
THURSDAY, 5 MARCH 2015

The House met at 14:15

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Order. The Secretary will read the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

1. Introduction and First Reading – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B2 – 2015] (Minister of Finance).

The SPEAKER: The honourable, the Minister of Finance, Minister Ivan Meyer.

'n AGBARE LID: Hoor, hoor!

Hon MEMBERS: Hear-hear!

An HON MEMBER: Where is Lennit Max? Just look there. [Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Honourable Speaker and Deputy Speaker; honourable Premier and my Cabinet colleagues; honourable Leader of the Official Opposition; honourable members of the Legislature; honourable members of the National Assembly present here today; the Western Cape Public Service Commissioner and staff of the PSC; Mayors, Councillors and municipal officials; Director-General and Heads of Department; special guests, business and community leaders; colleagues; the President of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce; the Chief Executive Officer of the Cape Town International Airport and citizens of the Western Cape.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to present the Western Cape 2015/16 Budget of the Western Cape Province. This budget is citizen centric, it is pro-investment, pro-poor and it is pro-delivery. As such, it is an agenda for action.

This budget is an instrument to create hope in challenging times. Madam Speaker, we are indeed living in challenging times.

In challenging times you must listen to the voices of the poor, in both the urban and in the rural areas. We have heard the small and big businesses on growing the economy and creating jobs. Together with my colleagues we have heard the voices of the unemployed and the youth of this province. People in all walks of life have spoken to us in the last year about the socio-

economic challenges of the people of the Western Cape.

When drafting this budget we agreed that behind these figures of this budget are people, real people with real needs and challenges. People who are daily confronted with the economy of their households. Getting a job, keeping your children in school, paying taxi fare, buying bread and milk, buying airtime, buying school clothes and books, facing load shedding, and wondering how to cope the next day. Life is tough for our people, and through the various budget votes my colleagues will deal with how we as a government will respond to some of these challenges. Life is equally tough for businesses, big and small and this budget will also address the socio-economic challenges faced by big and small businesses.

This budget creates hope for our citizens because we must co-create higher opportunities for people to excel.

We have engaged with both farm workers and farmers because we understand the need to grow the economy in the agricultural sector and maintain stability and create prosperity in rural areas. We have seen the impact of water and electricity on businesses. Two days ago Cabinet met business on the energy issues. Honourable members, we have travelled every corner of the province and spatially the needs vary from region to region. This budget reflects the needs across the geographical footprint of this province.

There were extensive consultations with various sectors in our society

because we wanted this budget to reflect the voices of our people. This budget has heard these voices. The budget is delivered with the voices of reason and inputs from various sectors in our society.

This budget offers the people of the Western Cape a “spring of hope” because it aims to grow the Western Cape economy and create jobs. This budget offers the youth of the Western Cape a “spring of hope” as it provides the opportunity to break the back of generational poverty through education and skills development.

The 2015 Budget focuses on balancing finances while managing risk and maintaining fiscal stability in a weak economic environment whilst giving effect to the 2014-2019 Provincial Strategic Plan. The provincial budget process aims to ensure that resources are allocated to priorities and that government spending remains within sustainable fiscal limits.

The fiscal objectives for the 2015 Budget process are to promote allocative efficiency, value for money and fiscal sustainability.

Let me now turn to the global outlook. According to the International Monetary Fund, global economic growth was recorded at 3.3 percent in 2014. However, while growth in advanced economies accelerated from 1.3 percent in 2013 to 1.8 percent in 2014, growth in emerging and developing economies moderated from 4.7 to 4.4 percent across the same period.

Overall, global economic growth is predicted to accelerate to 3.5 percent in 2015 and to 3.7 percent in 2016.

Global growth is likely to be supported by the decline in the oil price, as supply is expected to continue outstripping demand. Although the lower oil price is detrimental to oil-producing countries, as export revenue inevitably comes under pressure, this is outperformed by the positive impact on net oil-importing countries. For oil-importing countries like South Africa, the lower oil price boosts economic growth via lower inflation, resulting in an increase in disposable income and spending.

Partly as a result of the recent fall in the oil price, inflation forecasts for 2015 have been revised sharply lower in recent times, particularly in advanced economies. The IMF projects consumer inflation to moderate from 1.4 percent in 2014 to 1.0 percent in 2015, before accelerating to 1.5 percent in 2016. In emerging economies, inflation is expected to accelerate to 5.7 percent in 2015 before moderating to 5.4 percent in 2016.

