
THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Hon members, before we proceed I would like to remind members about some of our logistical arrangements. Hon members, you would be fully aware of the relevant directives but I would want to draw your attention to some of the pertinent directives. Suppose a member of this particular Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, in that case such a member is responsible to ensure that he or she has a good quality data connectivity, good quality audio and video and that there are no disturbances where they are.

Members would know that the hybrid system has been functioning extremely well. Poor audio and or video are not attributed to the system, but rather to the quality of data connectivity. All other directives, members of this particular House would be fully aware thereof.

Hon members are also reminded that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings. To this end I draw members' attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

I will now in terms of Rule 150, recognise the Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, I rise and move a motion:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), that precedence be given to the Subject for Discussion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

No objections? Agreed to.

Hon members, in terms of the Subject for Discussion, we will now deal with it in the name of the hon member Nomi Nkondlo, as printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the hon Nkondlo.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

The opportunity cost related to the neglect of the informal sector for the realisation of inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Good afternoon to colleagues in the House. We meet today on what is known and declared as an International Charity Day and on driving to work this morning one was listening to Dr Bam being interviewed on SAFM, where he called for using charity as a weapon of resistance. This, he suggests, to be done by all, especially business; not only as philanthropy, but a much needed intervention in the current times of economic strain and high levels of inequality in our country.

This could not be further from the truth and resonate with today's debate of what can be the claim of building an inclusive economy and prosperity for all when we neglect the informal sector of the very economy. What is the opportunity cost of such neglect and policy indifference to the very group that suffers vulnerability, not of its own making, but due to deliberate policy choices we make and the burden of inherited structural defects in the very economy.

Let us then debunk the mythology about informality and political economy around informal sector against the mainstream that is regarded as formal economy. The conception of informality has been written about and argued a lot in the public domain with a theory that one wants to use in this debate referred to as "Centre and Periphery."

The Centre Periphery Framework has been employed to explain the international political economy, wherein the rise of capitalism and the nation state in the 16th Century global market forces, not domestic ones, have determined the national economic development or underdevelopment.

It says: "The structural form of this process which has persisted over time is one in which core manufacturing states dominate, exploit and make dependent peripheral states which operate primarily as raw material producers for the core. In short, peripheral countries exist and have always existed to service the economies of the core countries contributing to the development of the global periphery. That ensures the development of underdevelopment."

This theory refers to domination that drives and reproduce inequality and use formalisation as a form of exclusion of underdogs by the top dogs. Informality is a twin or resultant of formality, which, by extension, is an intentional disregard of others, mostly the vulnerable livelihoods on the socio-economic ladder.

A case in point is how the formal sector floods the informal sector with defects, poor quality products and surplus goods from their main production lines into the informal sector as a way to still keep undeclared benefits from these goods. These are goods that, according to formal regulations are to be regarded as waste and destroyed, but these are found in the streets under informal trading, still driving the marketing of the main brands and enabling consumption of what are supposedly to be spoils in the formal sector.

This theory further points out that internal colonialism is concerned with patterns of domestic territorial inequality and with the various ways a core or central region or communities controls and exploits a peripheral region or regions or communities. The geography of informality is once again an added burden to the informal sector, masked under sophisticated policies of segregation, racialised subdivision and spatial frameworks with gendered layers wherein women are left to trading spaces with even no ablution facilities.

The townships, smaller towns, geographies remain an apartheid inheritance and its racialised capitalism in South Africa, wherein particular racial groups were regulated through the Group Areas Act and other segregation laws into dormitories meant only for sleeping and waking up to go serve the master in the centre, impostor, but with a *dompas* on their chest.

These spaces were never meant for any productive work, nor practicing any business activities and to date municipalities will speak of local economic

development with little or no disruptive interventions to the economic infrastructure that is lacking for entrepreneurs in these spaces.

Instead, rules and laws are imposed upon informal spaces and sector with no regard of the very structural challenges of our economy. Those in the periphery experience domination by the centre and the elites who are protected by the State by means and use of force, domination through speeches of politicians as proxies of the elite; domination through rules, intimidation and incitement. We had been exposed to this domination in this very province and City wherein the State power is used to harass the informal sector to compliance, with the City of Cape Town sending dogs and law enforcement to confiscate goods of informal traders from the streets, under the nobility of enforcing bylaws.

