon Deputy Speaker, that is recorded in the October 2022 Audit of Firearms Compliance, yet the [Inaudible 0:12:21] media looks away, that is pure complicity.

The ANC as the leader of society knows what responsibility means. For that we accept that destabilisation of the intelligence in the country and the province in particular is in part responsible for the proliferation of firearms and the disposal of drugs. It is against this background that we call on the National Commission to [Inaudible 0:12:41] the Police Intelligence and urgently appoint a permanent Police Head of Intelligence. Without the Police Intelligence, the police is blind. Without accountability the DA's Safety Plan

is a scam.

Further, hon Deputy Speaker, we note the Report of [Inaudible 0:12:55] regarding inmates and we are saying that “everything wrong must be fixed.” Our thesis as the ANC is simple and undeniable, the destabilisation of Police Intelligence on the one hand, and the DA’s failure to confront the chronic crisis of under development on the other, are directly responsible for the surge in violent crime in this province. The Safety Plan must stop being a liberal slogan and become a real programme to complement the South African Police Service.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it is evident that the DA is not the solution to crime; instead, it is part of the problem. The majority of people in the working class, the crime taking place is not happening where the elite on that side lives, it happens in Mitchells Plain, in Hanover Park, in Khayelitsha, where you do not deploy resources. Where we stand, address the crisis of chronic underdevelopment, build houses, and ensure that there are no potholes where the workers and the poor people live. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, can you please take your seat. There is a point of order, I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is not a point of order, I like to know if the hon member is prepared to take a question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, you have 1 minute and 29 seconds, are you willing to take a question?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I will take it when we are outside [Inaudible 0:14:19] [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip, the hon Member is not prepared to take a question. I now recognise the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, the Chief Whip stood up before he was recognised. That is out of order, you cannot stand up here, and we have Rules in this House. You do not stand up when you are not being recognised, you first put up your hand, then when you are recognised you stand up. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I recognise the hon Premier. I will come back [Interjection]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, on a point of order, what was being raised by the Leader of the Official Opposition does

not apply to our Parliament. He is obviously a “Johnny-come-lately”, that is how you ask the Chair to recognise you, you stand up. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjection] Hon members! [Interjection] Is it a different point of order? Hon members! [Interjection] I see, I recognise the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Chair, amidst the Premier's sense of ageism and wanting to undermine people because they are young, I understand that, hence he does not care about young people who are killing, who are being killed as a result of crime, but let me say, I am calling a point of order on the Premier. I am calling a point of order on the Premier. You rule, hon Deputy Speaker, you rule on the matter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not rule yet.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Then the Premier comes up and comes with his own ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not rule on the matter yet. Hon members! [Interjection] Hon members, I would not want to not take [Interjection] Hon members, order! [Interjection] Hon members, I am close to naming members. [Interjection] Hon members, I am close to naming members! [Interjection] Hon members! [Interjection] The debate is of significance, not only to members in this House but also to the public. I am going to recognise the hon

Minister Wenger and I will then rule afterwards. I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Given the gravity of the debate and in general, if memory serves, there is a Rule that prevents hon members from raising frivolous points of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, in June last year I was duly elected to be the Deputy Speaker. I have full confidence, not only in my own ability but also the support that I have got from this particular House. I will trust that hon members of this House will keep the decorum of the House. Like I have indicated that this is a serious debate because we are talking about people's lives.

So, we will proceed with the hon Ngqentsu, and I want to say before you take the podium again, I was very close to actually asking the hon Ngqentsu to take his seat, but I did not want to interrupt him, because it was becoming extremely rowdy within the Chamber. I would want those that are participating online to also be able to hear every word. So please, hon members, there is a mom, there is a grandmother, there is a father potentially listening to us now, and those persons want to hear what elected members of Parliament have to say. Hon Ngqentsu, you may proceed.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much. It is not a surprise that those who are disrupting and heckling are the historic privileged and they

continue to be privileged even today, and the same individual have no experience, actually they do not relate with what we are dealing with, because the point is the police calling to carry out weekend in weekend out, actually picked out in the working class townships, not where the historic privileged reside today, and that is to them, this debate is nothing but a joke.

Also they seek to hide their propaganda of the so-called Safety Plan, that there is nothing in it, because our people continue to die, yet we are told, and also that this side of the House also is betraying or betray the Cooperative Agreement, and that in itself exposes the hypocrisy the DA has, and I must say that how this debate was framed also exposes the low level intellectual capacity and that these ones cannot connect the cause and the consequences. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will proceed to the online platform. I recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Patriotic Alliance stands in agreement with this House that the surge of shootings in our province is out of control. Our communities are literally bleeding. Families are burying their loved ones every week and our social media timelines are filled with “Rest in peace.”

The truth is, hon Deputy Speaker, South Africans and the residents of the Western Cape, in Cape Town in particular, are tired of empty promises and

lack of accountability, but while it is easy to point fingers only at SAPS and the Parole Board, we cannot ignore the reality right here at home.

The DA governs this province. The DA governs the City of Cape Town and it is here, under their watch, where we are losing lives daily on our very own doorstep. We hear constant boasting from Alderman J P Smith about the upgrading of Law Enforcement resources, new vehicles, more officers, advanced technology, but they are asked today, where are those resources when Hanover Park, Kraaifontein, Delft, Kalkfontein, Nyanga, Mitchells Plain, Elsies River, Fisantekraal, Bishop Lavis, and many other areas are crying out for help. Who are these resources really for, for all the citizens of Cape Town or just for a privileged few?

On 23 August when the Springboks played against the Wallabies at Cape Town Stadium, Law Enforcement visibility was everywhere, on every corner, every street, every entrance, the City showed us what it can do when it chooses to. So, I ask, why can't the same energy, the same commitment not be deployed to the Cape Flats, where people fear leaving their homes. Are we not good enough? Are our people not worth the same protection?

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance says this, "shifting the bucket is not the answer", SAPS and the Parole Board must take responsibility for their failures, yes, but the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town cannot escape accountability. You govern here, you hold the power here, and therefore you too must answer for the lives being lost here. The time for

politicking is over.

The blood of our people cannot be used as a weapon in party battles. We need urgent, coordinated and committed action from National, Provincial and Local Government to protect our communities. Because until then, hon Deputy Speaker, the only truth that we are left with is this – Cape Town Stadium can be saved but our streets remain warzones. Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not need, as Ms Stephens, be a part of these war zones every day. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stephens. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Agb Adjunkspeaker, vandag staan ek voor u nie net met statistiek nie, maar die harde realiteit dat tussen 2022 en 2024 daar 557 kinders vermoor is in die Wes-Kaap. 557. Dit is 557 wie se toekoms van hulle ontnem is en drome weg is. In die laaste vyf maande is daar 63 kinders vermoor, baie in areas waar bende-oorloë woed.

Hierdie moorde is nie willekeurig nie, dit is simptome van 'n samelewing in diep krisis. Gemeenskappe wie gyselaar gehou word deur kriminele netwerke waar ons kinders nie meer veilig is om te speel, te leer of te droom nie. Agb Adjunkspeaker, die inpak van hierdie geweld strek oor generasies. Kinders word groot in 'n bloedbad waar hulle nie net vriende, broers en susters verloor nie, maar wie hulle kinderjare verloor, hulle vertrouwe in volwassenes

verloor, en hoop in die toekoms verloor.

Wanneer 'n 10-jarige 'n teiken word, 'n 14-jarige bloot toevallig 'n slagoffer in 'n bende-oorlogsgebied is, is dit nie net 'n persoonlike tragedie nie, dit is 'n nasionale krisis. Gemeenskappe knak onder die gewig van vrees, skole word slagvelde en huise word tronke. Geweld breek nie net individue nie maar die siel van gemeenskappe. Geweld vloei uit die krake van 'n gebroke stelsel.

Ons moet duidelik wees, geen enkele instelling kan hierdie probleem op hulle eie oplos nie. Hierdie krisis vereis gedeelde verantwoordelikheid van die Regering, burgerlike samelewing, gemeenskappe, skole, godsdiensteleiers, elkeen van ons. Ons het hervorming nodig in hoe ons polisieer, hoe ons rehabiliteer, hoe ons onderrig en hoe ons die mees kwesbares beskerm.

Veiligheid, agb Adjunkspeaker, is 'n reg, maar daardie reg word daaglik geminag deur die instellings wie se taak dit is om ons te beskerm. Die SAPD misluk, ondersoek sloer, skuldigbevindings vat jare, en gemeenskappe verloor vertroue. Die Paroolraad laat herhaalde oortreders vry in woonbuurte wat hulle eens op 'n tyd geterroriseer en getraumatiseer het sonder enige ondersteuning, toesig of verantwoordbaarheid.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, wanneer die strafregstelsel swak is, is bende sterker. Wanneer instellings misluk, word bendeleiers rolmodelle. Ons moet die SAPD en die Paroolraad verantwoordelik hou vir hulle grondwetlike pligte, of ons gaan elke dag by die grafte van ons kinders staan. Ons jong manne

raak verlore aan bendes, dwelms en geweld, nie omdat hulle geweldig gebore is nie, maar omdat ons 'n wêreld geskep het waar geweld hulle enigste pad na mag, identiteit of oorlewing is, en ons moet hulle terugwen. Die dodetal is nie net data nie, dit is 'n daaglikse tragedie en dit vra vir aksie.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, laat ek duidelik wees vandag. As daar vandag in hierdie Huis 'n party sit wat nog steeds glo dat die polisiemag nie aan die Provinsie behoort oorgedra te word nie, dan dra hulle saam bloed op hulle hande, want hulle weiering hou lewensgevaarlike gevolg vir ons kinders in. Agb Adjunkspeaker, elke kind wat ons verloor is 'n toekoms wat ons nooit weer sal terugkry nie. Ek dank u, agb Adjunkspeaker.

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today I stand before you not only with statistics, but the hard reality that between 2022 and 2024, 557 children had been murdered in the Western Cape. 557. It is 557 whose future has been taken away from them and their dreams are gone. In the last five months, 63 children were murdered, many children in areas where gang wars are fought.

These murders are not just random, they are symptoms of a society in deep crisis. Communities held hostage by criminal networks where our children are no longer safe to play, learn or dream. Hon Deputy Speaker, the impact of this violence stretches across generations. Children grow up in a bloodbath where they not only lose friends, brothers and sisters, but who lose their years of youth, their confidence in adults, and hope in the future.

When a 10-year-old becomes a target, a 14-year-old is a random victim in a gang war area, it is not only a personal tragedy, it is a national crisis. Communities collapse under the weight of fear, schools become battlefields and houses become prisons. Violence not only breaks individuals but also the soul of communities. Violence flows from the cracks of a broken system.

We have to be clear, no single institution can solve this problem on its own. This crisis requires shared responsibility of the Government, civil society, communities, schools, religious leaders, every one of us. We need reform in how we police, how we rehabilitate, how we educate and how we protect the most vulnerable.

Safety, hon Deputy Speaker, is a right, but that right is daily ignored by the institutions whose duty it is to protect us. The SAPS fails, investigations are delayed, convictions take years, and communities lose trust. The Parole Board releases repeating offenders in neighborhoods that they once terrorized and traumatized without any support, supervision or accountability.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when the legal system is weak, gangs are stronger. When institutions fail, gang leaders become role models. We have to hold the SAPS and the Parole Board accountable for their constitutional duties, or we are going to daily stand by the graves of our children. Our young men are lost to gangs, drugs and violence, not because they were born violent but because we have created a world where violence is the only way to power, identity or survival, and we have to win them back. The death figures are not

just data, it is a daily tragedy and it calls for action.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me be clear today. If today there is a party in this House that still believes that the police force should not be transferred to this Province, then they collectively have blood on their hands, because their refusal has life threatening consequences for our children. Hon Deputy Speaker, every child that is lost is a future that we will never get back again. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. On the hybrid system, I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it was exactly in 2019 after the current Premier had assumed office where he announced that his Provincial Government, led by the DA, will introduce what is termed the Safety Plan. Again, hon Deputy Speaker, the purpose of the Safety Plan we were told was to create safer communities free from fear. It was also supposed to half crime in the province between medium to long term.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what then transpired following these assertions was a total disaster as millions of South African Rands were wasted on a project and endeavour that was not well researched, and since then the murder rate in this province started to increase in proportions we have never experienced before.

In August last year, while the DA was excited to be included in the so-called GNU, the same Premier again created false hope and empty promises and introduced and signed the so-called Western Cape Cooperation Agreement for Safety and Policing with the National Minister of Police at the time, and the State President, which took place in Belhar.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, in framing this question for this debate, the hon Member of the DA should also have featured the failures from his Provincial Government, headed by the Premier and Executive Members from the DA, than to only direct blame to SAPS and the Parole Board.

Hon Deputy Speaker, crime in the Western Cape is remarkably high, it should be declared a Provincial Disaster by the National Government with adequate assistance provided. This is a matter that cannot be solved by SAPS on its own, which itself is in a disaster of its own with institutional weakness and divisions. Hon Deputy Speaker, we no longer even receive quarterly crime statistics on time from SAPS.

Everything is just a disaster with children being introduced into gangsterism at an early age and we are experiencing a growing number of child murders in the province.

We are even at the point where young teenagers between the ages of 15 to 17 are not only active participants in gangsterism, but the rate in which they are

being murdered on a daily basis is also increasing more, especially in townships. Hon Deputy Speaker, these are the same townships where we were told by those that are running this province that there is a plan to identify them as crime hotspots and direct Law Enforcement personnel in those areas with the aim of eradicating crime.

Just yesterday, hon Deputy Speaker, a man was shot and killed in Samantha Street, Montrose Park, bringing the total number of people being shot and killed to six in just the space of three days in the Mitchells Plain area alone.

This past Sunday as well, we also witnessed events of another mass shooting in Kuils River where five people were shot and killed in one go, with the motive for the attack also believed to be gang related. Another thing that makes things worse in the police investigation which leads to [Inaudible 0:29:28] while people continue to die in numbers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have cases investigated without any leads for a prolonged amount of time and ending up being referred to the Cold Case Unit of SAPS knew as a result of failures to make any breakthrough in investigation.

But in conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, blaming one another is not going to reduce crime in this province. We must find a way to work together in tackling this crime, and those running Government should also ask for input from those that are not in Government concerning solutions to this on-going

matter. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus calls for an end to the violence on the Cape Flats. The Western Cape Strategic Plan of 2025 to 2030 states that:

“Safety is a shared responsibility.”

This in which it states that collaboration is important between Government, communities and businesses, but the DA reneged on its responsibility when it rejected the Motion in this House last week which called for joint decisive measures between the Minister of Community Safety and Education to ensure the safety of our matriculants and scholars. This was a slap in the face of communities and innocent children who are living in fear on a daily basis.

Now the DA must answer whether they place a higher value on saving on a budget than saving innocent lives, whereas the purpose of the budget is to save lives and to serve the people.

The ANC must take equal responsibility for the failing of our South African Police, and failing the public. The South African Police have declined into a state of dysfunction in many ways due to political interference and widespread internal corruption. We cannot blame SAPS in isolation of the

ANC, who held power over the Department for over 30 years.

Now the Minister of Correctional Services, Dr Pieter Groenewald of the Freedom Front Plus has called for a review of the Parole Board and the system because of the 36% parolees who are reoffending, and he has denied early parole to many since taking office.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, shootings and violence are symptoms of a deep rooted socio-economic problem, but the Western Cape Government has a duty to fulfil, to play their role in safeguarding our children and innocent lives of the Cape Flats. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Deputy Speaker, over and over again we hear Opposition parties in this House pointing fingers at this Provincial Government for the policing challenges we face in this province. It is about time that those who seek to place blame without taking into consideration what the mandates are at the different levels of government be honest with themselves for a change, and more importantly with the people we serve.

Hon Deputy Speaker, policing under current legislation remains a National competence. It is the South African Police Service that carries the primary

responsibility for policing and crime prevention. The Province does not control the Police Service, National Government does. Yet many Opposition voices in this House seek to ignore this fundamental fact. They distort the truth and create confusion by suggesting that the Province alone is responsible for policing outcomes. This is not only disingenuous but also dangerous. It misleads the public and then takes from the real work that needs to be done.

†Die harde werklikheid is dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens het te min hulpbronne. Sonder die nodige personeel, toerusting en ondersteuning bly selfs die beste polisiëringstrategieë net goeie bedoelings op papier. Dit is 'n wrede ironie. Jy kan 'n perfekte intervensiestrategie beplan, maar as jy nie die kapasiteit het om dit uit te voer nie, is mislukking onvermydelik.

Dit is in hierdie konteks dat ek my opregte waardering uitspreek vir die polisiebeamptes op die grond in hierdie provinsie. Hierdie dapper mans en vroue staan daagliks gevare en uitdagings in die gesig met 'n vlak van toewyding wat ons respek en bewondering verdien. Hulle werk onder geweldige druk, dikwels oorweldig deur die blote omvang van misdaad en die beperkte hulpbronne tot hulle beskikking. Ten spyte van hierdie uitdagings volhard hulle.

[The hard truth is that the South African Police Service has too few resources. Without the necessary personnel, equipment and support even the best policing strategies remain intentions on paper. It is a cruel irony. You can plan a perfect intervention strategy but if you do not have the capacity to

execute it, failure is inevitable.