Let me now turn to the developments and the outlook for the South African economy.

In 2014, the real GDP growth decreased from 2.2 percent in 2013 to 1.5 percent. However, economic growth in South Africa accelerated in the fourth quarter of 2014 by 4.1 percent quarter-on-quarter. This followed growth of 2.1 percent in the third quarter, marginal growth of 0.5 percent in the second

quarter and a contraction of 1.6 percent in the first quarter.

In the primary sector, growth rebounded due to a strong performance by the mining sector post its contraction in the first half of the year due to strikes in the mining industry; and growth was maintained in the agricultural sector amid good crop and animal product production. The secondary sector rebounded due to a strong acceleration in manufacturing output; a slight acceleration in construction and a marginal increase in electricity production.

The National Treasury forecasts GDP growth to increase to 2 percent in 2015 and to further increase to 2.4 percent in 2016.

Let me now turn to the economic outlook for the Western Cape. According to Statistics South Africa economic growth in the Western Cape slowed to 2.4 percent in 2013, from 2.7 percent in 2012.

The tertiary sector remains the most dominant economic sector in the province. In 2013 output by the tertiary sector made up 73 percent of total output in the province largely attributed to the finance, insurance, real estate and business services sector which amounts to 33 percent, and the wholesale and retail trade, catering and accommodation sector accounting for 15 percent of GDP.

This was followed by the secondary sector which contributed 23 percent mainly driven by the manufacturing sector contributing 17 percent and the

construction sector contributing 5 percent. The share of the primary sector contributes approximately 4 percent to the overall GDP in the Western Cape.

Looking ahead, it is unlikely that the structure of the Western Cape economy will change dramatically. As such it will remain tertiary sector orientated. According to BER/Quantec estimates the construction sector is likely to be the fastest growing sector in the Western Cape, with average growth of 4.1 percent over the period 2014–2019. This is followed by the finance, insurance, real estate and business services and transport, storage and communication sectors with an average growth of 3.5 percent and 3.1 percent respectively. In contrast, modest growth of only 1.4 percent on average is predicted for the mining and quarrying sector between 2014 and 2019. Economic growth in the Western Cape is forecast to grow to 2.1 percent in this current financial year. Overall, the Western Cape economy is forecast to grow by an average rate of 2.7 percent between 2014 and 2019.

Let me now turn to the Provincial Strategic Plan and Game Changers. This budget, the 2015 Budget, responds to the challenges of low growth, high unemployment and socio-economic challenges through a framework of action outlined in the Provincial Strategic Plan. The Provincial Strategic Plan sets out five Provincial Strategic Goals for the next five years that are backed by transversal, departmental and sectoral plans and budgets.

The Provincial Strategic Plan is the implementation agenda with the aim to contribute to the objectives of the National Development Plan, Medium Term

Strategic Framework and the OneCape 2040 Vision. The vision is to work towards a highly skilled, innovation-driven, resource efficient, connected, high opportunity society for all.

Let me now turn to the first Strategic Objective and that is to grow the economy and create jobs.

Economic growth and job creation remains the Western Cape Government's number one strategic priority, and are central to fight poverty and therefore we have under the leadership of Minister Winde, the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism launched a project called Project Khulisa.

Khulisa means to "to grow" and it aims to create growth and jobs in those sectors of our region which hold a clear competitive advantage. Through this project we have identified three sectors of the economy. Firstly, we have developed a new [Inaudible.] of trying to understand the economy and the growth potential and therefore we have developed the productive sectors, enabling sectors and social sectors.

Within the productive sectors we have seen that the fastest growing sectors of the economy for the next five years will be the areas of tourism, oil and gas and agri-processing. My colleague, Minister Alan Winde, will provide further detail in his Budget Vote on this project.

The issue of red tape is also central in our pursuit to create jobs and grow the

economy. Red Tape is the primary inhibitor of successful economic growth and is largely caused by two fundamental issues, namely economic unfriendly legislation and inefficient processes and procedures.

Today I am happy to announce that an amount of R30 million has been provided over the 2015 MTEF to resolve issues that negatively affect the establishment and growth of businesses over this period. A dedicated Red Tape Unit will continue to focus on implementing a Regulatory Impact Assessment process to determine the economic impact of new and existing legislation within the province.

Premier Zille has cautioned this Cabinet not to pass any legislation that puts a hamper on economic development in this province. [Interjections.]