The very Metro has chosen to manipulate the national legislation in the National Road Traffic Act to deal with the taxi industry, which is called informal, to a point of scope over-reach and mixing separate legislations that are about roadworthiness of their vehicles with national traffic legislation that is about offences of drivers in a super bylaw to unleash a reign of terror over the taxi industry, an industry that mainly employs a lot of unskilled men and also ensures jobs of those and feeding a lot of households; an industry to date that actually is predominantly the main one that delivers commuters and most of people that are going to work in this very province and the city, thus contributing to the productive capacity of ourselves as the public sector, but also the private sector that we all speak about.

What is interesting is that this very Government has a different approach to deal with public failures when it comes to big business and what we have seen is the Red Tape Reduction Programme with a unit created and funded to deal with any shortcomings that affect formal businesses and mainly these formal businesses are global in nature, big corporates that we are told, and there are always propaganda around foreign direct investment that is so important and therefore we need to ensure that we make way and speed in any of the challenges that they may face. Of course, these are necessary for growing any economy.

The argument that you are making is that if there are capacity, propensity, and appetite by our Government to create a Red Tape Unit and ensure that you smooth any challenges that are affecting global multinational companies, such must be the case also for informal businesses and also ensuring that we work very closely with results with the municipalities to enable fair trade also for small and informal businesses that are actually trying just to fend for themselves in the spaces that they are finding themselves. This also includes the gender aspect of this particular problem, a problem where women are forced to actually pushing trolleys to move from their houses in the early hours of the morning to go and trade in spaces that are not safe, where there is not even law enforcement that is actually sent to ensure that it protects women. To date we have situations that these women are operating, some of them, in areas where, as indicated, there are no – just basic services for them. They go into their spaces of their trade, carrying children on their backs in the early hours of the morning.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, please conclude, you will have another opportunity.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We want to place on record that we shall continue to fight for the informal sector in this House until the ears of those that are making decisions can hear. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Minister for Police Oversight and Community Safety, Minister Anroux Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Deputy Speaker, I want to thank the hon Nkondlo for a thoughtful topic on the opportunity cost to neglecting the informal sector, in realising an inclusive growth and prosperity for all.

How she dealt with the topic was her own choice, of course. One hopes for their own sake that the day will come when the Western Cape ANC will realise that spreading untruths and half truths about the Western Cape Government is futile. If they were to come up with well-researched data-driven policies they may find themselves not losing a third of their voter support in a single election, as we saw in May. [Interjections.]

Deputy Speaker, I am going to focus on extortion's impact on especially the informal sector in impeding the realisation of inclusive growth and prosperity for all. Extortion is a growing problem in the Western Cape. It impacts on broadly three levels.

Firstly, there is the South Star Construction Mafia which holds back macro development. Secondly, one finds the old-school protection money, which extortionists force out of business owners, especially nightclubs and drinking establishments. Thirdly, and on a personal level, most tragically, there are extortionists who target informal traders like the ladies who sell vegetables on the pavement to eke out an income and keep the wolf from the door. These extortionists will demand their small profits and more to force her out of business and force another family under the breadline and into the SASSA queues.

Deputy Speaker, extortion can lessen economic activity as people may be reluctant to participate in small businesses. Extortion will erode the small income of the entrepreneur and lead to greater poverty, deepening the poverty trap and making it harder to escape that trap. Extortion often leads to violence as those who are extorted resist, leading to even more violence in the already volatile community. As a result of the extortion of informal traders, large businesses may view extortionist-focused areas as too a high risk and close their shops, meaning that the poorest of the poor will have to travel further to an outlet, or pay off extortionists.

In fact, extortion already has a devastating impact on informal communities, leading to even greater poverty and worsening social ills. This sector, comprising small businesses and self-employed individuals, often drives innovation, creates jobs and fosters community resilience. As far as the Western Cape Government projects go, extortionists are currently targeting Government infrastructure building projects worth almost R400 million in Driftsands, Thambo Village, Delft, Valhalla Park, Matroosfontein and Ravensmead. This aggression cannot stand.

What is to be done?