It is in this context that I express my sincere appreciation for the police officials on the ground in this province. These brave men and women daily face dangers and challenges with a level of commitment that deserves our respect and admiration. They work under intense pressure, often overwhelmed by the sheer extent of crime and the limited resources available to them. In spite of these challenges they persist.]

However, we cannot expect police officers to perform miracles when they are stretched thin. It is at times like these that National Government must step up and frankly they have not done enough. We must be clear, the National Government's failure to adequately resource SAPS, hampers their ability to fight violent and organise crime effectively. As a Province we have no choice but to call this out and demand better.

So, I turn to a matter that is crucial for the future of policing in our province, the devolution of policing powers. Until provinces have the authority, resources and powers to make decisions on policing, we will remain limited in what we can achieve. To truly improve policing, we must have control over how policing is planned, resourced, and executed.

Current legislation and the way policing is managed put us as a province in a difficult position. We are held accountable by our communities for policing outcomes, yet we lack the authority to implement changes effectively.

Disconnect undermines our ability to serve the people properly. We therefore commit to and continue advocacy for the devolution of policing powers.

†Maar terwyl ons wag vir hierdie hervorming staan ons nie ledig nie. Ek wil met hierdie Huis die konkrete stappe deel wat hierdie Provinsiale Regering neem om veiliger gemeenskappe te skep en te verseker. Ons versterk gemeenskapsgebaseerde veiligheidsstrukture soos Buurtwagte, ons gemeenskap in blou en Gemeenskapspolisiëringsforums. Dit is die oë en ore van ons gemeenskappe. Hulle bevorder vertroue, samewerking en waaksaamheid.

Deur opleiding, akkreditasie en die voorsiening van toerusting, bou ons die kapasiteit om misdaad te voorkom en veiligheid te bevorder. Ons benadering erken dat veiligheid nie van bo af afgedwing kan word nie, gemeenskappe moet aktiewe deelnemers aan hulle eie sekuriteit wees. Wanneer bure na mekaar omsien en wanneer wetstoepassingsagentskappe en inwoners hand aan hand werk, word die grondslag vir veilige woonbuurte gelê.

[But while we wait for this reform we are not idle. I want to share with this House the concrete steps this Provincial Government is taking to create and ensure safer communities. We strengthen community based safety structures such as Neighbourhood Watches, our community in blue and Community Policing Forums. It is the eyes and ears of our communities. They promote trust, cooperation and alertness.

Through training, accreditation and the provision of equipment, we build the

capacity to prevent crime and promote safety. Our approach recognises that safety cannot be enforced from the top, communities should be active participants in their own security. Where neighbours look after each other, and when law enforcement agencies and citizens work hand in hand, the basis is laid for safe neighbourhoods.]

Effective law enforcement remains a cornerstone of our strategy. When it became clear that despite numerous calls for increased police resources, National Government was not providing them, we therefore had to innovate; we could simply not sit back and accept that we do not have enough boots on the ground in the face of rising levels of violent crime and murders. We therefore established LEAP to deploy additional boots on the ground in areas most affected by violent crime. We have therefore technically stepped into the space where National Government ought to deliver.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me also address a damaging misconception propagated by some Opposition parties in this House, who wrongly accuse this Government of directing these resources towards affluent areas. They choose to mislead our people to score cheap political points. It is a fact that LEAP officers are deployed in areas most affected by violent crime and murders, such as Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain, Philippi East, Nyanga, Delft and Gugulethu.

LEAP has become an indispensable part of the fight against crime. For example, they form an integral part of Operation Shanela 2 and play a major

role in the lockdown operations that are targeting these gangs in Cape Town. The work they do is making a real difference on the ground.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we acknowledge that our youth are often the most vulnerable to live a gang life and substance abuse. That is why we initiate programmes like Christmas Academy, which equips youth with the life skills, mentorship and pathways to employment. Additionally our Peace Officer and Traffic Warden Training Programme up-skill young people providing them with accredited certificates and valuable workplace experience. This then not only improves their employability but also builds a pipeline of committed individuals who can contribute to community safety.

Furthermore, our department supports the establishment of Community Safety Forums, which bring together SAPS, Correctional Services, Traffic Services, Social Development and other departments, to collectively plan and respond to crime challenges within municipal areas. This integrated approach enhances coordination and accountability across the justice cluster.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me be clear, this Provincial Government is doing everything within its powers and more often beyond, to improve policing outcomes and empowering communities to create safer environments, but the limitations imposed mean we cannot do it alone. We need honest conversations, not political grandstanding. We need National Government to take its responsibilities seriously to provide adequate resources and to devolve power so that provinces can make meaningful changes.

We will continue to innovate, collaborate and invest in community safety initiatives. We will continue to stand with our police officers and our communities, and we will continue to advocate for the devolution of policing powers. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. [Interjection] Order members! I now recognise the hon Galil Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim to everybody. The Western Cape Legislature continues blaming the National Government for its failure to protect citizens, specifically on the Cape Flats and surrounding areas, it is nothing but empty rhetoric. The DA-run Western Cape Legislature does not have the political will to effectively deal with the increasing gang related violence and shootings.

Two weeks ago, the People Against Gangsterism and Drugs, PAGAD, had a mass march in Bonteheuwel, and a heavy police contingency was deployed to the area. Furthermore, we are witnessing that at the frequent demonstrations and pickets by Pro-Palestine supporters there are heavy SAPS presence. The question is, why does the Province give the impression that it does not have the capacity to be more visible in high-risk areas?

Why is the Office of the Western Cape Police Ombudsman, which was established to support the Department's mandate for Police Oversight, not doing its work? The absence or lack of the Police Ombudsman Oversight on how, when and how many police patrols are visible on the Cape Flats and surrounding areas, is questionable. Why the silence from the Police Ombudsman when heavy police presence is deployed at PAGAD marches and Anti-Zionist rallies, but they are not visible in the high-risk areas on a daily basis.

Al Jama-Ah recognises that South Africa's parole system is dysfunctional. Many criminals do not deserve to be released on parole and should rather rot in jail, but we have a situation on the ground which negatively impacts severely on communities. It is clear that the Western Cape Legislature is selective in the deployment of SAPS and not sincere to effectively eradicate gangsterism and other forms of criminal activities in high-risk areas. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. He'll learn it is her room for the court room full of whom are concrete the war the home of them have a breakthrough their community that of the touristic it open to the [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Christians, I see the Leader of the Official Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, just a question. I notice the absence; I do not see hon MEC Meyer here. I would have liked to have seen him for this critical debate [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed [Interjection]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... only attend when he speak [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon members, that is not a point of order, I would want to remind members again that frivolous points of order will not be entertained. Like I have indicated in the beginning, this is an important discussion. I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Cape Flats is under siege and held in a grip of fear. Communities are in a state of alarm at the daily violence. Hon Deputy Speaker, when you look at *Die Burger* today it reads as follows:

“Kaapstad se bendes, 130 mense afgemaai net in een maand.”

And if you look at News24 it says:

“At least 63 children murdered in the Western Cape in five months.”

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, most of these killings are gun-related and the question should be asked where does the arms and ammunition come from? Can you believe it, 19 firearms found in a house in Mitchells Plain, and shockingly 15 000 rounds of ammunition, 15 000, and that is the question, where does it come from? Shockingly you also read in the paper that the robbery occurred at the highly secure Armscor dockyard in Simon Town, and they say, it is alleged that a security guard was involved. Now this is shocking because people are killed on a daily basis and yet firearms are stolen, sometimes from police stations, and that is a major area of concern.

But hon Deputy Speaker let me say that we as the ACDP agree with the devolution of police powers. At the moment the Province has got oversight but not operational, if you do not understand, it is operational powers that the Province is seeking, operational powers. In closing, hon Deputy Speaker, I still believe if we resource our Neighbourhood Watches more, crime will be reduced. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. [Interjection] Hon members, order! [Interjection] Hon members, order! I am trying to ascertain if the commotion is linked to it being spring [Laughter] or if people are just not hearing me clearly. We would want to proceed with the business of the day, and I encourage members to listen attentively so that there can come an opportunity for them to respond accordingly. I now recognise the hon Van

Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Many areas of Cape Town, Manenberg, Hanover Park, Delft, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga, are bleeding. Over 2 000 people have been shot with firearms, province wide since January, averaging nearly 13 victims a day. Children cannot walk safely to school. Mothers and grandmothers patrol the streets in reflective jackets, because they no longer believe that SAPS can protect them, and frankly it cannot.

Just yesterday a naked man managed to grab a gun from an armed SAPS officer outside the High Court, turn off the safety and fire off several shots, right outside our door downstairs, and the takeaway image, if you watch the video, an armed and uniformed SAPS officer running away from the guy along the pavement. Need I really say more about SAPS' preparedness?

SAPS is under-resourced, undertrained and underwhelming, indulging in infighting from political factionalism to the point of insensibility. Detectives are overburdened, forensic backlogs delay justice, and gang task forces are reactive rather than proactive. We have one facility in the country to destroy guns seized from the streets, and convictions for illegal gun crimes remain at 5%, with half of all cases never reaching Court. This is because of bad investigations, insufficient evidence, incomplete dockets, forensic delays, and resource shortages, all of which fall within the exclusive competency of SAPS.

Despite brave officers on the ground, specialised gang units remain chronically underfunded, understaffed, and their vehicles are broken. Firearms flow freely through porous borders, are stolen from Armscor and corrupt supply chains, yet firearm recovery operations are sporadic, and may I remind the House that 1,2 million rounds of ammunition were stolen in 2001 in the riots in KZN. Think how much space 1,2 million rounds equate to?

Police confirmed that since early June there have been over 30 murders in mass shooting incidents across the Cape Flats, but on Monday the Provincial Police Commissioner described the weekend as not having many shootings in Mitchells Plain, whereas at least 12 people were shot dead. That says everything about the uncaring and non-responsive SAPS management, and it is no surprise that community structures across the Cape Flats are calling for his removal.

I wish to also remind the House that in terms of Section 205 of the National Constitution, the mandate of SAPS is to, and I am quoting:

“... prevent, combat and investigate crime to maintain public order, and to uphold and enforce the law.”

And it is time to state that SAPS has comprehensively failed in this mandate.

Equally troubling is the role of our Parole Board. Recent data reveals in areas like Delft and Elsies River over 36% of parolees reoffend, often committing

more violent crimes. Some serve less than half their sentences before release, only to return to the same gang networks that dominate their streets.

Between February 2024 and February 2025, 200 / 395 parolees were released across the Cape Flats, 254 reoffend within a year, which is a 10,6% rate. Our parole system prioritises empty cells over safe communities; it fails to deliver real rehabilitation, with overcrowded prisons offering little more than gang recruitment grounds.

The Western Cape Government has repeatedly called for policing powers to be devolved so that Law Enforcement can operate closer to our communities and can respond more efficiently and effectively. It is further leveraging every other service department to mitigate the impact of crime, but the National Government of the ANC has resisted leaving local communities caught between criminals and an uncaring political bureaucratic class.

Opposition parties repeatedly object to devolution or any initiative by the Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town to reduce crime in the Western Cape; and why hon Deputy Speaker, that is the question. In the face of SAPS failure, why does the Opposition constantly object to measures to reduce crime and to build safety? They do nothing to build SAPS capacity; do not call out the vacancy rate of SAPS personnel, nor the problem of extremely low conviction rates within the criminal justice system.

Why do we hear nothing about any of this from the Opposition, who remain

implacable in their denial and refusal to support the people of the Western Cape to live in a safe environment? Instead, they simply bang on with their usual narrative about blaming everyone but themselves. What is their true agenda? So here is a way forward:

- Devolve policing powers to the Province.
- Give the Western Cape the power to build specialised provincial anti-gang and firearms units with modern technology and intelligence capacity.
- Devolve detective and investigative work, including support and forensics, ballistics and weapons destruction.
- Reform parole with mandatory risk assessments for violent offenders, with no early release for gang affiliated inmates without demonstrable rehabilitation.
- Build community centred safety by expanding violence prevention programmes.

City Ward councillors get a ward allocation of a million rand a year to spend on their wards, this includes installing cameras and support community centred safety initiatives. But ANC councillors do not spend the money on those options, instead choosing projects based on political patronage, as it is these wards that have the highest crime rates. [Interjection.]

† ‘n AGBARE LID: Dit is ‘n skande! [An HON MEMBER: It is a disgrace!]
Dit is ‘n skande. It is terrible, terrible!

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Fix the prisons by breaking gang dominance inside with modern security systems and roll out skills training and education. Currently when prisoners return to Pollsmoor they are not even searched, and we all know that there are many, many incidents of how criminals manage to get things into prison when they are not being searched.

The rise in shootings is not just a crime statistic; it is an indictment of a SAPS system and an ANC obsession with central control that is failing the people of the Western Cape. The Western Cape deserves policing that protects ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude hon member.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you. ... prisons that rehabilitate and parole systems that serve justice, not gangsters. The time for excuses is over, the time for real change is now. Thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government has the mandate and the capacity to change the living conditions that are the root causes of violent crime. This Government must use its powers, mandates and resources more effectively,

instead of dabbling in policing, and then complaining about how poor policing is.

There are good people in every organisation but the recent developments regarding SAPS have shown the level of dysfunction at the heart of policing in South Africa. But our violent crime problem is not as a result of poor policing alone, nor is it as a result of under resourced policing alone. This is because policing alone cannot prevent crime.

The Premier introduced the Western Cape Safety Plan in 2019 as a comprehensive plan to reduce and prevent crime. The crime reduction component was to increase policing resources, the boots on the ground, while the crime prevention component was the favourite buzz phrase, “a whole of society approach”, with every Minister having specific interventions aimed at addressing the root cause of the crime.

Two weeks ago, when I asked the Premier what crime prevention interventions had been implemented, he was unable to answer. He cited examples of what is in the Safety Plan, but he could not say what had actually been done. Had I asked him about the crime reduction programme, the boots on the ground, he would have easily rattled off how many LEAP officers have been deployed. This is because the Safety Plan has prioritised policing over prevention.

This means that this Government has deprioritized investing in the

environmental and socio-economic conditions that are conducive to violent crime. Sadly the emphasis on the boots on the ground has failed to show the results we were promised. Contact and violent crime, including the Plan's own measurement of effectiveness, being the murder rate, has increased since the plan was implemented.

The Premier repeatedly asks us to read independent studies on the effectiveness of the Safety Plan, but the same organisations have more recently published studies that address crime prevention, and they conclude what we keep saying that ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time to conclude, hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you. ... There is a strong association between violence and poverty in areas where incomes are low and unemployment high, levels of violence are also high. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. We remain on the hybrid system, I recognised the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I welcome the ANC Chairperson Comrade J J Tyhaliisu to the House. He is taking the time to show that the lives of the people of the Western Cape matters.

The ANC welcomes this debate but must state that we have repeatedly called

for it, especially after the recent mass murders, only to be ignored. It is only now, because it suits the DA's agenda that it is being held. This Legislature must serve all the people of the Western Cape, not just one party. We must place it on record that parliamentary processes cannot continue to be abused to give one party endless opportunities to sponsor subjects for debate, while other voices are side-lined.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are dealing with a crisis of unprecedented proportions. Between April and August 2025 alone, 63 children were murdered in this province. Let us pause there, 63 young lives gone in just five months. Children as young as 11 to 14 years old shot dead in robberies. Children aged 15 to 17 caught in the crossfire of gang violence. Families destroyed and dreams buried.

That is not the fault of a Parole Board; that is the live reality of communities failed by the Provincial Government that hides behind excuses instead of delivering safety. The DA has perfected the art of shifting goalposts for decades. They have blamed everything and everyone for the flood on our streets, from SAPS, the Parole Board, the National Government, even the Constitution itself. But what they refuse to confront are their own failures. The truth is that the DA has built and sustained a province of inequality, exclusion and neglect.

It must be made clear to everyone that violence and crime are not born in isolation. It grows in conditions of despair, including in informal settlements

without lighting, proper sanitation or safe mobility, hopelessness in crippling unemployment, particularly among young African and Coloured people, with over 360 000 youth, between the ages of 15 and 24 years, not in education, or employment or training. This is a systemic failure of the Provincial Government. These root causes cannot be outsourced to SAPS or the Parole Board; they are a failure of governance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we remember the case of Sinxolo Mafuvuka, brutally murdered while walking to a toilet in Khayelitsha. It was not about parole, that was about spatial apartheid sustained under DA governance, where poor people remains trapped in danger zones with no dignity. Instead of tackling the root causes like poverty, the unemployment, the inequality, they hide behind press conferences, expensive PR stunts and blames. Their heartlessness is plain for all to see, they do not care about the poor. They never have and they never will.

The DA wants to parade itself as the path of safety, yet the so-called Western Cape Safety Plan is nothing but an expensive failure. Billions of rands have been poured into Premier Winde's pet project, money that should have transformed communities, yet murders continue to rise. In fact, the Province promised to cut murders by 50% by 2029, instead we are already on track to bury more children in more families. Premier Winde should not be applauded for the plan, he should be held accountable, if not jailed, for wasting taxpayer's money on this nonsense scheme of his.

The DA pretends to be tough on gangs but let us be clear that this is apartheid 2.0, they sustain that system of division that the National Party once created. Just as the National Party once founded and protected gangs in the Cape Flats to divide and destroy communities, the DA today sustains the same system. It is no coincidence that senior DA leaders, including J P Smith, Malusi Booi, and others, have been linked with gangs. With our Government in bed with criminals there is no more authority to fight crime.