Also identifying, investigating and fixing problematic bureaucratic processes ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... lobbying and providing advocacy for a business friendly and competitive legislative environment particularly within the SMME environment. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order please, hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Skills development: appropriate skills development is critical if you want to grow the economy. Therefore I am pleased to announce in the pro-poor budget today an amount of R51.29 million for the 2015/16 financial year and R55.38 million for 2016/17 and R55.59 million in 2017/18 for skills development. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: Jobs and skills!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: These specific initiatives are largely and particularly aimed at young people ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... to increase their employability and placement of people in work places ... [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Jobs and skills. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... in order to address the challenges of experiential learning. Targets include training for 150 artisan and 1 920 semi-skilled candidates.

Die PREMIER: Mooi!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Upon completion of training the majority of these candidates from poor communities will be placed in host companies. Besides a strong focus on artisan development, other key areas include: creative and design capabilities, the finance sector, business outsourcing, the digital economy and entrepreneurial skills. Interventions to improve science, technology, engineering and maths qualifications are also a high priority in this Western Cape.

Let me now turn to a very important sector of the economy: agriculture.

The agricultural sector in the Western Cape is an important contributor to the regional economy. The Western Cape is also South Africa's key agricultural export region. The Western Cape Government is committed to support the agricultural sector and today I am pleased to announce that an amount of R2.4 billion over the next three years will focus on the value chain of agricultural support and services for the sector with specific emphasis on transformation of the sector. [Interjections.]

Ms B A SCHÄFER: Hear-hear!

'n AGB LID: Hoor-hoor! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Please hon members. There is a speaker on the floor. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Key medium to long term targets in the agricultural sector are to maintain the export position for the next 5 years by growing its value added from R16 billion in 2013; also to ensure that at least 70 percent of all agricultural land reform projects are successful over the next 5 years; [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Sorry. Hon Minister Meyer, could you please take your seat. Hon member Mr Paulsen, you are engaging in a debate across the floor while we have a speaker. Please.

Mr M N PAULSEN: But [Inaudible.] the debate is also speaking.

The SPEAKER: But you are carrying on. Hon members, can I appeal to all of you. There is a speaker on the floor. Respect the speaker and if you need to address a matter there is a way in which we need to do it please. Hon Minister Meyer, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We will also support farmers and industries to increase sustainable agricultural production by at least 10 percent over the next 10 years. We will optimise the sustainable utilisation of water and land resources to increase climate smart agricultural production. We will also increase agricultural and related economic opportunities in selected rural areas. My colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, will make further announcements during his Budget Vote. We

will also enhance agri-processing capacity at both primary and secondary level and we will facilitate an increase in relevant skills development in the agricultural sector.

Exports are key to the growth of the economy of the Western Cape. Agricultural and agri-processed products will be promoted in the established markets in Europe, in countries in Africa and in BRICS, especially in China, as well as the domestic market. Honourable members, I am pleased to announce that thirty agri-processing businesses will be supported to participate in these promotional platforms while thirty agri-businesses will be assisted with a range of services towards accessing markets in the 2015/16 financial year.

Let me now turn to economic development strategic initiatives.

This government will use key infrastructure catalytic projects to stimulate and grow the economy.

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: I am pleased to announce today, in this House, that an amount of R175 million is prioritised for key infrastructure catalytic projects focused on stimulating the growth of the provincial economy:

Broadband - connected citizens, connected business and connected leadership; Saldanha Bay IDZ, Improved Air Access; Cape Health Technology Park; Expansion of the Cape Town International Convention Centre; Port of Cape Town Precinct and Design initiative.

The Saldanha Industrial Development Zone, my home town, is set to become a thriving industrial zone with a vibrant workforce on the West Coast of the province with links to the oil and gas sector and the metals and machinery industry. Broadband initiatives aim to support growth in the provincial economy through the support of broadband usage, infrastructure and readiness by citizens and businesses to stimulate broadband up-take.
[Interjection.]

I am please to announce that R57 million over the next three years has been allocated by the Cabinet for Green Economy initiatives. The focus will be on four strategic themes: energy security, resource efficiency, better living models and leadership and coordination. Exploring alternative energy sources will include a focus on Smart Grids and Liquefied Natural Gas.

Let me now turn to infrastructure for growth. This Budget 2015 continues funding programmes aimed at planning and implementing actions of infrastructure projects and improving the quality of infrastructure spending in this province.