The Memorandum of Understanding signed last week by the Western Cape Government, the National Government, SAPS and the City of Cape Town, will have the combating of extortion as one of its priorities. We are currently negotiating the implementation agreement. We have also recently seen greater success in combating extortion.

Only last week a minibus with eight alleged extortionists on their way to apply their illegal and murderous trade, were apprehended by SAPS in Milnerton, following strong crime-intelligence work. When police stopped the minibus the passengers opened fire. The police shot back, killing four and injuring four people, currently in hospital.

Addressing the needs of the informal sector and combating extortion are not merely an ethical obligation. It is an economic imperative.

Therefore, the message to extortionists is clear: the Western Cape will not stand for your criminality. We must win this war on behalf of all the people of the Western Cape, including its informal traders and the rest of its informal economic sector. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I now see the hon Petrus.

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Baie dankie, Adjunkspeaker. Ek staan namens die Patriotiese Alliansie. Tussen 2021 en 2024 het die Wes-Kaapse Regering nagenoeg tussen R5 biljoen en R6 biljoen belê in klein- en medium besighede. Hierdie syfers lyk goed op papier maar as dit by besighede in die plattelandse gebiede en besighede in die townships kom, verander die prentjie drasties.

Die grootste gedeelte van hulp gaan aan die Metro. Bruin-, Swart-, jeug- en vrouebesighede kry nie genoeg van die begrotings nie. Dit is vir die PA 'n groot bekommernis dat besighede in landbou en vervaardiging agtergelaat word.

Die intervensie vir die ontwikkeling van townshipbesighede en besighede buite die Metro is nie effektief nie. Ons vra dat meer geld belê word in townshipbesighede, vervaardigingsbesighede en landboubesighede; dat daar meer geld in belê word. Adjunkspeaker, streke soos die Weskus, die Tuinroete, Karoo en die Overberg kan nie verder agtergelaat word nie. Hulle moet ook gehelp word met infrastruktuur, mentorskap en meer befondsing.

Dankie.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I'm rising on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance. Between 2021 and 2024 the Western Cape Government invested about between R5 billion and R6 billion in small and medium businesses. These figures look good on paper but when it comes to businesses in the rural areas and businesses in the townships, the picture changes dramatically.

The largest portion of aid goes to the Metro. Brown, Black, youth and female businesses do not get enough of the budgets. It is a great concern to the PA that businesses in agriculture and manufacturing are left behind.

The intervention for the development of township businesses and businesses outside the Metro is not effective. We ask that more money is invested in township businesses, manufacturing businesses and agriculture businesses; that more money is invested. Deputy Speaker, areas such as the West Coast, Garden Route, Karoo and the Overberg cannot be left behind any further. They must also be assisted with infrastructure, mentorship and more funding. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Petrus. I now see the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, despite apartheid and colonialism ending almost three decades ago, the informal

sector of our economy continues to be neglected, affecting the majority of black people who are out in the streets on a daily basis, working hard to put food on their table.

Deputy Speaker, there is a continuous lack of effort and commitment given to this specific sector from the Government and, as we can remember, the informal sector was also hit hard, was hit the most during the COVID-19 pandemic and as a result, to date, many informal businesses are still struggling to get back on their feet whilst others have shut.

Deputy Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity, and focus on local traders in the informal sector because we know very well that it is those in poor households who are engaged in informal sector businesses like local traders who are often faced with challenges which include harassment and intimidation from law enforcement.

Deputy Speaker, we often witness how sixty-year old traders are being thrown in the back of law enforcement vans for not having permits to trade and how their goods are confiscated and then having to purchase their stock back in the form of a fine. Now all of this happens, despite the Government knowing that these local traders play an invaluable role in our economy especially to the poor who sometimes cannot afford to purchase from big retailers.

Deputy Speaker, we must really question why these informal traders are even

paying a trading fee when we know very well that they are members of poor households whose businesses are strictly based on street vending or hawking, selling small quantities of goods and services to the poor. We must also ask why is much not being done to prioritise those in the informal sector to create better and safer trading environments along with better facilities, because the key issue the sector is faced with, is not only that of facing municipal policies that do not speak to the poor, but also that of a lack of funds, infrastructure and even education and training, all which can be used to develop and grow the sector.