Let us look at the facts from their own records. In just six months, between January and June, there were 2 250 murders in this province, 1 384 was Africans, 884 were Coloureds. That is over 90% of the victims were from Black and Coloured communities. That is not coincidence, it is systematic, it is a political neglect. The DA brags about expensive technology toys [Inaudible 1:01:57] but what is the reality? Teachers in Philippi East need police escort because of gangs [Inaudible 1:02:03] at schools. Children walk to class under [Inaudible 1:02:05] guns. Parents are too terrified to send their kids to school. This is not a safe province. This is a war zone for the poor while the wealthy hide behind their gates.

Public healthcare bears the brutal cost of this violence. The majority of victims end up in our hospitals where treating gunshots wounds are incredibly expensive. But instead of helping to heal the situation the Premier and his Administration are wasting public resources to challenge the National Health Insurance in the Constitutional Court. They are actually blocking universal health coverage for all. The ANC caucus strongly condemns this

shameful action by the DA Provincial Government that just turns its back on the people.

The ANC welcomes the responsiveness of the Acting Minister of Police who will visit the province next week for assessment. Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA arrogance is met only by their stupidity, they laugh while our children die, too blind by their own ignorance in the crisis; they done their heads focussed on politicking instead of solutions.

The ANC however stands with the people. We will never stop fighting for the safety and dignity of our communities. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. I now recognise the Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to all the members who have taken part in this debate. I listened very carefully and quite frankly if we need to couch this, I mean we are talking about parole here, but everybody spoke about the big elephant in the room, and that is murders in our country.

We have 27 000 murders in our country every single year, 27 000. There are 22 500 in the other provinces. There are 4,5 000 in this province. That is totally unacceptable.

The system of policing, the system of the criminal justice process into our courts, the conviction rates, the paroles, all of those statistics are horrendous, it is terrible. We have to do something else. We have to do something different. We cannot keep doing the same thing over and over again. I hear some of the speakers saying we have got to work together and then we are not going to work together. But we have to find a way.

You know when you walk on the streets, this last Friday I joined the Minister and a whole lot of Neighbourhood Watch citizens in Atlantis and we walked into the night in Atlantis in different wards with different Neighbourhood Watches, and at the end of the day the citizens say the same thing, † “Genoeg is genoeg, ons kan nie meer nie.” [Enough is enough, we cannot take any more.] You know they have had enough of the gangsters, they have had enough of the crime, they have had – “Please help us, do something.”

I am going to talk to the numbers shortly, of officers and who is responsible for what, and the comments I hear about the Safety Plan. But you know, hon Deputy Speaker, if we are to stop the criminals who bring so much death and misery to our communities, we have to work together.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, are you able to take your seat. Hon Sayed, this is a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, is the

Premier prepared to take a question on the reasons for having removed you as the MEC for Community Safety, given that we have got this dire consequence? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier? The Premier is not prepared to take your question. Please proceed.

The PREMIER: But I can say if you look at this debate, somebody from outside listens to that frivolous idiotic question that he just asked, it just shows that people are not prepared to talk ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable ... [Interjection]

The PREMIER: ... about the high levels of crime that we had in this province. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable [Interjection] Hon members, this is the final speaker, this is the final speaker for this important debate. This is a political debate. This is a political debate, I take your concerns, I take the concerns that you raise... So let me – hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I do not think that in this House you can allow white [Inaudible 1:06:56] and therefore for that the Premier has to withdraw. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjection] Hon members, I will remind members if there is any particular matter, members are allowed to bring a substantive motion in that regard. I will recognise the Premier, 5 minutes and 54 seconds remaining of this vital debate. Hon Premier, please proceed.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I wanted them to replace [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not recognised the Minister, I have seen the Premier. Hon Premier, please proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I also want to say that last week when we were in the debate I mentioned that I had messaged the new Minister of Police and I actually had a conversation with him last Thursday night, and I am very happy to announce that next Thursday at 14:00 I will be meeting with the Minister, and we will be talking about exactly these issues, because we have to work together. If we do not work together and bring about different ways of doing things, we will not get results.

But you know what, hon Deputy Speaker, the problem is no one listens to the facts. The facts are that the budget for SAPS over the last years has only increased by 3,1%, that is below inflation rate. Now the City of Cape Town has had to catch up and try and defend and cover. Their budget for Law

Enforcement has increased by 34%, 34%. You know I want to say that we have heard the numbers now, the real crisis in our province is the vacancy rates in SAPS, the number of deployed officers that are on the ground.

Also, he says also in our Government, there are 12 900 police officers on the ground in this province, 12 900, 12 900. There were 20 000 six years ago, almost double, and we should have three times that on the ground if we are serious about fighting crime, and we cannot deploy, we cannot deploy.

Go and have a look at the crime hotspots and where the deployment takes place. They have got less police officers deployed. We cannot make that decision. I would make it today, but we cannot make that decision. It is made by the police who is run by the ANC, and we need to change that. We need to change that.

You know if I look at parolees and talk to the citizens, if I listen to what is being said here, parolees is a massive issue and look at the number of criminal activities and murders that take place where parolees are involved. You know that is a simple thing to sort out, put a tracker on that parolee for their parole period.

You know at home, my wife has got a tracker on our cat. You can track each other on your phone. But we cannot track a parolee and they rape again. They rape again. They murder again. Track these parolees, and of course let the victims know, let the victims know that those parolees are out again, because

those victims become victims again. It is totally unacceptable. The hon Ngqentsu spoke about the MOU. He is obviously not ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, hon Premier, please take your seat. Chief Whip, please take your seat. [Interjection] Hon members! [Interjection] Hon members, you are drowning out the speaker, you are drowning out the speaker! There is shouting, there is finger pointing. [Interjection] No, hon Ngqentsu! The Premier is going to proceed. [Interjection] Hon members, we need to maintain the decorum of the House. There are persons in the gallery as well as those watching online. I see the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. The hon Ngqentsu when he spoke, he spoke about ... [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Before you take your point of order, hon members, I want to caution members, that if any particular member is going to be rowdy, I will name you. I am looking that side as well, I will name members, and I will make a determination that if it comes to number two and three, I will ask that you leave the Chamber. I am also not going to entertain frivolous points of orders. Having said that, I would not want to influence what the hon member Sayed is about to say, so I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yeah please, I know you better and I respect you, the work you did as an MEC was much better than

what we are seeing now. But let me say, is it parliamentary for the Premier to compare human beings who are being butchered to cats, to animals. I mean really that is not parliamentary. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed! Hon Sayed! [Interjection] Hon Sayed and hon members, we will proceed. [Interjection] We will proceed with the debate with two minutes and 54 seconds. Hon Premier, please proceed.

The PREMIER: Thank you, the hon Ngqentsu spoke about the guns and he spoke about a few guns that were found in Mitchells Plain. Have a look at the automatic rifles found in the taxi violence investigations. But let us look at the facts and the data, he said, “where is the data?” Over the last 12 years 26 025 firearms have been lost or stolen from the South African Police as per the SAPS Report, 26 000 guns. What are they doing about that? Where are the arrests? How can that even be tolerated? Unbelievable!

Then of course it is quite interesting of the comments on the Safety Plan, so I want to say two things on the Safety Plan. First of all, I want to say that where, and they say where the LEAP officers are deployed, it is very simple, the data is there, they are deployed in Delft, in Gugulethu, in Khayelitsha, in Mitchells Plain, Nyanga and Philippi East. It is very simple.

The challenge to all of the political parties who are asking about LEAP, I challenge you to go and ask the station commanders in each of those police precincts whether they would like LEAP to discontinue? I challenge you and

bring that to me and then we will engage. I challenge you to do that, because I am on the ground, you are obviously not on the ground because you do not speak to these police officers at all.

So then I want to say in the last minute or so that I have got left, and listening to the debate, quite frankly, I mean I heard the hon Cassiem say that there is false data on LEAP, I mean she obviously is not reading the documents, or asking for special discussions in the Standing Committee. Leaders are readers, go....

Then she says the quarterly stats do not exist anymore, well the last quarterly stats were put out on 23 May 2025, and in actual fact police gave us stats last week on Wednesday 27 August 2025, and there is nothing stopping the Standing Committee to ask SAPS to please come and give an update on the data and the statistics, nothing stopping them whatsoever. So please start to read the documents before you make these frivolous kinds of comments in a debate like this.

Then obviously because of the time I would like to say to the hon Herron, please do exactly the same thing, read this "Policing Needs and Priorities", go and have a look at the Safer School programme, the fencing, the lighting programmes. Go and have a look at Chrysalis and Yebonaires. Go and look at Planet Youth, go and look at the First 1000 Days programme, go and look at the SWIMS App and the DSD programmes. Everything that he was talking about, he obviously does not read any of it, and then he keeps asking the

same question over and over again.

I want to reiterate, these kinds of things do not help us fight crime. We have got to do this together. We need to change the model of policing, because the current one does not work. We have got to change it, and devolution and getting investigators and detectives, is probably the first route that we should get right.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon members, that concludes the Subject for Discussion. I did not want to welcome the guests prior, or during the debate, but please feel welcomed into the Chamber. Hon members [Interjection] Hon members, I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: We have a special guest in the House, can you ask them to please stand, we welcome them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will address that point of order now, I see the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: A point of order, hon Chair, I am not sure, maybe the technical team can explain. But hon MEC Meyer rises, and he speaks from another microphone. Perhaps if the microphone is not working, it should be sorted out. But that is, because I remember the Premier cautioned me, when I just became an MPL in my second Sitting, I was cautioned for doing the same.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. [Interjection]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So please, on a level of consistency.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much [Interjection]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Honourable ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Sorry, my mic is now working. I apologise that I was addressing the hon members in the gallery from a seat that was not here. Can I now, from my seat ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must address the Chair, but please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I welcome them.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...of the Official Opposition, I will recognise you now.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: [Inaudible 1:18:11] friends.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members, hon members, I am not aware [Interjections.] – hon members, those in the gallery on my right were duly welcomed in the beginning of the Sitting. During the debate guests seated on my left then arrived. I did not want, during the speakers, to welcome the guests on the left. I sincerely trust that everyone in the gallery is now thoroughly welcomed.

Hon members, the debate has concluded. I trust that we will maintain the decorum of the House and before we proceed, before we proceed in terms of Rule 197 to Interpellations as printed on the Order Paper, I wish to inform the hon members that in terms of Standing Rule 196(5) the hon member Bans has been authorised to take charge of the interpellation as printed on the Question Paper in the name of the hon member Lekker.

I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Simmers.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Ms P Z Lekker to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

What are the reasons for his Department's underspending of its grant

allocations for 2024/25 that were intended to address urgent infrastructure and human settlement needs in the province?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Chair, and through you to the hon member who will be deliberating on her member's behalf.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I assumed, please forgive me, I now recognise you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): A correction, hon Deputy Speaker. We have reported to the Programming Authority that the hon member Lekker will be replaced by hon member Rachel Windvogel who is on the platform.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please – let me first recognise you. Please take your seat. Hon members, we are needing to make sure that a number of items as per our Order Paper is dealt with today. So let me see the hon Chief Whip before I rule.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, just for the record and for importance, the hon member Sayed in the Programming Authority asked for the interpellation to be withdrawn, so that will reflect on the Minutes of the Programming Authority, but the hon member Bans, the Chief Whip of the

Opposition, wrote to the Secretary to ask that hon [Interjections.], that asked that hon member Windvogel takes charge of the matter on behalf of hon member Lekker.

So just for correction, that is the sequence of events. Just in case it reflects inaccurately on the minutes, we do not want people questioning [Inaudible 1:20:51]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, hon Chief Whip. [Interjections.] Hon members, the Order Paper has been printed. The hon member Windvogel will take the opportunity as on the Order Paper. So, I recognise the hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: ... Huis in orde kry, dit is al wat ek kan sê.

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... get the House in order, that is all I can say.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon member. My Department actually spent our entire Human Settlements Development Grant and Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant which were available to us. However, it should be noted that at the end of February 2025, both the HSDG and ISUPG were incorrectly reduced by R200 million and R100 million respectively.

While the implementation of some phases of large projects could be delayed, accrued payments for March 2025 were paid in the 2025/2026 financial year, which will have an impact on funding available to initiate new projects.

The Western Cape Province was initially allocated R1,605 billion under the HSDG and R382 315 000 under the ISUPG for the 2024/2025 financial year. However, following a national reduction to the Provincial Human Settlements Budget, both grant allocations were reduced by R300 million cumulatively.

My Department's Human Settlements Programme still managed, however, to meet targets despite the unilateral reduction in national conditional grant allocations, compromising a R200 million cut to the Human Settlements Development Grant and a R100 million cut to the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant.

My Department still provided 4 779 housing opportunities against an HSDG business plan target of 4 845, and serviced 3 181 sites against an allocation spent, a target of 2 801, despite the R200 million reduction in allocation, with a total spend of R1,405 billion from HSDG. My Department serviced 1 672 sites against an ISUPG business plan target of 1 527, with a total budget spend of R282 350 000 million.

So, it is incorrect to say that we have underspent and not delivered. I thank you.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the housing crisis in the Western Cape is not an accident, it is a direct consequence of the DA-led Government's systematic neglect and its application of what can only be described as apartheid 2.0, a modern day segregation where the poor, predominantly African and Coloured communities, are condemned to economic exclusion and spatial injustice.

This is a consequence strategy of marginalisation where the Government failures to act is a *de facto* policy outcome maintaining the status quo of inequality.

The facts are damning. In the 2024/2025 financial year this Province was entrusted with R1,6 billion in the Human Settlements Development Grant and R282 million for the Informal Settlements Upgrading Partnership Grant. These were not near budget lines, they were [Inaudible 1:24:46] for the hundreds of thousands living in squalor in over 683 informal settlements in Cape Town alone, 186 of which emerged since the pandemic, many in hazardous flood plains and without basic sanitation.

Yet by August 2024 the DA's Department of Infrastructure had betrayed that trust, particularly spending shamefully low amounts on the HSDG and the ISUPG. Most concerning, they forfeited R300 million, money meant for

toilets, water and houses, because they do not have urgency to build human settlements for the poor. This is not poor planning, it is a profound demonstration that the DA does not care about the poor.

This underspending is a political choice, revealing a government that is utterly disconnected from the daily suffering of our people who face shack fires, unemployment and the indignity of a life without basic services. This failure is compounded by brazen fiscal dishonesty.

A suspicious R543 million spending spike in the last quarter of 2024 exposes a desperate attempt at fiscal dumping, not genuine delivery. These funds were misdirected to unauthorised items like security services in unaudited subsidies, in blatant violation of the Housing Code.

This is a government that would rather waste money on protecting its image and on irregular expenditure, than spend it on building homes for the people. It is shameful indictment of their [Inaudible 1:26:41] of their priorities.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Windvogel, kindly conclude.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I hope this Chairperson of SCOPA is listening. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Human Settlements are central to a better future for our communities. They are central to create stability, dignity and economic opportunity, and it is clear that the demand for housing will continue to grow, which makes timely delivery more important than ever.

This said, we also know the Province is under immense fiscal burden, with pressure stemming predominantly from population growth and lacklustre national funding.

Herewith my question, hon Deputy Speaker. What is the real state of delivery today and what measures are being taken to safeguard future housing opportunities in the challenging fiscal environment? Thank you very much.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the depth of this Government's failure extends beyond mere underspending into outright defiance of national law and frameworks.

The Western Cape Government is operating outside the rules designed to protect public funds and ensure delivery. This is not just incompetence, it is

a wilful violation of the social contract and a betrayal of public trust.

Seventeen projects were implemented without approved business plans. Expenditure was channelled through non-accredited municipalities, violating the Division of Revenue Act and National Treasury Regulations. Their reporting was unverified, and their revised plan were weak, contradictory and non-compliant.

This is a government that believes it is above the law, prioritises its own political agenda and optics over the constitutional rights of citizens to adequate housing. When held accountable by the National Department their response was not remorse, but litigation and misdirection. A clear sign of guilty conscience and a government that has something to hide.

Therefore, we must ask the hon Premier and the hon MEC what are the specific lawful reasons for your Department's underspending of conditional grants, and why did you violate the national frameworks by implementing projects without approved business plans? What immediate measures were you putting in place to prevent further fiscal dumping, recover misused funds and guarantee that every future cent is spent lawfully and directly on alleviating the housing backlog, not on illegal expenditure? How will he ensure that the hundreds of thousands of households on the waiting list see tangible progress, not just empty promises?

The people of the Western Cape are living in shacks under power lines and in

flood plains. They are watching money meant for them be forfeited and misused. This is shameful dereliction of duty. The DA's legacy is one of empty promises, legal threats and a cold indifference to suffering. They have chosen to manage poverty instead of empowering people. This House and the province deserve answers. Accountability is not optional. I thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, I will be very, very slow in my response so the hon member of the ANC can understand.

First and foremost, the question relates to 2024/25. My Department did not underspend. Her national Minister, who I think does not understand mathematics, unilaterally, without proper consultation, took R300 million, and we are now having to – with the accrued payments we paid out in March 2025, which is the 2025/26 financial year.

So, I can quote our actual deliverables, because we did not change our targets, they took the money. Nobody broke the law, †hulle kan deksels nie tel nie [Darn it, they cannot count.]