Infrastructure, specifically, is key and critical to unlock opportunities for

investment and job creation and I am pleased to announce today that an amount of R17.3 billion will be invested in education, health, environment, transport and public works infrastructure alone because ... [Interjection.]

Die PREMIER: Mooi!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... we believe that infrastructure spending will unlock great opportunities for people in the Western Cape.

Mr M N PAULSEN: More tenders!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: In Education the focus will be on building new schools and classrooms and on replacing schools made of inappropriate materials. Close to R4 billion will be spent on school infrastructure in poor communities over the MTEF. It is anticipated that 19 schools in poor areas will reach practical completion by 31 March 2016.

The Health infrastructure allocation of approximately R2.2 billion over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework makes provision for new health facilities in poor areas and the refurbishment, upgrading and maintenance of existing facilities, in poor areas, including health technology.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Eight capital projects are planned to achieve

practical completion in 2015/16, twelve in 2016/17 and nine projects will be completed in the Health Department in the 2017/18 financial year. The Minister of Health, Minister Mbombo, will provide further detail during her Budget Vote.

Let me now turn to Transport: transport infrastructure investment - R8.96 billion over the MTEF aims to preserve surfaced roads, gravel roads and bridges and to prevent the accumulation of backlogs.

Recently my colleague, Minister Grant, came to Cabinet with a report: The State of Roads in our Provinces. To this effect, the investment also aims to upgrade roads from gravel to surfaced standard as well as to improve hazardous locations to sustain the downward trend in road deaths and improve safety.

Public Works infrastructure investment totalling approximately R2 billion over the MTEF will provide a balanced Provincial Government building infrastructure that promotes integration, accessibility, equity, environmental sensitivity, economic growth and social empowerment.

Environmental Affairs and Development Planning: we will also allocate R91.2 million over the 2015 MTEF mainly on capital infrastructure projects at various nature reserves across the province.

Let me now turn to improving education outcomes and opportunities for youth development.

Improving education and opportunities for youth are key focus areas of this government. In this regard, I am announcing that a total of R55.7 billion will be directed to improving education outcomes over the next three financial years.

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: This is a massive investment in education.

Die PREMIER: Mooi!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Key focus areas include: a five-year teacher development plan including pre-service and in-service training and incentives; provincial curriculum management strategies with a specific focus on language and mathematics development strategies and plans for increased access to vocational subjects; social support and a platform for youth development: the school nutrition programme, fee relief and safe schools – also a critical priority. We will also provide support for independent schools that educate those from poorer communities.

Under the leadership of Madam Zille and the Minister of Education ...
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Helen Zille. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... the emphasis will be both on improving access to a growing ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections.] Order, please.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Under the leadership of Premier Zille ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Premier ... [Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... emphasis has also now been placed on providing ... [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order please, hon members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: We can call her Madam Zille. It is acceptable in this House. [Interjections.] It is fine. We have no problem. Let us continue. The journey continues.

We will also provide quality Grade R in this province. We will emphasise the improvement of quality for Grade R in terms of access to a growing population of pre-schoolers and on improving the quality of learning.

An HON MEMBER: Really?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: An effective infrastructure programme to create an inspiring environment: the focus will be on building new schools and classrooms as required and replacing schools made of inappropriate materials. The proportion of the budget to be spent on maintenance is to grow over the MTEF in education.

Another exciting project for the next couple of years in the Western Cape is E-learning.

Improving the quality of teaching and learning in the Western Cape through E-learning is a key priority of the Department of Education, thanks to the leadership of the Minister of Education. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Investments in high speed broadband connectivity, complemented by a well-managed Local Area Network to construct technology enhanced smart classrooms in the Western Cape, will be undertaken. The shift toward E-learning aims to expose learners and educators to different teaching methods and materials [Interjection.] expand learning and collaborative opportunities through online platforms, improve retention and improve learner skills applicable to the workplace and tertiary education. This budget allocates an amount of R698.632m for E-learning over the 2015 MTEF period. The Honourable Minister of Education will further

outline how E-learning will transform education in this Province.
[Interjections.]

Let me now go to the After-school Programme: School-going learners participate in after-school activities at the 181 school-based after school centres, thus creating a safe space and environment for participation in fun-filled activities, play, recreation, sport, arts, culture, as well as academic activities. [Interjections.] The main aim of the After-school Programme is to reduce opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour. This government is committed to create opportunities for the youth.

In this regard, this budget allocates R447.6 million over the MTEF period which includes nutrition for participant learners and infrastructure to support the After-school Programme.