Deputy Speaker, we must highlight the fact that the informal sector, like traders within different communities, are also highly vulnerable to getting infected by diseases, as they not only live in congested spaces but also work in congested environments with no toilets, water and clean sanitation. But, lastly, Deputy Speaker, like any other business in this country, informal traders must also be the first to be protected from protection fee extortionist gangs, which are increasing across the province. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I now see the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Deputy Speaker, we cannot discuss the opportunity cost of neglecting the informal sector without deeply reflecting on what has led South African cities, especially the Metros to disastrous situations of rapidly rising informal settlements. Allow me to lay the foundation by

painting the picture that has led to this rapid rise.

In 2007, in my capacity as Regional Head of Nedbank Home Loans, I was part of the Nedbank Team at the sod-turning ceremony for the Khayelitsha Lifestyle Housing Project. This project was supposed to be a partnership between Government, Nedbank and Old Mutual. Sadly, it was never realised. Over 500 housing opportunities were lost because an ANC communist-aligned community organisation apparently wanted to benefit first.

Old Mutual provided the land to the community of Khayelitsha for free and we at Nedbank were ready to provide property development and end-user finance. However, the private sector withdrew because it could not budget for ANC-associated extortionists.

It is no secret that the ANC Government had undisclosed budgets for corruption, which almost collapsed the economy during the nine wasted years. The Zondo Commission laid bare the quantifiable details of the corruption caused to the economy by the ANC Government, thanks to the GNU, and today members on the left cry foul of poor service delivery.

Let us look at what the ANC Government did after the Commission concluded its work. Instead of jailing the culprits, it rewarded them by keeping them in positions of power, figures like Tiger still holding a ministerial position. The justice system was under-funded, rendering it ineffective. Shockingly according to the study by Wits University, the VIP Protection Unit has nearly

17 000 employees, which is 9% of the total police force. Recent reports indicate that the Minister of Justice facilitated the theft of poor people's money, the VBS. Shame on you!

The Zondo Commission reportedly cost the country R1 billion to investigate corruption. It is worth noting that it is reported that R500 billion was looted and zero assets have been recovered. This is the money that could have created almost one million jobs and business opportunities.

Something deeply hurting to many South Africans is the corruption and failures in land reform under the ANC Government. Now, 30 years later, informal tenure rights in villages and former homelands have not been addressed.

The IPILRA Bill (Interim Protection of Informal Land Rights Act) has made it easy for some traditional leaders to do as they please with land under their jurisdiction, providing residents with no economic value. While members of the community live in beautiful houses and spacious places in those villages, their only assets with value are the informal settlement and trade in urban areas. Due to lack of economic upward mobility, many migrate to cities, seeking better opportunities. Bravo to the City of Cape Town and other DA municipalities which are doing all in their power to provide job opportunities, running water and sanitation. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): It is not in Khayelitsha.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thanks to the cross-subsidisation that is helping this informal sector to thrive, land reform has failed people living in informal settlements.

An HON MEMBER: That is not Khayelitsha.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Organisations like Ndifuna Ukwazi, the Development Action Group Community Organisation and many others have approached the Presidency to release land for mixed development and self-building housing. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: They have approached you also!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Additionally a botched Land Reform farm has led to over 100 people in Malmesbury being displaced because of failed debt maintenance. Again the ANC Government! [Interjection.]

Ehsan Haider described Cape Town's informal settlement situation as presenting complex socio-economic challenges that require comprehensive and collaborative solutions. [Interjections.] By investing in infrastructure, empowering communities and implementing supportive policies, Cape Town can work towards creating inclusive and resilient urban environments for all citizens. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are so powerful ... That is the truth.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): This description is extensive, hon members, but I am happy to inform the august House that through our oversight work we have discovered a great deal of work being done by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to create jobs and job opportunities and reduce poverty. These programmes are a platform for our residents to move out of the trap of poverty caused by the uncaring ANC Government.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): By the very DA!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): All said and done, let us look at what the DA governments are doing on the ground to support the township economy. 10 years ago, the City of Cape Town delivered a report indicating that 86% of its purchase orders were placed with BBBEE compliant vendors.

The City noted:

"This equates to more than R10,77 billion rands of our total purchase orders issued for this period. We are making strides as an opportunity city dedicated to bringing redress through empowerment."