In terms of the HSDG grant, hon Deputy Speaker, we had a target for 2024/25 of 4 845 top structures. We delivered 4 779, but the HSDG grant also funds

the installation of services and sites. We had a target of 2 801, the actual number of service sites we delivered was 3 181.

Then you have the ISUPG grant, which focusses on informal settlements. Our target was 1 527 service sites. Even with the unilateral cut we delivered 1 672 service sites.

So, the hon member needs to get her facts straight. If she was reading from a speech, please ask your speech writer to get their facts straight.
[Interjections.]

Hon member Wessels, you ask a very good question, because in terms of human settlements, but more so housing delivery, context actually does form a massive part of understanding our sector, and we need to understand that between 2014 and 2019 the Western Cape received on average R2,3 billion a year for human settlements.

Since 2019 our allocation has declined, not because of we were not able to deliver, but because the ANC National Minister just allocated less to this Province, even though we could prove that we were able to spend even more than R2,3 billion.

So, despite all of this happening with our province since 2019, if I include the Quarter 1 of 25/26 financial year, we have actually delivered to date over 57 000 housing opportunities. This is houses, it is first home finance, it is

service sites, it is individual subsidies. It is not fiscal dumping, we have actually delivered what we set out to do and even exceeded our own targets, but if I am to compare the budget that I am getting today as the Minister, which I must now account for, in real terms, if I include inflation, this budget which I must deliver with and my Department must deliver with to the poor of this province, is 30 to 35% smaller than it was in 2019, but again †as jy nie wiskunde verstaan nie, jy verstaan nie eers [Onduidelik 1:33:40] wiskunde nie, dan gaan jy nooit verstaan wat ek vandag hier probeer sê nie [if you don't understand mathematics, you don't even understand [Inaudible.] mathematics, then you are never going to understand what I'm trying to say here today.]

So, despite all of this, hon Deputy Speaker, we are still delivering. If you measure our performance per billion spent, this Province, compared to any other province, actually delivers more with less and that is why we continuously are asking give us the fair share of what is due to this Province. We have proven with difficulties and even changes in our budget mid-year, even twice in the mid-year, we still deliver.

So, it is time that the Minister and the Deputy Minister †kom pad toe [come to the road.] We accept the reality of our province, we govern better, we ensure we deliver better, because you are for our people. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that is the end of the

Interpellations. We will now deal with Questions as printed on the Question Paper. I wish to advise hon members that once the hon Minister or the Premier has started the reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for the Sitting of the House to indicate, all those in the Chamber by signalling to me.

There are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who has posed the initial question as printed on the Order Paper, will get the first opportunity for a follow-up. Thereafter other hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow-up question. I now recognise the hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

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

Given the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey showing a 1,5% increase in unemployment in the Western Cape:

(a) How does he plan to adapt and strengthen his Growth for Jobs Strategy to address this rise, and (b) what concrete interventions will be prioritised to ensure sustainable job creation across all sectors of the province?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you

to the hon Bans for the question.

While the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey, or QLFS, does indicate a quarter-on-quarter increase in unemployment, it is crucial to analyse labour market trends over a longer term horizon to gain a more complete perspective.

On a year-on-year basis, from Q2 2024 to Q2 2025, the unemployment rate in the Western Cape has in fact decreased from 22,2% down to 21,1%, with the Western Cape now home to 69 000 more jobs than the same period last year.

The Western Cape continues to lead the nation in the majority of key metrics of employment and continues to demonstrate a broad unemployment rate that is more than 5% lower than the next province's narrow unemployment rate, let alone narrow-to-narrow or broad-to-broad, which is in excess of 10%.

The Western Cape continues to do better in employment, even when judged against more stringent criteria than any other province. This demonstrates underlying resilience and positive momentum in our provincial economy, even amid short-term fluctuations caused by seasonal change and a turbulent global trade environment.

The Growth for Jobs Strategy is fundamentally designed to be a long-term framework that addresses the systemic barriers to economic growth. It is core premise, namely that the Government's primary role is to create an

enabling environment that accelerates growth and empowers individuals and businesses to seize the economic opportunities, remains unchanged and highly relevant. The strategy continues to recognise the private sector as a primary driver of sustainable job creation and Government's role in creating the necessary conditions for job creation to take place at a sustainable scale.

Therefore, rather than requiring reactive adjustment to short-term data, the strategy strength lies in its consistent and proactive implementation, which has thus far proved successful. It is structured to weather quarterly volatility by focussing on the foundational pillars of a growing economy.

It is important to recognise that the Western Cape economy does not operate in a vacuum. The Western Cape's economy operates within the same global economic environment as the national economy and is not immune to external shocks like tariffs, global economic shutdowns and supply chain constraints. The G4J strategy prioritises the systemic reform to the economy, whose full benefits will accrue over time through complementary interventions and sustained private sector absorption of labour.

To this end the Western Cape has consistently remained at the forefront of South Africa's labour market participation, with a participation rate of 67,9% and the highest absorption rate at 53,5% as at Quarter 2 2025.

Nonetheless we take any increase in unemployment seriously and will continue to monitor the labour market closely. Employment trends such as

this rise in unemployment will continue to be closely monitored and analysed to deepen understanding of the Western Cape's economic trajectory, ensuring that the strategy remains grounded in real-world labour market dynamics as the core focus remains on enabling the private sector to grow.

Then (b), the Western Cape will continue to prioritise and implement the Growth for Jobs Strategy to ensure businesses of all sizes can expand and employ people, our priority interventions focussing on removing the key blockages to growth. For example, the red tape reduction. In the interest of time, I will not go through all of the red tape reduction cases. The Energy Resilience Programme, because of course when there is no energy, we see it across our country, the impact on economic growth and on business confidence, so we will continue with energy resilience. We will also continue with water and sustainable water supply. Also enhancing access to finance and business support in collaboration with the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, our SMME Accelerator Support Programme is directly enhancing access to finance and providing customised incubation in the Western Cape SMMEs. This intervention is already showing positive results with 98 businesses having registered for and commenced with the online training by the end of July 2025.

Alongside creating job-friendly environments we are prioritising interventions that connect people to opportunities. There is a focus set of targeted interventions specifically with Priority 7. This improves access to economic opportunities, which are designed to expand pathways into

employment, entrepreneurship and skills development across all sectors of the province. Flagship initiatives include the Career Guidance and Life Orientation Programmes in high schools, which expose learners to diverse industries, equip them with essential life skills and help reduce the skills mismatch through informed subject choices. The School Specialisation Model, this is particularly in the STEAM subjects, also a key linked to the G4J strategy.

The post-school interventions will focus on stimulating entrepreneurship, expanding experiential learning opportunities. This is internships such as the Year Beyond Programme or the Township Action Programme, and it should be noted that the Growth for Jobs strategy as a whole does not function in a vacuum, as I have said, and forms part, or central part of the Western Cape's Provincial Strategic Plan, which is the 2025/2030 Plan, which is available online. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, while appreciating the figures given by the hon Premier one has to ask that in 2024 the Premier set a target of 800 000 job opportunities that will be rolled out.

Perhaps if the hon Premier can just take us into confidence as to what were those projections informed by, and also from the 800 000, how far are we

now? What are the numbers of jobs that have already been implemented?
Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, and of course all of this links to the areas where growth of jobs happens, and a really interesting piece of data is the jobs that are growing within the back office processing space here in the region, and I was looking at these job statistics and of course the most jobs created in the BPO sector, 16% of all jobs in BPO in the City region, is just short of:

- 11 000 jobs in Mitchells Plain;
- 10 000 jobs in Khayelitsha;
- About 7 000 jobs in Langa;
- 6 000 jobs in Athlone;
- Hanover Park 5 500; and so it goes through.

I mean you have got all of these numbers, Elsie's River, Grassy Park, Kraaifontein, Sea Point, Durbanville, Belville, and so it goes down all of these spaces, which is the data of where those jobs are being created, and then specifically I was looking, and I really ask the hon member to go and have a look at the Quarterly Labour Force document. I mean it is a substantial document put out by Stats SA, and the real interesting thing for me is how there is a change in the jobs in our region.

So of course the jobs by Stats SA are broken down by race, and if you have a look at the jobs growth in South Africa over the last five years, so this is Quarter 1 2020 to Quarter 1 2025, so it is the last five years in African jobs created in South Africa. The growth rate is 8,5% and 1 580 million new jobs. If you look at the same for the Western Cape, it is 16,9% growth rate in jobs. That is substantially more, in actual fact double the national average for jobs created for Africans.

Then amongst Coloured people it is 3,2% nationally and of course in our province it is 9,1%, and amongst White jobs nationally it is minus 5,9% and in this province it is positive 9,1%. So basically those two categories at a growth of 9,1%, but the interesting statistic is not the percentage, it is actually the numbers.

So the number of jobs created in the region are 44 000 White jobs and 128 000 jobs in Coloured communities, and you see – and if you look at that and you take those statistics and you then break it down even further into a sector like BPO statistics, it really shows you that these interventions are starting to create the right balance in the number of jobs that are created within the province.

So, it links through to that end target and that end target is a 2035 target. We need to get our growth rate up to 4 to 6%. Already the Minister is looking at that again, because our problem is, the biggest handbrake at the moment in

growth rates is what is happening overall to our economy, where in South Africa our economy is not even growing at 0,1%. In the province it is higher, it is just under 1%, but this is the issue. Well, it is eight, nine times more than the national average growth rate in all the other provinces put together.

So, she must not laugh, she must look at the data and read the documents, and it is great – oh no, she has not got oversight anymore. I really am upset about that, because we need her party to have a look, that they are not reading the documents properly to understand the data before they make the comments that are made here in our Parliament. Those are really critical, because of course exactly as in the crime space where we all have to work together, we should all be putting shoulder to the wheel to get economic growth happening in our country and in our province, because that is the biggest antidote to unemployment.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, before I recognise the following question – before I recognise the following person to ask a question, I would just want to caution hon members it is one question. One question per follow-up. I see the hon member Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Premier for the opportunity.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to ask the one question that you limit us to. Hon Premier, in terms of your Growth for Jobs Strategy, I wanted to know if

you have also identified a programme that will tap into the AI and digital age sector? It is a game-changer in terms of employment opportunities, because, especially in the rural areas where there is lack of opportunities, but nowadays with access to online services you can generate an income beyond the borders of South Africa, and so I wanted to know if you have any programme or focus programme to tap into that sector to create employment opportunities for young people? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Before I recognise the hon Premier, I would want the record to reflect it is not me saying it is the Rules, hon members. I saw the previous person that asked a question was very quick to ask a double-barrel question, hence the question.

So, I see the hon Premier.

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

It is actually a very pertinent question because last Wednesday our Cabinet actually approved our AI strategy, talking about the guardrails that need to be put in place, but also looking at opportunities, and it is very interesting to see how many, first of all, of our departments are already embracing AI, looking at the role that AI is going to play within our departments and around service delivery, understanding what is happening in the system, so that we can be more responsive, but also making sure that we are building to

strategies that have guardrails, because that is also really important. We cannot allow the destruction of the system if we do not have those guardrails in place, but then what are the programmes?

I will just tell you about one. I joined the hon Minister's Department yesterday – yesterday, the day before. I joined the Minister's Department with a partnership programme that is happening with the Mayor and the Atlanta region in Georgia, which is a partner of this province, a State partner of this province, and this was in the arts, in the culture arena, in what I call the experiential economy, and it is very interesting, because when you look at the top fastest declining jobs in the world, and of course we have to base everything we do on data and evidence, it is something that we always do.

So, you will see postal service clerks, number one, declining jobs in South Africa. You will see bank tellers and related clerks. You will see data entry clerks, cashiers, ticket clerks, administration and administrative assistance. You will see printing and related trades. You will see accounting, bookkeeping and payroll clerks. You will see material recording and stock keeping, and so I can go on down to claims adjusters, legal officials, legal secretaries. It really is the list of the jobs at risk, and on the other side you see the big data specialists, the FinTech engineers, the AI and machine learning specialists, the software and applications, and the interesting thing in that focus of our Department of Economic Development is they are focussing on areas that are not mentioned in the declining job space here. They are zooming in on what are those areas that we need to be empowering,

we need to be enabling, we need entrepreneurs.

So this was an incubator space in partnership with the UNDP, in partnership with an organisation out of Atlanta called Snake Nation, in partnership with the CDI, and really is direct interventions, and of course that is why we have got to be a responsive government, we have got to look for these things that are going to make sure that we understand that AI is going to have a massive impact globally, in our country and in our province, and I think we are the first province, regional government on the African continent, to have passed such a document.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. It was great to hear in terms of the hon Premier's response that despite the Quarterly Labour Force Survey, the Western Cape still maintains the lowest unemployment rate, and it is consistently dropping, but my question to the hon Premier is if he can maybe just expand a little bit in terms of the DA-led governance model for the province, and what it is about that governance model and the service delivery that is leading to this constant decrease in unemployment, and whether other provinces can learn from this? Thanks.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. So obviously I think if you had to take that question, the key strategy would be how we become the enabler for the private sector, because the private sector is where you create jobs. You

have got to enable it, you have got to cut the red tape, you have got to attract investment and then you have got to also understand what the blockages are.

So, if you read the document, the G4J document, you will see it is quite clear. It is about how do we get our ports to operate? How do we get our goods to market? How do we grow that market? Have a look at what the Minister does and his whole drive around gaining new market share, around moving the needle from less than 50% of South Africa's agri exports coming to this province, now sitting at 67, and on its way to 60% of all of South Africa – I mean 57, 58% on its way to 60% of the whole country's agricultural exports out of this province.

So really it is about understanding what those blockages are, enabling the private sector, whether it is in ports, whether it is in rail. I think the plan with the Presidency and Vulindlela is just showing you exactly how those kind of programmes should be coming together, and then it is what else I said about the red tape interventions, or going down to those smaller structural and sort of SMME type interventions, and all of that helps us raise the tide, but then of course it is also have we got energy? Have we got water?

Those are the key bases for any economy anywhere in the world and we have got to make sure we get it right, and the infrastructure shortfall and lack of maintenance across our country has probably been one of the biggest negative drivers of why unemployment rates have been so high in South Africa. I mean it is common, everybody can look at it, you can see it, we all feel it.

So, we have got to make sure that we turn that around.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Thank you, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Just the kind of growth plan that is referred to here in the question, also the emphasis on the potential of AI that was mentioned earlier is reliant on energy, expansion of energy, expansion of electricity production.

Now perhaps if the hon Premier can just indicate to us whether energy generation is part of the economic growth plan? We obviously cannot rely on a historically failing National Government, so we need to build that into our provincial strategy. I would love to hear his response.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you to the hon member for that question.

Obviously, there are two sides to the energy need. I mean of course we all need energy all the time, but AI tools, there are AI tools that use very little energy and kind of the AI tools that are in apps on our phones, etcetera, that make us more productive, that enable us as citizens to do more and then of course there is the other side of the equation, and that is linked to big data and data centres. It is interesting to see more and more data centres investing in this region and the driver there is the energy, because that is

critical. If we do not have the energy, we cannot have the data centres.

So, the smelters of the kind of last century, the big energy users, that is the old economy. The new economy is the innovations that are coming in like big data and how that enables economic activity, and then inbetween, you know, I have just come – Minister Meyer and I have just come back from meeting the business people at – and we actually had a meeting at the Amazon building, and it was interesting to see even their programmes in Amazon and how they are enabling SMMEs to get market access, because an entrepreneur has got an idea and a product, how do you get it to market and how do you enable that to get to market?

All of that needs electricity and energy, and when you look at the Eskom 4 000 megawatts that they supply into the province, that is our peak, and you add to that 5 700 megawatts, which is what is coming in from the private sector, we will have more than enough electricity by 2032, and then watch the investment that comes into the region, because you will have security of energy, you will have an oversupply. Supply and demand rules in economics say that our energy pricing will then be very much more competitive than any other region in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that concludes Question 1 of the four opportunities. I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Baartman.

2. Mr B N Herron to ask Ms D M Baartman, Minister of Finance:

With reference to the reply to Question 9 and 10 of 14 August 2025:

(a) When was the intergovernmental dispute resolved, (b) what are the details of the agreement or resolution and (c)(i) what are the details of the R2,6 billion reduction of Votes in the 2024 MTEF baselines and (ii) which Votes were (aa) reduced and (bb) by what amount?

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

In terms of 2(a), the intergovernmental agreement was concluded on 19 March 2024.

In terms of 2(b), the agreement between the National Treasury Department of Public Service and Administration and the Western Cape Provincial Government resolved that:

- The integrity and credibility of budgets, once approved, are sacrosanct and can only be amended in-year in terms of the prevailing framework.
- Unforeseen economic and fiscal shocks that necessitate an amendment to the budget be affected through proper consultation with affected organs of State.
- To develop a procedure for consultation at Budget Council and other appropriate intergovernmental forums.
- To review the process of consultation regarding the wage negotiations to

ensure effective participation of effective parties.

- To determine, prior to the signing of a wage agreement, which organs of State, organ or organs of State, will be funding the cost. Timelines shall apply to future wage negotiations to ensure finalisation prior to the annual and MTEF budget process.
- That the quantification of budget shortfalls, including the methodology of calculating such, will be an item of discussion within the relevant intergovernmental forums.

In terms of 2(c), hon Deputy Speaker, I am going to answer (i), (ii)(aa) and (bb) collectively. It is statistical information, or information of a statistical measure that was asked, so it is in an Excel format, so I will just quickly run through those particular items.