Let me now turn to another very important programme of this government, under the leadership of Minister Albert Fritz, Youth Development.
[Interjections.]

The key focus area of the Western Cape Youth Development Strategy is the holistic skills development of young people to make them more employable ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... positive, healthy and well prepared for adulthood.

Many youth development projects and initiatives focus on providing accessible opportunities and support for all young people, specifically NEETs - Youth Not in Employment, Education, and/or Training - by offering training in life skills, mentoring and coaching, leadership, entrepreneurship and accredited formal training programmes and job preparedness.

Under the leadership of Minister Fritz, Youth Cafés are an innovative concept to empower and develop skills amongst the youth. [Interjections.] Over the 2015 MTEF R5.6 million will be allocated toward the current Youth Cafés in Mitchell's Plain and Athlone as well as the establishment of an additional another three Youth Cafés in George, Atlantis and Nyanga Junction. Minister Fritz will provide further detail during his Budget Vote on Social Development. [Interjections.]

Let me now turn to increasing wellness, safety and tackling social ills. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon member Mr Paulsen, interjections are allowed but you are providing a running commentary which is a disturbance. Kindly refrain. Thank you.

Mr M N PAULSEN: I do not see you reprimanding [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Mr Paulsen, I cannot hear and account for everyone but you are the most vocal one and somehow there is a conversation going on there. So, I am appealing ... [Interjection.]

Mr M N PAULSEN: Madam Speaker, I cannot possibly be the only one that makes so much noise.

The SPEAKER: I can hear you. I cannot hear the others. They might be doing sign language or something but I hear you. Please hon member Mr Paulsen. Hon Minister Meyer, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Let me now turn to increasing wellness, safety and tackling social ills as another strategic goal of this government.

The Western Cape Government has committed to partner with role-players to drive the wellness campaign in this province. This budget allocates R59 billion over the next three years to provide and improve the quality of health services in the province. There is a need to strengthen the capability for early detection and treatment, the reduction of unhealthy lifestyles and the ability to address the underlying social determinants of disease.

A budget of R5.999 billion is allocated over the 2015 MTEF for services for the poor, the vulnerable and those with special needs through Social Development services. Improving the quality of child care and protection services, care for older persons, substance abuse interventions, services to persons with disabilities, victim support, shelters for homeless adults, probation services and diversion programmes will be prioritised by the Department of Social Development over the next 3 years.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hear-hear!

Mr M N PAULSEN: [Inaudible.] money somewhere else.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Let me now turn to another strategic focus of this government: persons with disabilities. Under the leadership of Premier Zille and Minister Fritz ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Madam.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ... persons with disabilities are a priority of this government. Emphasis will be placed on community responsive programmes and rectifying some of the historic gaps in services to persons with disabilities, including children with severe and profound intellectual disabilities. I am happy to announce that a Disabilities Desk will also be established to ensure that the disabled community can engage will government more readily. The Minister of Social Development, Minister

Fritz, will give further detail in his budget speech.

Provision has been made over the MTEF, amongst other assistive devices and outreach at clinics, to ensure the appropriate referral and placement of learners with special needs and upgrade and maintenance of group homes for adults and children. Honourable members, today we can announce that a budget of R97 million is allocated over the MTEF to support persons with disabilities in this province.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Let me now turn to the promotion of arts, culture and heritage.

Agbare Speaker, ons het almal 'n kollektiewe verantwoordelikheid om vrede, harmonie en samehorigheid te bevorder. Hoewel die begroting met syfers werk, werk ons almal met mense. Mense met emosies en ons kulturele landskap en diversiteit.

Hoewel ons 'n lang pad geloop het, moet ons nog meer doen om ons kollektiewe erfenis te bevorder. Hoewel ons 'n lang pad geloop het, agb lede, is hierdie pad na kulturele diversiteit nog nie voltooi nie.

Die Departement Kultuursake en Sport is primêr verantwoordelik om ons kulturele landskap te bewaar en te bevorder. Deur middel van sport, kultuur

en erfenis beweeg ons nader aan mekaar.

Kulturele warmte bied ons die ruimte om mekaar te respekteer en te waardeer.

Om aktiewe en kreatiewe burgerskap te bevorder word 'n bedrag van R2.151 biljoen toegeken aan die Departement van Kultuursake en Sport oor die volgende drie finansiële jaar.