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Where? Where? Where? Where?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Furthermore, the City of Cape Town announced:

"As part of our commitment to job creation, skills development and

employment support initiatives, the City of Cape Town has offered assistance to more than 3000 residents, including those residing in Khayelitsha, through its partnership over the past 18 months."

Recently, the City of Cape Town Council, in its efforts to support the township economy, approved a 30% cut in informal trade tariffs. However, I will not be surprised if the ANC and the EFF voted against this cut.

In 2024/25 Financial Year, the commitment by the City of Cape Town to the informal township economy and small business will see an injection of R141 million towards infrastructure developments and upgrades to support this informal economy. [Interjection.]

Another programme from the City of Cape Town, the EPWP Entrepreneurship Training Programme, now in its third year, has produced entrepreneurs such as Pinkie Hlengisa, owner of Luspín Manufacturing. She is now operating her own textile business in Khayelitsha, employing four staff members, 12 trainees and 13 distributors and manufacturers. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You only know about her, that is the only one you know... [Interjection.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Deputy Speaker, please protect me.

An HON MEMBER: You have no idea... [Interjection.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): We are talking sense. Let us go! Listen to...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please! Hon members! Please note... [Interjection.] Please have a seat.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the running commentary, please note that the member is wrapping up his particular segment. Please let us afford him. All political parties have an opportunity to engage in this debate.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen, stop... [Interjections.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): The City of Cape Town, through its Business Hub, has prioritised as a means to help grow Cape Town's economy, through its One Stop Shop it provides entrepreneurs with business and finance advice, assistance with building planning and permitting application and their ability to pay the necessary fees. Listen, Mme Nkondlo.

In Harare Khayelitsha a project was initiated to teach economically marginalised women how to run a traditional clothing business.

[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Masipa...

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): These 10 women [Interjection.]

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

†Ms P H Z LEKKER (ANC): Hhe munna dula fatsi!

[Ms PHZ LEKKER (ANC): Hey man sit down!]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is unacceptable, Speaker, what you are doing, because you are ... [Interjections.]

†An HON MEMBER: Hlala phansi.

[An HON MEMBER: Sit down.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have noted it.

Ms P H Z LEKKER (ANC): You heard?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Ms P H Z LEKKER (ANC): Then you must address it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, thank you so much. Member, please do not speak directly to a fellow member. Speak through the Chair. Please continue.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: You are not listening to the Speaker.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): In Harare, Khayelitsha, a project was initiated to teach economically marginalised women how to run a traditional clothing business. These 10 women received business skills training in basic accounting, negotiating, marketing, communication and planning, along with sewing and beading training. This project forms part of the Community Development Worker Programme in partnership with the Western Cape Department of Local Government.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, economic opportunities that create jobs, fund fiscal revenue, provide quality education, create job opportunities, provide housing, and ensure decent service delivery are at the heart of improving the lives and providing upward mobility. Hence, the Democratic Alliance is prioritising the Growth for Jobs Strategy which aims to grow the economy through inward investment and export-led economy. If anyone is supporting the informal economy it is the Democratic Alliance, who is always ready to clean up the mess left by the ANC National Government of yesteryears. Thanks to the GNU!

Members on the left please join hands with the Democratic Alliance and let

us stop the state capture reunion party. [Interjections.] I thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, brilliant! [Interjection.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Hoor-hoor!

[An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Masipa. I now see the hon Jacobs. Hon Jacobs.

†Mnr D G JACOBS (NCC): Luister mooi! [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Listen carefully! [Interjections.]]

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): That was real sense.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Jacobs? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You said you will never get less than 10 cents.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Jacobs?

†'n AGBARE LID: Is hy nie op nie of wat? [Tussenwerpsels.]

[An HON MEMBER: Is he not up or what? [Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will request that the Table Staff make contact with the hon Jacobs. [Interjections.] I now see the hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

†Baie, baie dankie. [Thank you very much.]

Deputy Speaker, I want to remind this House that Coloured people were the original informal traders on beaches and hawkers along pedestrian pathways of the Western Cape. This is no longer the case as informal trading permits are limited and many of our Coloured traders have been denied permits. Many lost their informal trading business due to the COVID pandemic, never recovered, merely surviving currently. Reviving the focus on the informal sector has the potential to eradicate extreme poverty, food insecurity and to mitigate crime, especially in the Western Cape.