The R2,6 billion reduction over the 2024 MTEF per Vote is as follows. I will start with 2024/25 and then I will go to 25/26, 26/27 and in the respective total. For Vote 1, Department of the Premier:

- 2024/2025 it was R30,42 million;
- 2025/26, R31,268 million;
- 2026/2027, R34,841 million;
- The total for the MTEF is R96,529 million.

Vote 2, hon Deputy Speaker, that is Provincial Parliament:

- 2024/25 is R3,185 million;
- 2025/26 is R3,159 million;
- 2026/2027 is R3,520 million; and
- The total for the MTEF is R9,864 million.

For Vote 3: Provincial Treasury:

- 2024/2025 is R5,73 million;
- 2025/2026 is R5,633 million;
- 2026/2027 is R6,277 million;
- The total for the MTEF is R17,640 million.

Vote 4, which is Police Oversight and Community Safety:

- 2024 it is R6,083 million;
- 2025 it is R11,314 million;
- 2026 it is R12,607 million;
- For the MTEF it is R30,003 million.

Vote 5, it is Education:

- 2024/25 it is R360,103 million;
- 2025/2026 it is R352,194 million;
- 2026/2027, R392,447 million; and
- For the MTEF it is R1,104,744 billion.

Health and Wellness, Vote 6:

- 2024/2025, R301,724 million;
- 2025/2026, R295,785 million;
- 2026/2027, R329,591 million; and
- For the MTEF it is R927,1 million.

Vote 7: Social Development:

- 2024/2025, R42,152 million;
- 2025/2026 it is R41,981 million;
- 2026/2027 it is R46,779 million; and
- For the MTEF it is R130,911 million.

For Vote 8, that is Mobility:

- 2024/2025 it is R15,897 million;
- 2025/2026, R15,825 million;
- 2026/2027, R17,634 million;
- The total for the MTEF is R49,325 million.

For Vote 9: Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

- 2024/2025 it is R10,324 million;

- 2025/2026, R10,288 million;
- 2026/2027, R11,463 million;
- The total for the MTEF is R32,075 million.

For Vote 10: Infrastructure:

- 2024/2025, R42,339 million;
- 2025/2026, R41,429 million;
- 2026/2027, R46,164 million; and
- The total for the MTEF is R129,932 million.

Vote 11: Agriculture:

- 2024/2025 it was R12,429 million;
- 2025/2026, R12,468 million;
- 2026/2027, R13,893 million; and
- The total for the MTEF is R38,789 million.

For Vote 12: Economic Development and Tourism:

- 2024/2025 it was R8,556 million;
- 2025/2026, R8,524 million;
- 2026/2027, R9,498 million;
- The total for the MTEF is R26,578 million.

For Vote 13: Cultural Affairs and Sport:

- 2024/2025 was R10,731 million;
- 2025/2026, R10,649 million;
- 2026/2027, R11,866 million; and
- The total for the MTEF is R33,246 million.

For Vote 14: Local Government, hon Deputy Speaker:

- 2024/2025, R6,117 million;
 - 2025/2026, R6,224 million;
 - 2026/2027, R6,935 million; and
 - The total for the MTEF was R19,277 million.
-
- The total for the 2024/2025 MTEF for all the Votes in totality was therefore R855,789 million;
 - The totality for the 14 Votes in 2025/2026 was R846,740 million;
 - For 2026/2027 the total was R943,515 million; and
 - The total for the MTEF, which relates to the R2,6 billion reduction, was overall R2 646 045 000.

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 for the answer to the questions.

My follow-up question is given everything that we know and as set out now by the hon Minister, what we knew in March 2024, how did the Western Cape Education Department's budget suddenly have a R3,8 billion shortfall when the reduction to the budget baseline was R1,1 billion over the 2024 MTEF?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

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

I do know in terms of the response to the oral question on 8 May 2025 we have also published this data previously, as noted that the R3,8 billion shortfall that was reported, was forecast at the time, and through various mechanisms, including dealing with the excess, for example, of the teachers, the forecast was able to come down in terms of that particular budget.

However, the shortfall was also dealt with in the Adjustment Budget as tabled last year, and I would wish to refer the hon member also to the additional funding that was tabled in the Adjustment Budget of the Western Cape for 2024. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, in about August 2023 the basket of posts for teachers or educators was determined. The budget was presented to Parliament in March 2024. At that time we knew that there was a wage increase, we knew that there was a reduction in the Provincial Equitable Share.

So, the R3,8 billion shortfall that was announced in August 2024 must have been known to the Minister of Finance at the time.

So, I have to ask the hon Minister to repeat her answer as to how that R3,8 billion was not known or was not disclosed in March 2024?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

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

Hon Deputy Speaker, I know that on the same oral question previously in May, a question was asked regarding the compliance of the Budget, and the response to this Provincial Parliament for 8 May 2025, and I know in other oral questions as well, was that the Budget was compliant.

Now when you have fiscal consolidation, we are talking about the fiscal consolidation for everyone and then everyone has respective reductions.

The 2023 MTEF and 2024 MTEF, hon Deputy Speaker, is also different MTEFs. This particular question that was asked to myself today refers to the 2024 MTEF. However, I am just quickly going to repeat, I know that we did not necessarily get to my previous oral question on 14 August and the respective information was published therefore in writing to the Provincial Parliament, but I will just quickly go through where we end up at the 2.6.

So, the total Provincial Equitable Share, the PES reduction, for the 2024 MTEF was R6,7 billion. That amounted to the R2,2 billion in 2024/25, to R2,2 billion in 2025/2026 and R2,3 billion in 2026/27.

That then comprised – so now we are going to break down the 6.7. That comprised of R6,358 billion of fiscal consolidation reduction for a direct baseline cut imposed nationally to address budget deficit pressures, and R380 million for the impact of new data technical updates to the PES formula.

Then in terms of the further adjustments to the reduction of the baseline after the 2023 MTBPS and how reduction was funded, it was published as part of the previous oral question, that there was no further reduction post the 2023 MTBPS, and that the R6,7 billion reduction on the PES over the 2024 MTEF was funded with R4,1 billion from various sources such as underspending, over collection of own revenue from 2022/2023, tax overruns in the 2022/23 financial year, interest earnings and fiscal stabilisation reserve, as well as then the R2,6 billion reduction of Votes of the 2024 MTEF baseline.

Today's question then zooms in as a follow-up question, I would assume, on the last sentence from the previous oral question which I tabled in the Provincial Parliament for 14 August, dealing with the R2,6 billion.

The particular question that the hon member asked me today in terms of that section was what are the details of the R2,6 billion reduction of the Votes in the 2024 MTEF baselines and which Votes – I went through the Votes, hon Deputy Speaker – were reduced. I indicated which ones were reduced and by what amount. I indicated what was the amount that was reduced.

If there is new information that the hon member wants I would like to encourage the hon member to please submit a question and we are happy to go look to see what particularly in the new question the hon member would like to ask, because everything that I have been asked so far we have already answered today and tabled previously in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The third opportunity is the hon member Van Wyk.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I would just like to ask the hon Minister that given the significant fiscal strain on the Province and its budget, what innovative financial mechanisms the Provincial Treasury is pursuing to help alleviate this crisis? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow the hon Minister to consider to respond, considering the wording of that particular question. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker, and for the questions.

In terms of innovative financial mechanisms, something that we have adopted and launched as a Western Cape Government, includes what we call an Alternative and Blended Financing Framework.

So, as hon members would know that we are under severe fiscal strain in our country and as a province as well, as budgets are not growing at the rate they should be growing. In the Western Cape Province, for example, when you look at the amount of money you get from National, and it is quite similar across provinces, more than 95% of our budget comes from the National Government and just under 5% or almost 5%... [Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you raising a point of order, the hon [Inaudible 2:12:35]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, if you reference with the question the main question is very specific. It is on intergovernmental dispute on a matter that was discussed on the 14th. This is a new question in general about alternative financing. If you continue in this manner, then you

must not stop us as hon members when we ask new questions. So, we must be consistent in what we are doing in the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. The final question, I recognise the hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Just to be clear, hon Deputy Speaker, I was not asking a new question in my follow-up, I was asking the hon Minister given that in 2023 the number of teachers or educators that were required by the Department was already known for the 2024 MTEF period, that the reduction in the PES was already known by March 2024 when the Budget was tabled, that the Western Cape Education Department's Budget was reduced by R1,1 billion over the MTEF. How did the Western Cape Education Department suddenly have a R3,8 billion reduction, or shortfall, four months after the Budget was announced? It is not a new question.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Before I recognise the Hon Minister, I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I am slightly confused by what is going on, because the Minister of Finance was answering the question, the follow-up question that hon member Herron was asking, which was related to the question as hon member Herron has just spoken about. I do not think that the input from hon member Nkondlo is helpful, because it is

confusing the House. It now creates the impression that hon member Herron has been given a third bite at the cherry.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I appreciate input even from the hon members, so I do appreciate the input provided by hon member Nkondlo.

During Question 2, when I personally via this computer lowered the hon member Herron's hand as he was posing the second opportunity. I then recognised hon member Van Wyk and there was no further indication, and then I noted the hon member Herron's hand went up again in the absence of any other hon member. Hence that is opportunity number four.

So that is Question number 4, but let me see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon member from the Opposition raised a point of order which interrupted the hon Minister of Finance, and she was busy giving us her response, and then we suddenly went to the final oral question, which is why we ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ...[Inaudible.] because the hon Minister has not had an opportunity to conclude her response.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I take responsibility. Hon Minister, you did not conclude, then that is my fault. Please gun me to the wall, that is definitely my fault. The hon Minister – I humbly apologise to hon member Herron. The fourth opportunity still remains, but let me note the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Deputy Speaker, if you are happy with it, I can always just do both questions at the same time, given that I have heard both questions now.

So, I will just – I just quickly pulled up the oral question reply of 8 May 2025. While I know that usually we do not deal with questions of same substance again, I am happy to quickly just go through those particular items.

For that particular Question Paper we were asked whether the Provincial Budget in March 2024 was compliant with the PFMA in respect to the estimates of current expenditure from the Western Cape Education Department Vote in respect of cost of employees. If not, why not?

The answer specifically stated as follows:

“As stipulated in Section 27(3)(b) of the PFMA...”

And then I quote:

“An annual budget must be in accordance with the format as may be

prescribed and must at least contain estimates of current expenditure for that financial year per Vote and per main division within the Vote.”

In this regard it can be confirmed that the Western Cape 2024 Budget was tabled in accordance with the format as prescribed by National Treasury, and contained the estimates of current expenditure, particularly in respect of cost of employment as compensation of employees in terms of the economic classification.

Then further the question went in terms of the response to the cost of employment, that the Province’s 2024 Budget allocation was subjected to fiscal consolidation, a reduction of R6,4 billion over the 2024 MTEF. This reduction was proportioned.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to remind, earlier I spoke about the 6.3, that is – when you round it up it is 6.4, and then you added data updates to the PES, which gets you to 6.7.

So, I will just quickly speak about the 6.4 again. This reduction was proportioned to all departments, including the Western Cape Education Department, which infers that all departments would have had to put measures in place to manage expenditure within their reduced allocations. Given that the Western Cape Education Department's Budget is driven by Compensation of Employees, constituting almost 72% of its total budget in

2024/25, a large proportion of the fiscal consolidation was absorbed by compensation of employees.

To mitigate the risk associated with fiscal consolidation, the Western Cape Education Department put in place a human resource plan. The rate of slowdown on Compensation of Employees' expenditure during the initial implementation of the HR plan was slower than anticipated. This resulted in a projected pressure on the Compensation of Employees' budget in the 2024/25 financial year, carried through to the outer years of the 2024 MTEF.

This projected pressure was communicated by the WCED to PT as per the in-year monitoring reporting, as early warning reporting system, in July 2024, in terms of Section 40(4)(c) of the PFMA, and after various consultations with the WCED and analysis undertaken, the projected overspending risk was addressed as part of the 2024 Adjustment Budget process.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if it is in order I will go back to answering Question 3 regarding the innovative financing, if I am allowed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

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

So, in terms of Provincial Budgets, approximately 95% of our budget stems

from National, this is both Equitable Share and various different conditional grants, and also then approximately just under 5% of our Provincial Budget is own revenue. Those are things like gambling taxes and motor vehicle licences and so on. This is not only in the Western, all provincial budgets, majority of their budgets come from National.

So, when we look at the Provincial Equitable Share, we have seen that provinces in terms of the horizontal split and the vertical split, on the horizontal split you have something that is called the Provincial Equitable Share Formula. That is once national, it divides vertically the budget to National, to provinces and then to Local Government.

Local Government received, across South Africa, approximately 9,7% of the National Budget, provinces received approximately 42% of the budget and then National received the rest of the non-interest money.

Then when you take that piece of the pie and you split it across the nine provinces, you need to have a formula for how you give provinces money, that is called the Provincial Equitable Share Formula, and that is essentially the horizontal split, and you can see that the source, or the legal source that it really stems from, is Section 214 of the Constitution that deals with how Provincial Equitable Share Formulas and how you need to fund mandates of provinces specifically, and the type of things you have to take into account before making those particular budgets.

In the PES Formula you have various different components and the PES Formula is a funding tool. So, you have data that goes in from Health, you have data across the country that goes in from Education, you have data that goes into, for example, the population growth, you have poverty data, and you have the economic data. The poverty data, for example, in South Africa has not yet been updated in the Provincial Equitable Share Formula, so I am hoping that National will be updating poverty data for South Africa soonest, but that is obviously dependent on Stats SA and them publishing the respective data.

When you look at the poverty data in comparison to the economic data you will see that poverty data is almost three times more in terms of the weighting the Provincial Equitable Share in comparison to the economic data.

So if you are a province that is growing economically and you also, for example, are a province that has high population growth, what you see in the PES Formula is you are actually not being compensated for doing better in terms of economic growth and you are also not being compensated [Inaudible.] population growth that is coming to your province.

In the 2024 PERO you have noticed, hon Deputy Speaker, that we have had a 19,6% increase in population growth over the past decade, and when you compare that to GDP growth, when you compare that to jobs growth, when you compare that to the Gini coefficient declining, to the Human Development Index increasing, the population growth is just outpacing every

other single metric in our province.

So, we need to have that conversation about sustainable population growth, because while one is progressing one is simply not able to keep up with that level of population growth in our province. Another province that is also struggling with population growth is Gauteng. Recently I met with MEC Maile in Gauteng and we actually had a conversation about how the provinces, Gauteng and the Western Cape, for example, can work together on things like the estimated and the forecast population growth and the economic growth, because they are sitting in the same position, where essentially that the larger provinces are not really being incentivised in terms of funding, even though there is more urbanisation happening in this regard.

So, when you look at the formula with population growth specifically, even though we are the third largest province when it comes to population, we get the fifth largest, or the fifth smallest Equitable Share essentially, depending on if you want to look at the glass half empty or half full.

So, if you are seeing the fact that you have fiscal consolidation and then you have the impact of fiscal consolidation even years after, even though there was not subsequent fiscal consolidation, then you have national budgets that essentially indicate that we have reached the fiscal cliff and that we cannot be spending more money on debt.

Then as provinces especially we need to start thinking differently about how

we are going to fund programmes, and that is part of why we have launched an Alternative and Blended Financing Framework, because we need to be able to assist departments and even assist municipalities on thinking differently on how we are able to find funding for our programmes, particularly funding for programmes that are related to infrastructure.

Now I know municipalities have been playing in the alternative and blended financing space for a long time, and as provinces we have not had as much exposure to that type of environment. While we have also been using off-balance items as provinces often, for example, Gauteng recently went on balance and came to the National Loans Committee for a loan, and that is an example of on-balance financing instruments. If one wants a loan or a concessional loan or, for example, a PPP, for example, is a bit of an off-balance item. You get things like hybrid capital and investor equity, you get things like social bonds and jobs bonds and skills bonds, you get various different things. You get things like – hon Deputy Speaker, you must please protect me against hon Minister Meyer, I think here he does not want me to finish my question.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You first wait until I recognise you, hon Minister. I see you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Since this is so fascinating, really excellent stuff, this reminds us when we studied Economics at university. Can the hon Minister please continue and not stop?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that is a frivolous point of order. I have earlier on cautioned the hon members. Hon Minister, please continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. I have the overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure from the beginning of the year with us, because we did also put an extra excerpt of the alternative and blended financing in here, and if you know that it is unlikely that you will get more money, then you need to start thinking differently, you need to start working more with the private sector, but you cannot just publish an Alternative and Blended Financing Framework and think the money is going to come in. You need something to build, and if you need something to build then you have to, as a government, publish an infrastructure framework which speaks to the singular infrastructure pipeline, because the private sector, the development sector, the banking sector, they want to know, “Okay, what you are coming to the table with?”

So the Alternative and Blended Finance Framework is intended to enable departments on how they can then land that on-balance sheet financing, irrespective of what it is, and we must be honest with ourselves, hon Deputy Speaker, not every department and not every programme is going to require

the same type of alternative and blended financing mechanism, and what we did in the framework was we also made sure that we basically duplicated the National Loans Committee structure essentially.

So, at the National Loans Committee level you have the nine MECs for Finance and that is chaired by the National Minister of Finance, and when you go with your loan from your province to National there are also laws that govern whether you are allowed to take a loan or not. Then the nine MECs and the Minister of Finance we vote, but you that come with the loan request, you are not allowed to vote for yourself. That is not how it works.