'n AGBARE LID: Hoor-hoor!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Let me now turn to enabling a resilient, sustainable, quality and inclusive living environment. Integrated Human Settlements has been allocated R7.155 billion over the 2015 MTEF toward increasing housing opportunities and improving settlement functionality, efficiency and resilience.

Over the 2015 MTEF more resources will be shifted towards the upgrading of informal settlements to deal with problems of poor living conditions and insufficient access to basic services. The cleaning up of Housing Demand Databases in municipalities will continue to be prioritised to ensure that limited housing opportunities are allocated to the poor people of this province. Strategic partnerships will also play a critical role in providing GAP affordable housing and rental opportunities for the poor in this province.

Catalytic projects will be undertaken in Worcester, Paarl, George, the City of Cape Town and in Saldanha Bay. For Environmental Affairs and Development Planning a budget will be allocated to the amount R1.629 billion over the next three years.

Let me now turn to the Regional Socio-Economic Project - Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading.

The PREMIER: Nice!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: This programme represents the combination of the Regional Socio-Economic Project and the Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading Programme. The main goal of the programme is to partner with active citizens to plan and implement upgrading and safety projects in poor communities in the province. The participating municipalities include Drakenstein, Theewaterskloof, Saldanha Bay and Breede Valley Municipalities.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister Meyer, there is someone on the floor. Hon member Mr Paulsen.

Mr M N PAULSEN: Madam Speaker, is it parliamentary for the Minister to point his finger at me when he mentions poor communities?

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Hon Minister Meyer, please proceed.
[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: We are busy delivering a budget of R52 billion for 6.1 million people over a geographical space of 129 000 square kilometres. We are busy with serious matters of the State. This government has no time to play cheap politics in this House. [Interjection.]

The RSEP/VPUU project provides practical applications to building safe and sustainable neighbourhoods, reducing the social, cultural, economic and institutional exclusion of former townships and improving the quality of life in these areas. Urban restructuring is one of the main streams of the project in each of the municipalities. An amount of R21.3 million will be allocated in this financial year and an amount of R38.8 million in 2016/17 and R64.3 million in 2017/18 for this RSEP/VPUU project outside the metropolitan area in the Western Cape.

Good governance and integrated service delivery through partnerships and spatial alignment: the Broadband 2030 Vision is: that every citizen in this province, in every town, in every village and every ward will have access to affordable broadband infrastructure and services, the necessary skills to effectively utilise this infrastructure and actively utilise this in their daily lives.

The Western Cape Broadband Implementation Plan aims to co-ordinate and

integrate government action to improve the provision of telecommunication infrastructure, skills and usage within the Western Cape. Part of our plan is to connect more than 2 000 buildings in the Western Cape through ICT. I am therefore pleased to announce that an amount of R 1.2 billion over the 2015 MTEF period is earmarked for the Connected Government Project all over the Western Cape.

This budget also allocates R19.058 million for the Rural Library Connectivity project for poor people. This project provides internet access to rural communities all over the Western Cape. The target for 2015/16 is to have an additional 15 libraries in this province go live, which will total 215 libraries that will have internet connections.

WIFI hotspots at 384 Western Cape Government sites will be installed that have fibre connectivity.

Die PREMIER: Mooi!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: In 2015/16, the first 50 hotspots will go live and people within range will be able to surf the internet for free up to a limit of 250MB per month.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Let me now turn to NDP in Action. We have

been talking about the NDP. This budget is about implementing the National Development Plan.

The PREMIER: That is right [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: The main aim of the joint planning and budgeting process is to mainstream the objectives of the National Development Plan, the Medium Term Strategic Framework [Interjection.] and the Provincial Strategic Plan and to integrate these within a provincial and local government context. [Interjections.] Madam Speaker ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, please members. There is a speaker on the floor. You may proceed, Minister Meyer.

Die MINISTER VAN FINANSIES: Agbare Speaker, ek lewer vandag hierdie begroting terwyl ons nooddienste personeel nog steeds werk om die brande in die Kaap te blus. Ons Burgermeester van Kaapstad, Provinsiale- en Metro Nooddienste werk onverpoos om ons bates, ons mense en die omgewing te beskerm.

Tydens my besoek Dinsdag saam met die Burgermeester van Kaapstad en die Hoofswep van hierdie Parlement aan die Lakeside brandweerstasie het ek eerstehands die omvang van die skade en nood ervaar. Premier Zille het gister ook die brandgeteisterde gebiede besoek. Die situasie is buitengewoon en saam met die Stad is die Provinsie besig om die nodige ondersteuning te

bied.