The food poverty line, according to Stats SA 2023 in terms of the March 2023 prices is at R760 per person per month. Currently, the Government is giving a Social Relief of Distress Grant of R350 per person.

Now the youth unemployment in the Western Cape between the ages of 15 and 24 years and who are not in employment, not in education or training facilities, increased from 27,6% in the first quarter of 2019 to 28,1% in the fourth quarter of 2023. With appropriate skills and artisan training, they could potentially participate as new entrants to the informal sector, keeping

them out of crime and gangsterism.

In terms of the transport sector, our national income tax can be increased if we can successfully transition the informal and unregulated public transport services into our formal transport sector. This could potentially mitigate or end our National Revenue shortfall in the medium to long term.

In closing, Deputy Speaker, special attention must be given to the informal sector to improve the socio-economic fortunes of all our people. I thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Marais. I see the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Am I audible?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Am I audible, Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you are.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay, thank you, Deputy Speaker. I think the mic just went off when we spoke about the 2000 teachers that are going to be retrenched, †toe slaat die *mic* af [then the mic cut out.]

Anyway, Deputy Speaker, the National Coloured Congress rises to state that the informal sector in South Africa contributes 5,1% to the country's GDP. It contributes to nearly 20% of the labor force nationwide.

Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape, the informal sector contributes to a staggering 18% of the workforce, making the informal sector one of the single biggest employers in the province, but speaker, as the NCC, we would rather refer to the informal economy as the alternative economy as opposed to the informal economy, because there is really nothing that the informal economy is doing. The informal traders must comply and they must conform to many bylaw regulations in order for them to trade, but then again, Deputy Speaker, in a corporate world the multibillion retail companies they can do VAT rebates, something that the informal economy would never be able to do. But Deputy Speaker, if each of the informal sector operators are able to employ just one person, the 18% will be around 32% employment created in the Western Cape.

Now, again, as the NCC we want to reiterate that the big role the informal economy plays in creating job opportunities, not just three-month contracts, but real sustainable employment opportunities and if we can act now and support the alternative economy 100%, then this sector too will not be hijacked by foreign nationals. We must protect the sector.

Speaker, it is high time that we acknowledge the huge opportunity that the

informal sector is creating as an employer, and able, so within the province, we should treat it as such and we must respect the informal traders. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Jacobs. I now see the Minister of Mobility, the hon Sileku.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Good afternoon, Deputy Speaker. Before I delve into today's sponsored topic, I would like to convey my deepest and sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the 12 workers who tragically lost their lives earlier this week and wish the other workers who are still in hospital a speedy recovery.

Deputy Speaker, today's topic lies at the heart of Mobility's goal of supporting a growing, diverse and vibrant economy.

†Adjunkspeaker, die informele sektor is ongetwyfeld die ruggraat van die Wes-Kaapse ekonomie en dit verskaf werksgeleenthede aan geteikende gemeenskappe en het boonop 'n uitgebreide effek.

[Deputy Speaker, the informal sector is undoubtedly the spine of the Western Cape economy and it provides job opportunities to targeted communities and has an extended effect on top of it.]

This is why we must not be fooled by this debate by the hon member Nkondlo as she is dismally trying to drive a certain narrative and unfortunately the

data and statistics speak volumes. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Haibo!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: As the famous AmaPiano DJ would say:
"Tele Volume Lapo!" [put some volume on it!]

Yes, let us blast the speakers of the successes of this Government in supporting the informal economy. Facts and figures are not the only measures of our success, but testimonies from the informal businesses who have flourished after benefiting from our Bicycle Distribution Programme.

†Dit sal hopelik die ongegronde narratief regstel en in die regte konteks plaas. [It will hopefully correct the unbased narrative and put it in the right context.]

†"Tele Volume Lapo!" [" put some volume on it!"]

Deputy Speaker, through the Bicycle Distribution Programme, to date more than 640 bicycles have been distributed to SMMEs. This figure is growing every week as we continue to roll out the programme across the province.

Deputy Speaker, I am certain, the hon friend member Nkondlo is eager to know, †ngobani aba sithetha ngabo okanye ngawaphi ama shishini sithetha ngawo [who are we speaking of or from where are those businesses that we

speak of.]