So, when Gauteng came for the loan, it puts it on the table and we get to interrogate, for example, whether or not this is fiscally responsible. Then what happens is we have then duplicated a similar structure at a provincial level within our Alternative and Blended Financing Framework, which deals with Provincial Loans Coordinating Committee, but before you even come to the Provincial Loans Coordinating Committee, there must be a technical assessment, because we need to make sure that what you are presented is technically sound and that we are able to deal with whatever possible future liability there might be upon us. When you deal with, for example, things like a credit facility – I know that hon Minister Meyer would be very interested in things like a credit vehicle facility, which is something that the Western Cape Government, through the Provincial Treasury, as well as the National Treasury, are currently working together with the World Bank, and the purpose of such a credit facility is to de-risk investment in things like

energy, to de-risk investment in things like water and sanitation, to de-risk investment in things like housing, because very often when you are going to go to market with such a big project, the banking sector and the commercial sector need to know what is the risk in this particular project, who is going to take on this risk, and in this regard, on page 50, particularly in the Overview Book, Overview of Revenue, Provincial Revenue and Expenditure for 2025, we have actually – and this is not a given, hon Deputy Speaker, departments can use this as a guideline.

We have published examples of the type of blended financing instruments for sectors that departments can use.

- In the economic sector you can use, for example, instruments like partial credit guarantees for projects with strong fundamentals but facing high perceived risk. You can use things like syndicated loans for large scale projects requiring significant capital investment, senior debt or bond issuance for projects with low to moderate risk profiles and reliable revenue streams. Hybrid capital for projects requiring significant capital investment and risk sharing.
- In the digital sector you have things like investment grants, partial credit guarantee vehicles, equity participation or even portfolio securitisation.
- In the energy sector you also have things like partial credit guarantees, you have examples of syndicated loans, equity participation, hybrid capital.

- In the social sector you have examples of investment grants to catalyse social impact bonds, partial credit guarantee vehicles, aggregator and convener of funds, for example, for NGOs and NPOs, subordinated debt for projects with strong revenue potential.
- In the ecological sector there are examples of investment grants, partial credit guarantee vehicles, equity participation and hybrid capital.

So, you can see, hon Deputy Speaker, it is not just getting a commercial loan, you could get a concessional loan. There are various different types of measures that you can use in order to be able to fund infrastructure and when we look at things like our Infrastructure Budget, which is mainly budgeted through the National Government, you will see that we cannot continue with R10 billion, R10 billion, R10 billion, totalling R30 billion, when we have a R200 billion pipeline that we need to be able to use to grow our economy and create jobs.

One of the key PFAs of the Growth for Jobs Strategy, hon Deputy Speaker, is that we need to use infrastructure investment in order to grow the economy.

So you have your ABF that you have tabled, you have your infrastructure investment that you have tabled, but then you have, for example, you need to put your money where your mouth is and you must have your investment summit that they are doing in the Economic Development and Tourism Department, because you need to now get to that target that we said to Premier, “We are working towards this target.” We need to do every single

thing we can do to grow our economy and create jobs, and part of those PFAs is how do we drive investment both in the private sector and in the public sector so we can have the type of conversation with the private sector to say what can we do together? How can we expedite our infrastructure investment?

This is so important, because if you want to get the GDP to keep pace with your population growth, if you want job creation to keep pace with your population growth, if you want to make a real dent in the Human Development Index, if you want to make a real dent in the Gini coefficient, and quite frankly if we want to reduce food poverty, quite frankly, we need to be able to keep up with population growth.

So, hon Deputy Speaker, we need to have a conversation about sustainable population growth. It is really, really important because if this continues in Gauteng and in the Western Cape, for example, we are simply not going to be able to keep up.

In the Department of Social Development, for example, hon Deputy Speaker, they were innovative. They created – I saw hon Minister Londt brought a Cape Care Fund water bottle with him and the whole purpose of the Cape Care Fund is also an example of a convener, an aggregator of funds for NPOs or NGOs, and what you do is if you know you are not going to necessarily get more money from National, you have to start thinking differently.

So, it is not also only about alternative and blended financing strategies, it is

also about alternative and blended ways and methodologies of doing things and thinking differently.

The hon Premier previously was speaking about the AI framework and strategy that the Cabinet adopted, and you need to have this because when you look, for example, at the Stats SA, the Quarterly Labour Survey results, you see that when you see the finance sector increasing, when you see the agriculture sector increasing, part of these drivers of these sectors are technology, part of the drivers of those sectors were the fact that people are doing things differently and as a government we must keep up.

There are some other countries even in Europe currently, hon Deputy Speaker, that even said, “Even when we have AI frameworks and we have this human control and everything, we also need to have then a conversation about I want to be able to own the intellectual property of my likeness, so that if someone uses my photo or my video online, for example, I want to have the opportunity to be able to say to someone, ‘You must take that down online because you are not allowed to use my likeness,’ because we should be able to own ourselves, hon Deputy Speaker, at the very least. That is why we have a Constitution, to protect human rights.

So we need to make sure that with the technology growth that we are seeing in the finance sector, with the technology growth that we are seeing in the agriculture sector, that we are able to put human beings first as per our constitutional rights, both in our South African Constitution and in our

Western Cape Constitution, and I am really proud of the work that the respective departments are doing. You see in the news, for example, the Department of Health is doing things like robotics.

You see also in terms of blended financing that two years ago, almost two years ago, that the Western Cape Education Department has what they call an Edu Invest Desk that they even established with Wesgro to make sure that if you want to invest in education in our province, that you are able to speak to the Western Cape Government.

When you look at how we are going to then grow the economy and create jobs. We have spoken about AI, for example, hon Deputy Speaker, I have spoken about infrastructure, I have spoken about the alternative and blended financing, I have spoken about the Investment Summit, and when you deal with these particular things and you go through that list of how are we going to grow the economy ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...[Inaudible 2:35:37] create jobs, you have things even like, for example, the energy [Inaudible 2:35:41]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, your time has expired.
[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: [Inaudible 2:35:49] hon Deputy Speaker, I was [Inaudible 2:35:51]. Hon Deputy Speaker, I will conclude unfortunately then, okay.

So I was [Interjections.] at the PFA of energy actually and the hon Premier also gave this Government a target in terms of we want to be able to enable 5 200 megawatts into the system, but I am hoping that maybe in the future someone might even ask hon Minister Meyer about how far we are on those energy plans. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That is the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now proceed in terms of Rule 145. There will be an opportunity for Members Statements. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape welcomes the decision by the Western Cape Government to challenge the validity of the National Health Insurance Act. This Act was rushed through the National Council of Provinces with minimal public consultation, denying South Africans their constitutional right to be heard in a law-making process.

Earlier this week, the Provincial Government filed papers with the Constitutional Court to protect the rights of our residents and to defend the principle of meaningful public participation. This is especially important because access to healthcare is a constitutional right and the implementation of the NHI would demand a disruptive overhaul of the healthcare system, including services already delivered effectively by provinces.

The DA in the Western Cape stands firm on promoting democracy through genuine and meaningful public participation. The passage of such a far-reaching Bill requires extensive engagement with the people, which simply did not happen.

[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]

Hon House Chair, the ANC's announcement of NHI on the eve of national elections is nothing more than political point-scoring. No feasibility studies or financial plans have been presented to prove that this ambitious programme could be implemented successfully. It is an illusion of free healthcare designed to win votes, rather than to deliver services.

The DA in the Western Cape will continue to defend both democracy and the right of every South African to quality healthcare. Legislation that affects the lives of millions must be based on honesty, feasibility and public participation, not empty promises. Thank you, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the African National Congress.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Chair. We often hash on our criticism of the South African Police Service, to the point of unwittingly forgetting the deep strategies? [2:38:01] and many challenges they face under the weight of newly [Inaudible 2:39:05] austerity. This austerity offensive has not only hollowed out the capacity of the police, but has also weakened, if not compromised, the ability to prevent and combat investigative crime.

This in turn has eroded public confidence in the police, emboldening criminals. But not in Cape Town. For many the problem further is the persistent crisis of social underdevelopment in the DA-led City of Cape Town and Province, [Inaudible 2:39:28] severe constraints in effective policy.

Sadly, the DA-led Provincial Government stubbornly refuses to address the spread of squatter camps by not spending allocated grants. As a result, we see deteriorating roads through potholes across [Inaudible 2:39:42] township and poor [Inaudible 2:39:43] leaving many communities vulnerable. In this condition, the youth are especially exposed to recruitment to gangs. Hon Temporary Chair, handouts [Inaudible 2:39:51] is complicit to and complaisant within some of our communities. Too often, people look the other way when crimes occur in their midst.

Despite these [Inaudible 2:40:02] challenges, the men and women in blue in this province achieved a remarkable breakthrough through an intelligence-led operation. This led to the discovery of 19 firearms and 1 500 rounds of live ammunition. While no arrests have yet been made, the scale of the breakthrough is evidence that if there were to be a moratorium on budget cuts in the police, SAPS successes would be sustained. Public confidence in the police would be restored, and the criminals would be less emboldened.

As I conclude, we welcome the responsiveness of the Acting Minister of Police as he is set to visit the province soon. Bravo to the police. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Chair. Yesterday's headlines screamed, and I quote:

“Sixty-three kids killed in five months †in die Kaap [in the Cape.]”

Let that sink in. Sixty-three young lives lost in just five months, here in our province, in our city. Sixty-three futures gone! This is not only inhuman, hon Chair, it is highly unacceptable and heartbreaking, to say the least. These children have been victims of gang violence on the Cape Flats and yet,

we are still sitting here, hands folded, when week after week this very topic is echoed here in this very Chamber.

Parents should never have to bury their children, yet in the Cape Flats, in our townships and in too many of our communities across the province, mothers and fathers are digging graves instead of nurturing dreams. Our children's laughter has been replaced by gunfire. Our neighbourhoods have become warzones, instead of safe havens.

So, I must ask, hon Chair, has the ongoing violence and killings become a norm for the people of the Western Cape and Cape Town in particular? Are we accepting the bloodshed as a daily reality because if we do, then we as leaders have failed our people.

While we mourn, we cannot allow those in power to shift the bucket of blame. The governing party and this Province and the City of Cape Town cannot point fingers at SAPS alone. You govern here, you have the resources, you have the means, and you have the responsibility to act decisively.

As the Patriotic Alliance, we say clearly: we do not condone this ongoing violence. We will not be silent while the children die. Every level of government, national, provincial and local government, must stand together ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): ...urgent ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Your time is up.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): ...urgent actions. Because if we ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Your time is up, hon member, thank you very much. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon House Chair, the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape is proud to celebrate the success of the Western Cape Education Department's Provincial Skills competition hosted this past weekend at Bellville Technical High School.

What began in 2018 with just two subjects, has now grown into a flagship annual event with more than 400 learners and over 70 teachers competing across 21 learner categories and 9 teacher disciplines. These included both technical subjects such as civil technology, electrical technology, and engineering graphics and design, as well as non-technical skills like music, isi-Xhosa, consumer studies and physical education.

This competition not only celebrates technical and vocational excellence, but also inspires greater interest among learners, while recognising the creativity

and dedication of our teachers. I am particularly proud that learners from rural areas, such as Beaufort West, showcased their skills. Two Grade 11 learners from Beaufort West Secondary School excelled in the civil services category, completing two complex assignments within just three hours to take the first and the third place.

Hon House Chair, this initiative demonstrates the WCED's commitment to expanding this School of Skills Curriculum and ensuring that learners are equipped to meet South Africa's future workforce needs. Technical and vocational education is vital if we are to grow the economy and tackle youth unemployment.

The DA in the Western Cape congratulates all learners and teachers who participated, and we commend the WCED for building a culture of innovation, excellence and opportunity across our province. We further wish our winners every success as they represent the Western Cape at the Interprovincial Skills Competition in Johannesburg next month. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Chairperson. The EFF in the Western Cape is concerned about the state of affairs and the manner in which the situation is deteriorating in Kraaifontein. Kraaifontein is currently experiencing a high crime rate, which also includes child murders. The

residents complain that there is no day passing without hearing multiple gunshots. Calls for a satellite police station with a Gender-Based Violence helpdesk, as well as greater policing visibility, more especially at night, have been falling on deaf ears.

Problems affecting Kraaifontein do not stop with crime. Recently, residents took to the streets to protest about a number of issues related to a lack of service delivery, both on the part of the City of Cape Town as well as the Western Cape Provincial Government. In Bloekombos, streets continue to be soaked with sewerage as a result of infrastructure which is not constantly being serviced by the City of Cape Town. The City does not even make an effort to unblock these drains in the area and this creates a further health hazard for everyone, with young children and the elderly being at risk as well.

The Kraaifontein Community Health Centre is also experiencing shortages when it comes to a shortage of staff, personnel in the form of doctors, as well as a lack of adequate resources such as bed shortages for patients. Bloekombos and Wallacedene Clinics are not able to handle the pressures which come with healthcare needs in their respective jurisdictions, with patients arriving as early as 5 AM in the morning to queue so that they can receive medical care, only to be turned back home in the afternoon without receiving the assistance needed.

The area is a ticking timebomb and if the authorities are not doing anything

about the situation, then it is just a matter of time until things in the area explode as things are already out of hand. Thank you very much, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the African National Congress.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. †Ek staan op ... [Tussenwerpsel] [I rise ... Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Windvogel ...[Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Am I audible, hon House Chair?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You may proceed, hon member.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you so much. †Agb *House Chair*, ek staan op om te praat oor 'n kennisgewing van 'n kliniek in Villiersdorp. Hierdie kennisgewing het baie mense in die Wes-Kaap baie kwaad gemaak en hulle het 'n reg om so te voel.

Die kennisgewing sê dat mense kan nie eers sieknotas op 'n Maandag of 'n Vrydag kry nie. Dit is verkeerd en teenstrydig met die Grondwet van ons land. Mense kies nie wanneer om siek te word nie. Jy kan nie vir 'n persoon sê hulle mag nie van Dinsdag tot Donderdag siek wees nie. Dit is nie hoe

siekte werk nie. Hierdie reël is baie onregverdig, veral vir plaaswerkers.

’n Sieknota is dikwels die enigste ding wat ’n werker beskerm om nie hul werk of hul geld te verloor nie. Om hulle sonder ’n nota weg te stuur stel hulle lewensonderhoud in gevaar. Hierdie kliniek se reël is ook teenstrydig met die arbeidswetgewing van Suid-Afrika. Elke werker het die reg op ’n sieknota as hulle siek is op enige dag van die week.

Ons het hierdie saak by die *HOD* aanhangig gemaak wat intussen die fasiliteit opdrag gegee het om die kennisgewing te verwyder. Ons waardeer die *HOD* se respons op hierdie saak. Dit is goed, maar dit is nie goed genoeg nie. Ons moet vra hoe hierdie reël ooit toegelaat kon word? Watter soort denke lei tot so ‘n oneerbiedige beleid?

Die mense van die Wes-Kaap verdien ’n gesondheidsdiens wat omgee elke dag van die week. Hulle moet nie weggestuur word weens die dag op die kalender nie. Ons het ’n volledige ondersoek nodig. Ons het ’n belofte nodig dat dit nooit weer sal gebeur nie. Dankie, agb *House Chair*.

†Hon House Chair, I rise to talk about a notice of a clinic in Villiersdorp. This notice has angered many people in the Western Cape, and they have the right to feel like that.

The notice reads that people cannot even get sick notes on a Monday or a Friday. It is wrong and contrary to the Constitution of our country. People do not choose when to become sick. You cannot tell a person not to be sick

from Tuesday to Thursday. That is not how sickness works. This rule is very unfair, especially for farmworkers.

A sick note is often the only thing protecting a labourer to not lose their work or their money. To send them away without a note puts your life maintenance in jeopardy. This clinic's rule is also contrary to the labour legislation of South Africa. Every worker has the right to a sick note when he is sick on any day of the week.

We have reported this issue to the HOD who in the meantime has ordered the facility to remove this notice. We appreciate the HOD's response to this issue. It is good, but it is not good enough. We have to ask how this rule could ever have been allowed? What kind of thoughts lead to such a disrespectful policy?

The people of the Western Cape deserve a health service that cares every day of the week. They should not be sent away because of the day on the calendar. We require a complete investigation. We require a promise that it will never happen again. Thank you, hon House Chair.

†Die TYDELIKE VOORSITTER: Baie dankie, agb lid. Ek erken die Demokratiese Alliansie.

[The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Madam House Chair, I rise to call on this House to recognise the Springbok women on their historic achievement this past weekend, becoming the first South African team to reach the quarter finals of the Inaugural WXV Rugby Competition. This is a landmark moment for women's rugby in our country and a testament to the passion, resilience and skill of these exceptional athletes.

We are incredibly proud of the Springbok women and the many dedicated female athletes across South Africa whose hard work and determination continue to uplift the sport and inspire a new generation of young women to believe in their dreams.

From grassroots rugby fields to international arenas, these women are not only excelling in their sport, they are also breaking barriers, challenging stereotypes and setting new standards for what is possible in women's sport.

The Democratic Alliance recognises that sports, arts and culture are a powerful vehicle for personal growth, social cohesion and economic opportunity. Beyond competition, they serve as unifying forces bridging divides, nurturing youth development and instilling values of discipline, creativity and teamwork.