Terwyl ons die nood en verwoesting van die brande gesien het, het ons ook die harte van die mense van Kaapstad gesien. Dit is ongelooflik om te sien hoe 'n krisis, oftewel 'n katastrofe, mense verenig om te help. In al die pyn, in al die hartseer en al die emosies het mense van heinde en verre gekom: studente, besighede, sakesektor, mense oor alle rasse en kleurgrense, alle gebiede het bymekaar gekom om te help; geestelike leiers en vrywilliges het almal opgestaan en hulp aangebied. Toe ek die harte en hande van die mense van Kaapstad sien, het ek ook een van die pilare van die Nasionale Ontwikkelingsplan, naamlik aktiewe burgerskap, sien flits.

Ons het eerstehands ervaar dat mense van die Wes-Kaap bereid is om aktiewe burgerskap te bevorder.

In die see van wanhoop het hulle pogings weer hoop geskep - hoop dat ons gesamentlik komplekse probleme kan aanpak. Hul pogings het weer inhoud geblaas in ons slagspreuk: Beter Tesame. Met dieselfde toewyding, ywer en samewerking moet ons ook die ander sosiale euwels soos misdaad en dwelms benader. Ons salueer ons nooddienste personeel en die honderde vrywilligers vir hul onbaatsugtige diens. Ek dink hulle verdien 'n applous. [Applous.]

†INKULUMBUSO: Qhwabani izandla! *Clap your hands! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Order, please. Hon Premier, order. [Interjections.]

Order, please members.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Madam Speaker, let me continue. Key in the Western Cape is also the facilitation of partnerships. The Provincial Public Private Partnership projects are another strategic interest of this government. I am happy to announce that the total PPP projects under implementation amount to R60.7 million in 2015/16, increasing to R67.3 million in 2017/18. In addition, an amount of R22.2 million has been set aside for projects in preparation, registered in terms of Treasury Regulation 16.

This whole budget is about implementing the National Development Plan. [Interjections.] The concluded PPP deals in the province are: the operation and maintenance of Chapman's Peak Drive; we have concluded public private partnerships in the Western Cape Rehabilitation Centre and the Lentegeur Psychiatric Hospital as well as the De Hoop Nature Reserve's eco-tourism project.

The goal of this government is to create public value which involves greater effectiveness in tackling social problems that are most important to the citizens. Taking this citizen centric approach facilitates citizens' access to government, improving consultation and providing a people-centred approach to service delivery.

Innovative Western Cape Government initiatives to improve public value that are also pro-poor focussed, amongst others, include: the RSEP/VPUU pilot

Programme; the Broadband Implementation Plan; the E-learning Programme; the expansion of the Thusong Centre; the expansion of the community based care models and the strengthening of NGO funding-transfer models, under Minister Fritz.

There are also key policy interventions aimed at increasing employment and decreasing unemployment with the emphasis on improving skills development, providing much needed work experience and exposure via the public employment programmes and the provision of support for Small and Medium and Micro Enterprises.

We will also support municipalities to strengthen public participation processes and service delivery and I see many of those local government officials in the gallery. We will also facilitate access to government services through the Community Development Worker Programme, in conjunction with the Thusong Centres Programme and Mobile Thusong Outreach.

The safety of our citizens is a critical focus area of this government. The Community Safety Improvement Partnership will therefore be the key focus area over the next three years. Key elements of this programme include: the promotion of professional policing through systems of effective oversight; ensuring that all public spaces and buildings are safe; to build community resilience; and to deal with safety concerns through viable safety partnerships and programmes.

Key activities toward this goal include the regular inspection of police stations to identify, record and report on any operational deficiencies in close cooperation with the National Secretariat of Police and the establishment of the Western Cape Police Ombudsman to deal with complaints of communities. This budget allocates R729 million over the 2015 MTEF to increase the safety of our citizens in the Western Cape. Minister Plato will further outline detailed plans in this regard in his Budget Vote: Community Safety

Let me now turn to the strategy to reduce alcohol abuse and misuse. A Game Changer Strategy is being developed to reduce the negative impact of alcohol and substance abuse and misuse on individuals and communities.

Mr M N PAULSEN: Ban alcohol!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Specific programmes targeting youth: after school support programmes, safety promotion interventions and programmes that keep youth off the street are amongst those already underway. Possible future initiatives include female and maternal education; facilitating behaviour change; increasing penalties; legislative reform; and collaborating with the private/business sector to reduce the harmful impact of alcohol.