Just to mention a few, Organic Ghetto Lifestyle provides smoothies, juices and healthy snacks from produce that is grown locally and freshly harvested. The bicycles have drastically reduced their transport cost in sourcing new raw materials. [Applause.]

Gugulethu Urban Food Forest Eco Club's launch of Bertha House in Gugulethu has been a safe haven for school-going children across the greater Cape Town for a few years.

Member Nkondlo, the club teaches the young people about farming, food security and general life skills. They are beneficiaries through the Bicycle Distribution Programme. The bicycles have been used as means of transportation, which directly speaks to the Department's non-motorised transport focus.

†Adjunkspeaker, so kan ek aangaan want die lys van die informele besighede wat in die betekenisvolle programme sukses behaal het is te lank.

[Deputy Speaker, so I can continue because the list of the informal businesses that achieve success in the meaningful programmes is too long.]

The renowned Job Seeker Voucher Programme has become the beacon of hope for the unemployed young people who are actively seeking work opportunities, is yet again our indirect support to the local economy. To date,

45% of young people that have registered for the Job Seekers' Voucher have been able to secure employment through the programme. Member Nkondlo, some of these young people were unemployed, for more than two years, and on average now earns between R4 500 to R9 000 per month, thanks to the Western Cape Government. [Applause.]

The PREMIER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: These young people were able to secure a meaningful employment. Their earnings have a multiplier effect as they support the local economy. When they go to town to Embengweni they do not just go there as bystanders, they are participants in the economy of the informal sector. They can also contribute to it.

Deputy Speaker, the road ahead is filled with immense possibilities and by prioritising mobility as a catalyst for economic opportunity, we can build a Western Cape where every person has a chance to prosper, and I think it is about time that our Opposition accepts the fact that there is a GNU now and we need to work together instead of always trying to criticise. I thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: A what?

An HON MEMBER: A GNU.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Sileku. I now see the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, the informal economy remains an untapped sector, yet has consistently demonstrated great potential to alleviate poverty and unemployment. Deputy Speaker, the informal sector engages in a wide range of businesses, some legal, some illegal. The activities exist outside the formal economy. The work and businesses they operate are characterised by limited job security, low wages and a lack of legal protection. Businesses of informal sectors, we know, are not VAT registered and do not add to the national fiscus.

The informal sector provides employment for one in six South Africans. This is equal to about 2,5 million workers across the country. Informal enterprises provide for about 850 000 paid jobs. That is according to a report by the Human Science Research Council. Deputy Speaker, we know that if this untapped potential is realised, we as a country and as a province will benefit. Deputy Speaker, the mining industry, mining sector, is about R180 billion, but the informal sector is also worth that much.

Deputy Speaker, we are talking about a growing informal sector. We are talking about spaza shops. We are talking about hawkers, laundromats, street vendors and car watchers, and many, many more. Some of these businesses are run from homes of business owners.

Deputy Speaker, I believe if this untapped sector is properly monitored and assisted, we can see a drop in the Western Cape and also countrywide when it comes to unemployment, because we know the Western Cape has the lowest unemployment rate in South Africa, but we want to see more. We want to see more, Deputy Speaker. Needless to say... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, member.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Needless to say, South Africa has the highest unemployment rate. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Christians. I see the hon Nkondlo. [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker, let me join those that appreciate the conversation and the conversation meant to enable a spot, us putting a spot on the matter on the informal sector and informal economy in our province and the contribution that it can make, and indeed we can make a choice to play politics, to actually deviate and deflect from what is being discussed, which is so unfortunate that the Chairperson of the very Committee demonstrates not taking a very important conversation of this nature seriously. Instead, he feels that he must abuse the opportunity by just speaking off the cuff,

unprepared speaking all over the show and we expect more out of him as the person who is chairing this Portfolio Committee.

An HON MEMBER: He still sounds better than you, hon.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Unwilling to confront the truth the neo-liberals and their proxies have created political parties like the Democratic Alliance, funded them, appointed the most articulate politicians as lobbyists and implementers of the perpetual centre of peripheral reality. [Interjection.]

What we have come to know as the tale of the two cities, the tale of two economies, right here in the city we are in.