We encourage young people across the province to seize every opportunity to work hard, to pursue excellence both on the field and on the stage, and to use these platforms to build leadership, confidence and health lifestyles.

Together, we can continue to build pathways for our youth to thrive both on and off the field. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. †Ek erken die Vryheidsfront Plus. [I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.]

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): Baie, baie dankie, agb Speaker [Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker] and hon Madam Chair. Hon Chairperson, the Freedom Front Plus conveys its heartfelt condolences to families who have lost loved ones during this unrelenting carnage caused by gang-shootings on the Cape Flat areas. While we are pursuing the devolution of policing powers for the Western Cape, we urge the Western Cape Government to ensure that we do everything within our constitutional mandate to expand on crime prevention actions, to save lives and to do the best we can in the troubling time we are facing.

The Western Cape's people want to realise their dreams here in the Western Cape. Everybody is coming here for jobs. Everybody is flocking to the Western Cape for a better life, and their lives dare not be cut short as a result of the decision to come here.

In closing, hon Chairperson, I want to use this opportunity to also convey birthday wishes to Mr Peter Marais, the former father of this House, who made a valuable contribution in his term of office between 2019 and 2024. I want to wish him an 82nd congratulations on his 82nd year of life granted to

him by the Almighty God above. I thank you for this opportunity. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Marais and please do extend our warm wishes and Godspeed to the hon Peter Marais. Thank you very much. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Hon House Chair, Section 27 of South Africa's Constitution provides that everyone has the right to access healthcare services, and no one may be refused emergency medical treatment.

Al Jama-ah is not surprised by the DA-run Western Cape Parliament to oppose any reforms in our country's unequal healthcare system. The Province's decision to challenge the National Health Insurance Act in the Constitutional Court is another testament that the DA-led Province is against dignified healthcare for vulnerable communities.

Whilst we are aware that there are some concerns around the NHI, this cannot be used to stop the much-needed reforms within our healthcare system. The DA-led Province continues to undermine transformation processes by National Government. Quality and efficient healthcare is a basic human right to all. The Western Cape is a rich province, but at the same time, it remains one of the most unequal provinces in South Africa where the quality and type of services people receive depend on their socio-economic conditions.

We want to know how the Province is paying for the lawsuit or whether it is taking from the budget meant for Education, resulting once again, in the retrenchment of more teachers. There is nothing unconstitutional about the NHI and Al Jama-ah supports meaningful transformation in our healthcare system. I thank you very much, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the African Christian Democratic Party.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Madam House Chair. Hon Madam House Chair, the discovery of the arms and ammunition found in Lentegour in Mitchells Plain on Monday, 1 September, is evidence of the continuation of violence in Mitchells Plain and other areas. During the raid led by the South African Police Service, 19 illegal firearms and 15 000 rounds of ammunition, and assorted weapons were found. Among it, was found a torso target shooting practise board. It is alleged that the owner was not at the house during the raid.

If these guns had gone on the streets, hon Madam House Chair, it would have meant that 19 people would be armed and you look at about 15 000 deaths: 15 000 bullets, 15 000 deaths. So, we commend the SAPS for discovering these arms and ammunition in Lentegour. But hon Madam Chair, the big problem is and as I said previously, the big problems are there are so many illegal firearms roaming the streets and SAPS must take responsibility

because many of these firearms were stolen from police precincts. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): No, hon House Chair, we have no statement. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon House Chairperson, the Western Cape Provincial Parliament has always understood that its constitutional mandate of lawmaking, oversight and public participation cannot be executed in isolation. This Parliament has deliberately forged a new partnership to strengthen its capacity, deepen democracy and ensure that the voices of our people echo in every decision we make.

Through initiatives like WCPP Engage and the Virtual Petitions Roadshow, we have collaborated with civic organisations, municipalities and technology partners to expand access to our Province and our processes. These partnerships extend the reach of Parliament far beyond Wale Street, ensuring that the oversight we exercise reflects the lived experiences and the realities in rural towns, informal settlements and migrant communities in the Western

Cape.

Internationally, the WCPP has engaged with legislatures across Africa and beyond, sharing knowledge and learning through study visits, conferences and networks. These relationships not only enrich our institutional practice and position, but it also makes this Parliament a credible player in the inter-parliamentary cooperation space.

Hon members, allow me to situate these partnerships in the context of a global obligation: the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This resolution challenges national governments, provincial governments and local governments to ensure that women are central to peace, security and development.

Our committees already play an important role by interrogating with the departmental budgets, empower women by tracking how disaster and climate responses include women's leadership and by engaging communities to bring grassroots perspectives into our debates. These partnerships in practice allow us to partner with our communities, partner with Government departments and provide spaces where we ensure that every rand is spent to advance safety, dignity and equal participation for women. ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon member. Your time is up.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): The resolution challenges us as the WCPP to renew our commitment to be the guardians of accountability and the partners in building a safer and more just ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...inclusive society. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon House Chair, since this matter was raised in this House about the issue of devolution of powers. I want to put it to this House that the hon Premier and Cabinet have taken a decision that we will now table an Executive Bill to deal with the matter relating to the Powers Bill. This Powers Bill will specifically deal with the following matters in particular, to expedite the growth of this Government.

So, the Powers Bill will deal with the issues of trade, the issues of the harbour, the issues of exports, the issues of public transport and the issues of safety and security. I hereby therefore give notice that the hon Premier will

formally table an Executive Bill, not a Committee Bill, in this House and this is a very important step because we are determined to do what the hon Premier has said at the beginning of the year when hon members on this side and this side of the House were at the opening of Parliament in Beaufort West.

The hon Premier said, 'step up' and I think since 20 January, we have seen the urgency now in the world, particularly what has happened in the United States with the global trade and tariff and the due politics, that we are now ready to introduce that Executive Bill because we are interested in giving substantive content to the issue of the Powers Bill.

I would also like to inform hon members of this House that there is a huge appetite within the Government of National Unity for some of these particular proposals and I am particularly happy that we have found each other in some of these things. In addition, hon House Chair, it is significant, it is important that we also understand, given the situation now in the country with animal diseases and foot-and-mouth disease, that the issue of provincial veterinary services will now also come to this House.

I therefore am particularly happy that where this Government is taking decisions, that it will ultimately affect the quality of life of people and the Government of National Unity. I know hon member, through you, hon House Chair, to the hon member Nkondlo is particularly happy that we have found each other in the issues of the Powers Bill because the Powers Bill will give

this House more power.

In this House are 42 hon members and the more powers we have, the more oversight we can also do. I want to put it to this House that this is an excellent contribution on all hon members of this House because we are asking for more powers ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: ...because powers have to do with the principle of subsidiarity. I can see in this House there is a big appetite on that side of the House, on this side of the House and on this side of the House that the principle of subsidiarity has finally found its way into this House and I would therefore, like to table this Executive Statement in this House. ...[Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Meyer. Your Executive Statement is duly noted and thus recorded. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members Statements.

MOTIONS

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: We are now moving to Notices of Motions in terms of in terms of Rule 151. All notices of motions by the hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the

Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House debates the ongoing delays in the Western Cape Government's hospital upgrade projects.

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

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

The House debates the impact of living conditions in Kraaifontein, following recent protests by residents demanding improved sanitation, policing, health services, and infrastructure.

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

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

The House debates the increasing murder rate of children in the Western Cape.

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

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

That the House debates the severe impact of the City of Cape Town's recent steep tariff hikes, particularly property, sanitation, water, electricity, and cleaning charges based on property valuations.

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

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, in terms of Motions without Notice, Rule 150. We now move onto Motions without Notice as indicated. I would like to inform you that in terms of the Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 2 September 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, 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 September 2025, 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 purpose of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon B Ngqentsu of the ANC, hon P Z Lekker of the ANC, hon R Windvogel of the ANC, hon A P Bans of the ANC, hon B Ngqentsu of the ANC, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon N P Masipa of the DA, hon D W Bryant of the DA, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon B M Van Minnen of the DA, hon N P Masipa of the DA, hon W F Kaizer-Philander of the DA, hon N P Masipa of the DA, hon N P Masipa of the DA, and hon G Brinkhuis of Al Jama-ah.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

That the House notes with great sadness the brutal killing of 29-year-old Clare Swartz from Tafelsig whose body was found fatally stabbed and partially unclothed at the Wolfgat Nature Reserve; condemns this horrific act in the strongest terms; calls on law enforcement to bring those responsible to justice; and expresses deepest condolences to the family

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with great sadness the untimely passing away of six-year-old Zachary Davids from Mitchells Plain who tragically lost his life after being struck by a truck while playing outside; and extends heartfelt condolences to his parents, family, friends and the broader Mitchells Plain community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with pride the achievement of Mr Roberto-Rui Agrela, a 33-year-old car salesman from Paarl, who has been crowned the 2025 Boerewors Champion, emerging victorious among more than 2 350 hopefuls in the 33rd Annual South African Championship Boerewors Competition; and congratulates Mr Agrela on this remarkable accomplishment, which not only showcases his talent and passion, but also brings great pride to the community of Paarl and the Western Cape as a whole.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates 14-year-old Ledario de Wee from Atlantis, who was crowned Mr Pageant South Africa Western Province 2025 at the inaugural Mr, Miss, and Mrs Pageants SA Western Cape; further notes that Ledario has made history as the first-ever winner of this prestigious title in our province, showcasing not only his talent and confidence, but also serving as an inspiration to other young people in the Western Cape to pursue their dreams with courage and determination; applauds his remarkable achievement; and wishes him continued success as he represents the Western Cape and South Africa in future endeavours.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its deepest condolences after the tragic passing away of three-month-old baby Moegsien Isaacs who was fatally shot in Bonteheuwel; extends our sympathy to his parents, family and the Bonteheuwel community who mourn this heartbreaking loss; further condemns the senseless violence that continues to rob innocent lives; and calls for strengthened action to protect children and communities from gang-related crime.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Aliyah Pillay on being selected a member of the African Genesis Archery World Cup Team for 2025; notes that the team will participate against other provinces during October; and wishes the Western Cape team all the best for their upcoming competition and for Aliya's archery career.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Brendyn Alloys on being awarded the Ron Herring Mission Services Award for his work at the Novalsi Ubuntu Institute in Wynberg, particularly for his contribution to the development of young men; and recognises the positive impact that programmes such as these have in building resilience in communities and in strengthening South African society as a whole.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Zola Budd on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 18th Annual Sports Awards; further

recognises all the nominees and winners from the Western Cape whose excellence they represent; and expresses gratitude for their invaluable contribution to sport, both on and off the field.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House commends KNOX Hydrate for their contribution towards the successful achievement of the Marimba Jam World Record for the Largest Marimba Ensemble in the World, now officially recognised by the Guinness World Records; further acknowledges Mr Mervin Naidoo and his team at Grand West for their outstanding support and logistical excellence in hosting this landmark cultural event, which brought together 1 177 participants in a powerful display of unity, creativity and South African cultural pride; recognises that this achievement not only showcases the vibrancy of our arts and culture sector, but also demonstrates the vital role that public–private partnerships play in enabling world-class events; and expresses appreciation to KNOX Hydrate, GrandWest and all partners involved for their dedication to uplifting communities, empowering youth and celebrating the diverse heritage of the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Pinelands High School on the outstanding success of their recent production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*; notes that the 60-member cast, supported by students, musicians and staff, delivered a performance full of energy, humour and precision, showcasing the depth of talent in the school community; acknowledges the dedication of Director Ms Tara Notcutt, Musical Director Mrs Eloise Jurgens and Choreographer Mrs Cleo Notcutt-Williams for bringing this vibrant production to life; and celebrates the production as a proud example of creativity and excellence in the Western Cape's schools.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its deepest condolences after the passing away of Dr Donovan Kirkwood, curator of the Stellenbosch University Botanical Garden, who tragically lost his life during a conservation field trip in the Jonkershoek Nature Reserve on 26 August 2025; acknowledges his outstanding contribution to the protection and restoration of rare Cape flora, and his leadership in strengthening the garden's conservation collections and initiating the James and Shirley Sherwood Botanical Art Collection; pays tribute to his passion for

education, innovation and public engagement in conservation; and extends heartfelt sympathies to his family, colleagues and the broader botanical community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its heartfelt condolences following the sudden passing away of Alridge Mercuur (60) who tragically died of a heart attack shortly after his wife donated a kidney to him; acknowledges the courage and selflessness demonstrated in that act; and conveys sympathy to his family and the broader rugby community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That this House extends its deepest sympathy after the passing away of David Gordon, a respected Somerset West resident who died peacefully on 16 August 2025 after a long battle with dementia and Alzheimer's disease; commends his lifelong contributions as a civil engineer, entrepreneur and stalwart of local rugby administration, particularly in his roles as vice-president and coach of the Somerset Rugby Board; further recognises his efforts to preserve local heritage, including his

introduction of the Cape Slave Heritage Project, to researchers at the Western Cape Archives; honours his legacy; and extends condolences to his beloved family and the Helderberg community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the 21 artists from the Western Cape named among the top 40 finalists for the 2025 Portrait Award; notes that the winners will be announced on 29 August 2025 at the Rust-en-Vrede Gallery in Durbanville, with exhibitions running until 29 October 2025; commends them for their outstanding contribution to South African portraiture; and calls on all Members of this House to support artists in their respective constituencies.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Langa Community Advice Office and all stakeholders involved in hosting a successful Access to Justice Day, including ProBono.Org, Walkers Inc Attorneys, the University of the Western Cape Law Clinic, Legal Aid South Africa (Bellville Office), and McNab Properties; notes that this initiative provided vital legal

support and empowerment to more than 50 community members, many of whom were elderly women and GBVF survivors facing significant barriers to justice; and further recognises this event as a powerful example of collaboration and commitment to ensuring that access to legal support is a right for all, regardless of financial status or location.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I move without notice:

That the House marks 40 years since the tragic death of Adri Aaron Faas, a bright and determined young man from Paarl, who was killed on 28 August 1985 at just 18 years old during apartheid unrest; notes that Adri was born on 6 November 1966, the eldest of four children to Aunty Spasie and Uncle Alec Faas, and was known in his Lantana Street community as a sharp-minded and principled young man who excelled both academically and athletically; further notes that Adri attended the Nederburg Primary School and the Paulus Joubert High School where he stood out as a cross-country runner and trained under the late tennis pioneer David Samaai, before enrolling at the University of the Western Cape with dreams of becoming a lawyer; acknowledges that on the night of 28 August 1985, Adri was fatally shot in the head by a senior police officer while walking near protests in Paarl East; remembers that, despite State efforts to suppress his funeral, thousands gathered in defiance to honour Adri's life, and that his story remains a painful

reminder of the many young lives lost in the struggle against racial oppression; extends its deepest respects to the Faas family, the Paulus Joubert High School community, who named the school hall in his honour, and all who continue to mourn Adri's loss; and honours his memory as part of our shared commitment to truth, justice and reconciliation.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the women officers and administrative staff of the Manenberg Police Station for their impactful community initiative held during Women's Month, which highlighted the essential role that women play in modern policing; recognises that these women showcased a progressive model of law enforcement, combining firm authority with deep compassion and restorative engagement; acknowledges the critical, often unseen, contributions of the administrative staff whose dedicated work behind the scenes is fundamental to the operation of the station; and commends this initiative as a proud example of the leadership, resilience and the nurturing spirit that women bring to all levels of public service, not only in advancing community safety but also in reshaping the future of policing in the Western Cape for the better.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House conveys its deepest condolences after the passing away of Nomalungelo “Mam’Mambona” Theodora Nkanyuza, a pioneer of community development and a true servant of the people; notes her lifelong dedication to uplifting the vulnerable, including founding the Ikhaya Labantu Old-age Home in Langa, and later expanding her work to Early Childhood Education through Eyabantu Educare; acknowledges her exceptional achievements, including earning a Diploma in Social Services through UCT’s RPL programme and representing South Africa on international platforms, while never turning her back on her community; further recognises her role in creating structures, such as the Langa Elderly Person’s Forum and the Langa ECD Forum, as well as her commitment to dignity and care for the elderly, the frail and displaced persons; pays tribute to her extraordinary life of service, resilience and compassion; and extends heartfelt sympathies to her family, friends and the Langa community she so faithfully served.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): I move without notice:

That the House recognises Dr Aayesha Soni from Cape Town as South

Africa's First Female Epileptologist; further recognise that she, an adult neurologist, has returned to Cape Town after a year-long clinical fellowship in epileptology in Canada; notes that she is currently one of only two internationally trained adult epileptologists practicing in South Africa and the only neurologist in the country with formal training in stereo-electroencephalography, a specialised technique used to pinpoint the source of seizures in patients with complex epilepsy; further notes that she is a volunteer with Gift of the Givers and contributed towards many of its relief efforts; recognises that her return represents an important moment for epilepsy care in South Africa; and congratulates her on her achievements.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections?

Hon MEMBERS: No! No.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if that hon member had read them aloud.

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 in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are thus reminded that the 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d) will start now. I recognise the hon Sayed.