It is through partnerships that we have in this government that we develop initiatives because when you have limited resources you are bound to look into innovate ideas and partnerships.

We already have partnerships with many organisations including foundations, foreign donors, NGOs and universities. Partnerships are a direct result of today's governance challenges, where ever increasing expectation is placed on government to fulfil unlimited needs with limited resources. The development of a whole-of-society approach within the Western Cape Government highlights the importance of entering into partnerships with various role-players such as businesses and local communities. The whole-of-society approach mobilises resources, it mobilises knowledge, creativity and concerns of all role-players within given service delivery environments. Below is a snapshot of the partnerships that already exist in the Western Cape Government.

We have a partnership with the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC). We have partnerships with Community Safety in terms of Chrysalis, local communities, neighbourhood watches and local policing resources in the local communities. We have partnerships with the Central Improvement Districts, with NGOs, non-profit organisations, with the religious sectors and cultural organisations.

We have partnerships with stakeholders such as Baxter Theatre, Artscape, Die Burger Suidoosterfees and Cape Town International Jazz Festival. The province has transformed the arts and culture sector to be more inclusive of the country's diverse sector.

We also have extensive partnerships in the library space and partnerships with municipalities to provide public library services to communities.

We also, through funding transfers, have functional partnerships with many sport-related services: working in partnership with civil society, sport clubs, sport federations and recreational bodies.

The spending plans outlined in the 2015 Budget support the Western Cape Government's commitment to protect essential services.

May I also just mention that it was under the leadership of Premier Zille [Interjection.] when we were faced with the first big cuts of the fiscal framework, when we were first meeting as part of the Budget Policy Committee, Madam Zille [Laughter.] made it absolutely clear to Provincial Treasury that we would have to protect the social sector, the education sector and the health sector. Premier Zille, through your input we were able, in the next MTEF period, to protect those particular sectors of that budget.

The 2015 Budget provides for total expenditure amounting to R52 billion in 2015/16, R54 billion in 2016/17 and R56 billion in 2017/18.

When considering the Provincial Budget within the context of the Provincial Strategic Plan and associated goals, it is clear that the bulk of the Provincial Budget has been allocated toward achieving the outcomes of Provincial Strategic Goal 2: Improving education outcomes and opportunities for youth

development and Provincial Strategic Goal 3: Increasing wellness, safety and tackling social ills. The services rendered under these Provincial Strategic Goals are largely aimed at the poor. The allocations under these Provincial Strategic Goals thus emphasise the pro-poor nature of the 2015/16 Budget.

South Africa faces many challenges, some more daunting than others. The one thing that is clear however is that when South Africans pull together across all the real and imagined divides that still haunt us, we are able to achieve miracles. This is one such time.

Let us join hands and work together towards building a prosperous, inclusive Western Cape for all our people. It was Andre' Brink who said:

”For it is this land, shared with others - black, brown and white - where his (and our ancestors) have been buried for nearly four centuries, this is our home, for better or worse”.

My oproep is dus vir samewerking om fiskale dissipline te handhaaf terwyl ons terselfdertyd waarde toevoeg vir die mense van die Wes-Kaap.

Allow me in closing to express my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to the Premier and my Cabinet colleagues for their guidance and wise counsel during the preparation of putting this budget together.

I also want to thank the Director-General Adv Brent Gerberg and all the

HOD's for supporting us in compiling this budget. A special word of thanks to the Head Official of Treasury, Mr Zakariya Hoosain and his DDG, Mr Harry Malila and his team. The committed support of all my staff in the Ministry; Adv. Estienne Pretorius – thank you for your leadership and wise counsel; Daniel Johnson, Charmaine De Vos, Linda Jacobs, Chandre Petersen, Zodwa Mdingi and Nicky are always there to support me.

Finally, to my wife, my children and my parents; thank you for your understanding that this job means long hours away from home. When I arrive you are in bed. When I leave you are in bed. I want to thank you for your support and for understanding that this is an unselfish job and I thank you for allowing me and my colleagues the space to serve the people of the Western Cape. I thank you, Madam Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. The Secretary will read the Bill a first time.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: In accordance with Rule 187.1, the introductory speech, the Bill and papers laid upon the table will be referred to the relevant committees for consideration and report.

Before we adjourn, I would like to remind members that the Budget Committee meeting will commence thirty minutes after adjournment of this sitting.

That concludes the business for the day. The House is adjourned.

House adjourned at 15:12.