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

That this House notes and strongly condemns the actions of hon Premier Alan Winde and the Western Cape Government for taking the National Health Insurance (NHI) to the Constitutional Court, an action that undermines national health policy and wastes public funds that could be used to improve healthcare services in our province; the House notes that during his 2025 State of the Province Address, hon Premier Winde claimed that the Provincial Strategic Plan or the PSP 2025–2030, “is aligned with the national Medium-Term Development Plan or the MTDP, which will guide our work over the next term.” Yet, by challenging the NHI in court, the hon Premier has directly contradicted the MTDP, which explicitly positions the NHI as a central pillar of universal, equitable healthcare. This action exposes the Democratic Alliance’s naked hypocrisy and demonstrates that the Western Cape Government prioritises political obstruction and balkanisation over the health and well-being of its citizens, particularly poor and working-class communities; the House further notes that at yesterday’s Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters, hon Premier

Winde's Department was confused as to whether the PSP is a Strategic Plan or a Framework, with the Director-General clarifying it to be a 'Road Map'. Members of the public who attended the meeting stated that they were so confused by the presentation that they could see the hon Premier is out of touch with the people, and this reaffirmed their lived reality of being ignored and disconnected from decision-making processes; the House further notes that the NHI is a progressive reform aimed at ensuring access to quality healthcare for all South Africans and that resources being spent on lawyers and litigation could instead be directed toward clinics, hospitals, medical staff, and service delivery in communities most in need. Hon Premier Winde's legal challenge ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC):

...clearly shows that the DA is not concerned about the health of the people, but only that they remain healthy enough to work; the House welcomes the principle of universal healthcare and the implementation of the NHI as outlined in the MTDP and calls on the hon Premier and the Western Cape Government to immediately withdraw this Constitutional Court challenge and fully commit to supporting the NHI in line with the national priorities; the House resolves that the DA's obstruction of the NHI be exposed, that public funds be redirected to the delivery of

healthcare, and that all health policy in the province be aligned with the national Medium-Term Development Plan to ensure equitable access and services for all. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Hon House Chairperson, I move without notice on behalf of the African National Congress:

That the House notes and welcomes the announcement by the Department of Public Works, Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala, to use the Expropriation Act to reclaim hijacked, abandoned, and derelict buildings in the Western Cape, particularly in areas such as Goodwood and Kraaifontein, and repurpose them for public good; the House notes that

43 buildings have already been identified under Operation Bring Back and that Deputy Minister Sihle Zikalala has affirmed the Government's commitment to use the Expropriation Act, including where necessary without compensation, to return these properties to productive use; the House further notes that the Expropriation Act, signed into law in January 2025, explicitly allows for expropriation without compensation in circumstances where properties are abandoned, hijacked, or pose a danger to surrounding communities. This progressive intervention ensures that buildings left to decay or criminal misuse are brought back under democratic ownership and redirected to serve urgent public needs such as affordable housing, community facilities, and social services; the House further notes that many communities in the Western Cape face an acute housing shortage and urban decay caused by abandoned or hijacked properties, and that decisive action by the National Government is necessary to address these injustices, particularly where the Western Cape Government has failed to act decisively; that this House resolves to support the use of the Expropriation Act to reclaim abandoned and hijacked properties in the Western Cape, to ensure that they are rehabilitated for public benefit, and to call on the Western Cape Government to work with the Department of Public Works and affected communities to implement this programme in a transparent, just, and effective manner. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I put to the House: are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Objection! No! Objection!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, no need for any ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is no need ...[Interjections.] Hon members on my left and hon members on my right. Let us maintain the decorum of the House. There is no need for back and forth. Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the surge in violent crime in the small towns of the Witzenberg Municipality, including the brutal assault of a two-year-old child in Wolseley recently, who remains in hospital after being attacked by his father, and the tragic killing of a young woman in Prince Alfred? Hamlet at the hands of her boyfriend. These horrific incidents underscore the growing vulnerability of women and children in rural communities, where limited policing resources, inadequate social support, and weak safety mechanisms leave residents exposed to cycles of violence and abuse; that the House must condemn

the DA-led Provincial Government for its persistent failure to protect women and children in rural areas. Despite repeated calls for stronger rural safety interventions which also much cover farm workers and ordinary citizens beyond only the farmers and the farm owners, victims remain at the mercy of abusers while the Provincial Government hides behind rhetoric. The reality is that the Western Cape has become the epicentre of violence against women and children, and the DA Government has failed to act decisively; the House therefore calls on the Provincial Government to intensify interventions in Witzenberg and other rural municipalities, to introduce dedicated rural safety plans that also take into cognisance women and children, to expand and strengthen victim support services, and to take urgent steps to ensure that perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence and child abuse are brought swiftly and firmly to justice. I so move.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I put to the House: are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: No objection, agreed to. Hon members, I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Chair, I move without notice:

That the House notes with outrage the dishonesty of the Democratic Alliance in claiming that the City of Cape Town was forced to discontinue the provision of emergency kits during the COVID-19 pandemic. This, hon House Chair, I communicate through you to hon member Bryant who was actually telling untruths in this House last week, Thursday. This, due to instructions from the National Treasury. The truth is that the National Treasury called on all Government departments to reprioritise budgets during COVID-19 to respond to the crisis and it was the DA-run municipality that chose to cut this critical service, leaving vulnerable families without urgent relief in their time of greatest need; the House must condemn the DA for once again misleading the public and attempting to shift blame onto the National Government to cover up its own callous decision-making. The DA's deliberate removal of this essential support during a national disaster exposed its lack of compassion for poor and working-class communities which now all of a sudden, they have just woken up to the love of these communities, and their habitual use of lies to deflect accountability. The House must call on the DA to take responsibility for its decisions, stop misleading residents of the Western Cape, and commit to restoring services that protect the dignity and livelihoods of vulnerable households. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Hon MEMBERS: We object! Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Nkondlo. Please proceed, hon member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon House Chair, I move without notice:

The House notes the abuse of tariffs by the City of Cape Town driving the ever-rising cost of living. It is become a reality for most Capetonians that they can afford to live with dignity in their city they call home. What good is a city when its citizens cannot afford to live in it? The only people who can afford to live in Cape Town are increasingly foreigners. There is an increasing number of Germans, Ukrainians, and Russians snapping up properties within the Atlantic Seaboard. This is because of the Euro exchange to the local currency; to them, the property prices are cheap, and they can comfortably afford to pay the monthly municipality rates, which in areas like Camps Bay can average above R10,000 per month. What about the citizens of this city who have been property owners for many years and are now faced with the reality of not being able to afford the monthly rates imposed by the City? Is this not a despicable plan and strategy by the City to force its

residents out of their homes in order to enable foreign ownership. A large percentage of these foreign owners do not intend to make Cape Town their primary residence, and this is driving asset and wealth inequality that was spoken about by Stats SA and revealed in the Inequality Report of 2019; and we await the next report next year in 2026. Cities like London and Amsterdam have faced similar challenges and often debated the effects of increasing property tariffs in driving inequality amongst their people. The House of Commons saw Brexit as an opportunity to address socio-economic issues, including property ownership and housing inequality, and restore major cities like London back into the hands of the British people. In 2013 it was widely reported that London's property ownership had become more Indian, Chinese and Russian and less British, forcing Londoners with no other option but to rent. To bring this home, I will use an analogy of Yanga, a 28-year-old architect graduate who lives in Gugulethu and commutes daily into Cape Town CBD to service his employment duties in one of the city's prestigious property development firms. He's been working here for over five years and is grateful to have this job, as some of his graduates are out of employment. It saddens Yanga's heart to think that he designs apartments that he cannot afford to purchase at his current salary. These are apartments deemed as lock-up and go type of living targeting young professionals, which Yanga falls under, yet it is outside of his affordability range. Who are we to blame for this? This excludes the almost R5,000 they will have to fork out monthly for levies, rates, water and electricity. There are many Yanga's out there who are facing

similar struggles. How can this City pride itself as the ‘best city to live in’ when its citizens cannot afford to live in it? Something needs to change. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Yes, object.

Hon MEMBERS: Objection. I object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and motion will be printed on the Order Paper. ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon House Chairperson?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I recognise you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Chairperson, before you moved the question for requesting whether we object or not, I wanted to raise a point of order on Rule 153 of our Rules, regarding a motion that offends against the practice of the Rules because I do believe that the xenophobia in the motion violates against the Bill of Rights Section 21 of our Constitution regarding

the freedom of movement. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement ...[Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): It is not ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...including all the nationalities that the hon member has mentioned.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You cannot do that.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. We will consult Hansard and revert back. Thank you very much. I recognise ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Chairperson, I move ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You are audible, hon member. Please proceed.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Chair. Hon Chair, I move without notice:

That the House notes with outrage the shocking condition at Khayelitsha District Hospital where patients are being forced to sleep on cold floors,

sit on chairs for days and even buy their own medication due to severe overcrowding, staff shortages, and a chronic lack of resources. Families have been left desperate, with some removing sick loved ones without treatment because of the unbearable conditions; that the House condemns the DA-led Provincial Government for its continued neglect of poor and working-class communities, where healthcare facilities like Khayelitsha Hospital are collapsing under pressure while the DA diverts resources to wealthy areas. Despite years of promises, the DA has failed to invest adequately in township healthcare infrastructure, leaving residents with indignity, suffering, and preventable deaths; that the House calls on the Provincial Government to immediately intervene by increasing funding, staff, and capacity at the Khayelitsha Hospital, and to present an urgent turnaround plan to ensure that no patient in the Western Cape is again forced to sleep on the floor in a so-called world-class province. Anything less is a betrayal of the people. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

Hon MEMBERS: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

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

That the House notes the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, marked by a grand military parade held in Beijing on 3 September 2025, which brought together world leaders including President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, alongside representatives from across the globe; that the House recognises that this commemoration was not only a display of China's military capabilities, but also an important reminder of the sacrifices made during the war and the collective responsibility of nations to safeguard peace; that the House further welcomes the emphasis placed on national unity, historical memory, and technological progress, which demonstrates the potential of science and innovation when directed toward national resilience and international stability; that the House commends the spirit of solidarity reflected in this anniversary, and calls for the strengthening of international cooperation to ensure that the horrors of global conflict are never repeated; that the House further notes the deep and enduring relationship between South Africa and China, grounded in BRICS partnership and shared aspirations for peace, development, and multipolar global cooperation; that the House therefore urges that occasions such as these be used to deepen ties

between our two nations, to foster dialogue, and to build bridges of understanding across the international community in pursuit of peace, stability, and prosperity for all peoples. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

Hon MEMBERS: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon B Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. On behalf of the African National Congress, I move without notice:

The House notes with grave concern the alarming increase in the abuse of codeine-based cough syrup, informally known as 'lean,' amongst youth in Cape Town. This dangerous concoction, often mixed with fizzy drinks to induce an euphoric high, has become prevalent in areas such as Lavender Hill. During recent crime prevention operations, authorities discovered empty cough syrup bottles in nearly every public open space,

indicating widespread misuse. The situation escalated when a motorist was apprehended with a significant quantity of cough syrup and a ledger detailing sales to minors, leading to an arrest under the Medicines Act; that this House condemns the illicit sale and distribution of cough syrup to children and calls for immediate and decisive action from law enforcement to dismantle the networks facilitating this abuse. Furthermore, that the House urges the Provincial Government to enhance community outreach programmes aimed at educating youth about the dangers of substance abuse and to strengthen support systems for at-risk individuals. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: We object to it being moved without notice.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. There is an objection, and motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon House Chair. I without notice:

That this House notes with appreciation that Friday, 5 September 2025,

marks Casual Day, South Africa's annual national awareness and fundraising campaign in support of people living with disabilities; further notes that this year's theme, 'Beyond the Label: Embracing Unity through Inclusivity and Diversity'; calls on society to break down stereotypes, see beyond prejudice, and affirm the dignity and humanity of every individual; that the House commends the tireless efforts of organisations that champion the rights and interests of people living with disabilities, who continue to mobilise society and raise much-needed resources in the face of systemic neglect; that the House calls on the Provincial Government to prioritise disability rights with concrete action, including comprehensive accessibility plans, increased funding for inclusive services, and stronger protections against discrimination. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Bosman for sobering up. I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is a point of order. Please take your seat, hon Ngqentsu.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Temporary Speaker, I would like to just ask that you ask, through you, ask hon Benson to clarify his comment. I heard he said, “thank you very much to hon Bosman for sobering up,” therefore implying that I seem to not be sober. So, I would just like him to clarify that statement. ...[Laughter.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Chief Whip. Hon member, can I please ask you to refrain from unnecessary comments. Can you please continue with your motion.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon House Chairperson, I think I am going to insist that the hon Ngqentsu withdraw because I do think that he is impugning on my dignity. I am a very sober person, and I do not understand why hon Benson would make this assertion.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon Ngqentsu, did you, indeed, make this statement?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I withdraw.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. The hon member withdrew. I am not going to entertain further comments or

points of orders on this matter. Hon member, please proceed.

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

That ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC):

...the House notes and welcomes the R50,000 reward offered by the South African Police Service for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the tragic murder of Myolisi Magibisela, the ANC's Khayelitsha convener and SANCO activist, who was fatally shot at his home in Makhaza, Khayelitsha, on 23 June 2025. This initiative underscores the commitment of law enforcement to bring justice to the victim and his family; that the House further commends the leadership of the ANC in the Dullah Omar region, particularly Chairperson Ndithini Tyhido, for their unequivocal support of the police's efforts. The ANC's stance reflects a collective responsibility to uphold the rule of law and ensure that perpetrators of violence are held accountable; that the House calls on all members of the community, irrespective of political affiliation, to come forward with any information that may assist in the investigation; that the House also urges the Provincial Government to continue its support for law

enforcement agencies in their pursuit of justice for Myolisi Magibisela and to strengthen measures that protect activists and community leaders who work tirelessly to improve the lives of others. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: No objections?

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Agreed to. Hon members, I recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): [Microphone not on.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon House Chair.

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection online.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Ngqentsu, please take your seat.

Hon member Windvogel, is that a point of order? Hon member Windvogel?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No, hon Chair, it is not a point of order, but we cannot hear the hon member.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I will ask the hon member to turn up his volume and also make sure that the mic is on. Thank you, hon Windvogel. Please proceed, hon member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Apologies, hon Chair and the House. I move without notice:

That the House notes with appreciation the recent success of the South African Police Service during Operation Shanela in Khayelitsha, Cape Town, where police officers working to combat crime in Makhaza encountered an armed threat while conducting vehicle checks in the area. The incident occurred opposite the Japhta K Masemola taxi rank, where a Toyota LDV was stopped after the driver attempted to evade the police. The police successfully intercepted the vehicle, seizing an AK-47 rifle, a 9mm firearm, and ammunition. Two suspects, both aged 37, were arrested and are set to appear in the Khayelitsha Magistrate's Court; that this House commends the courage and professionalism of the officers involved in ensuring the safety of the community, effectively removing dangerous weapons and preventing potential violence, and calls on law enforcement to continue such proactive operations to

protect residents and reduce crime in Khayelitsha. I so move, hon Chair.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes with outrage the protest by residents of Bloekombos and Wallacedene in Kraaifontein, who were forced to march through sewage-filled streets to demand the most basic services, including a mobile police station, a Gender-Based Violence desk, 24-hour clinic services, and urgent upgrades to roads, sanitation, streetlights, and electricity. These conditions expose the DA-led City of Cape Town and the DA-led Provincial Government's continued failure to deliver to poor and working-class communities, leaving residents to live in filth, fear, and neglect. While the DA boasts about governance, the

reality for communities in Kraaifontein ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Windvogel. I do apologise for interrupting you. It seems that this is some different motion to what was submitted. We are now on Motion 12. That motion was dealt with, hon member. Do you have the correct motion with you?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No, hon Chairperson. I only have two motions here.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: The one that you have just delivered is the one that was already ...[Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): No.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: ...read out. So, then it would be the other one in your possession.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Okay. Thank you, hon Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You may proceed, hon member.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Chairperson. I move without notice:

That the House notes with outrage the protest by residents of Bloekombos and Wallacedene in Kraaifontein, who were forced to march through sewage-filled streets to demand the most basic services, including a mobile police station, a gender-based violence desk, 24-hour clinic services ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Yes?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: That motion that you are currently reading was dealt with already.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Then, that is the only motion ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Is that the only motion that you have?

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Yes. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I then proceed to hon member Stoffel.

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

That the House notes the recent announcement that four municipalities in the Western Cape, Beaufort West, Cederberg, Kannaland, and Matzikama, have qualified for Eskom debt relief under the National Treasury's debt relief programme, with a combined initial write-off of R93,1 million. Beaufort West has received R25,6 million in relief, Cederberg R15 million, Kannaland R14,8 million, and Matzikama R37,7 million; that the House further notes that the programme allows for up to two-thirds of the remaining Eskom debt to be written off over the next two years, provided that municipalities continue to meet strict conditions of financial discipline, improved revenue collection, and responsible governance; that the House welcomes the decisive intervention by the National Treasury and Eskom in providing struggling municipalities with the space to recover, while condemning the DA-led Provincial Government ...[Laughter.] for failing to provide the necessary leadership ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC):

...and oversight to prevent municipalities from collapsing into debt in the first place. The reality is that the National Government has stepped in where the Province has failed; and calls on the DA-led Provincial Government to stop paying lip service and instead provide tangible, consistent support to ensure municipalities meet the programme's

conditions, stabilise their finances, and deliver reliable services to residents. Anything less is a betrayal of the people who depend on these municipalities for basic services. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: There, you failed!

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection. There is an objection to ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members. Can you please contain yourself. Allow me to put the question to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Object! Object!

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection to the motion ...[Interjection.].

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: There is an objection ...[Interjections.] and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice, and that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting, and all hon members will be exited from this Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17:50.