An HON MEMBER: This one.

The PREMIER: Tell us about what your provinces are doing.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): We submit informality is a political construct. [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...originating from the drivers of underdevelopment in our country and particularly in this province.

The PREMIER: And what have you done in your provinces in the last 30 years?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): It encapsulates race and gender dimensions...
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Listen to the Premier! Ooh Premier!

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...with majority of Black people subjected to doing business under informal means and they mainly are women.
[Interjection.]

The entanglement between the neo-liberals, as you would see them, you know, getting highly charged now and how they used State power to keep and maintain this system of exploitation and oppression. It is by no coincidence that under the DA rule in this province and their municipalities the informal sector is neglected and actually viewed as an irritation in the economy, rather than an economy that must be harnessed. The G4J is punted as the grand plan to create a trillion-rand economy with some gimmick of inclusive economy rhetoric, which is the default of a market approach under the current domestic and global trade hierarchies. We warn of similar gimmicks that were made by the very Premier then when he was MEC under township revitalisation that left those who were promised the Jerusalem of being formal... [Interjection.] ...that indeed there will be many Pick n Pays only to be back to spaza shops and others unemployed with a huge debt.

[Interjections.]

The same Premier promised citizens a job in each household and we are still waiting, whilst the very informal sector has been recording...

The PREMIER: We are the best in the country.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ...have been recording employment

[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: 78...

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): and actually in the taxi rank are found braving the cold, providing employment opportunities and also goods, convenient goods to workers as they rush to work. We call on the Economic Development Department, Local Government and Finance to heed the call of informal businesses for favourable bylaws and ensure a legislative and regulatory environment that is friendly to these types of businesses, and actually we call also on the Provincial Government and the Premier and his Cabinet to concede and actually look at the double standards being played under their nose, where compliance must not be used to suppress and further victimise those already thrown in the periphery of the economy. If genuine about creating an inclusive economy, we ought to commit to disrupt the apartheid methods of handling our economy and of handling our people.

At most, we need to ensure that the realities that we see in the informal spaces are changed, especially with this economy of the Western Cape that is always lauded to be ahead of others. Surely we can make something better than any other province.

Yes, crime is a killer machine, and it is very interesting, the new MEC of Safety can even speak about extortion, at least that is an improvement in the right direction and indeed we appreciate the MOU after all this time that beyond the R1 billion Safety Plan which continued to leave this phenomenon of extortion unscathed. A 64-year-old street vendor was killed in Kraaifontein last week in this very province that is actually lauded as the best.

A Tourism Safety Fund was created and actually through this Provincial Department of Economic Development and Tourism, money was even directed to the Tourism Safety Fund when a tourist was killed on Table Mountain. Interestingly, that when a tourist was hijacked and mugged in Nyanga, what we saw happening is that Nyanga was removed from the GPS coordinates. Double standards!

In terms of the killings on the farms, what we saw is an initiative of Rural Safety Fund, which is very much welcomed to protect our industries.
[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: How much?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): But all what we are asking for is actually to really ensure that even in the townships where many entrepreneurs that the hon MEC of Transport of Mobility was speaking about, that they do with those bicycles, they have safety because I am sure you would have listened to cries of many in Langa who actually joined this very noble initiative that they actually get those bicycles being taken by criminals. [Interjection.]

So it is one thing to come and grandstand here about initiatives that you definitely are deaf to when it comes to some of the challenges of the environment in which these entrepreneurs are operating. So you use them here to grandstand and get points instead of actually dealing with the realities of the situations that they lived under. So we call on the Premier and his Cabinet to act and stop making promises. Elevate the township and small towns' economy in the strategy of G4J instead of it being an after-effect or an afterthought. [Interjection.] Engage the very entrepreneurs in those spaces... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, member.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Follow the Gauteng Province and see the township revitalisation [Interjections.] and combined with corporate in the property and retail spaces where indeed the informal sector is being taken seriously. I thank you, Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, member Nkondlo. I now see the Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, the hon Mackenzie. [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Things are happening here!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...and thank you, hon Nkondlo for this wonderful debate and certainly we appreciate you bringing such an important topic to the House, given the challenges we face in our community.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have dedicated ourselves as the Western Cape Government, enabling opportunities to thrive, for all. We are working hard, but we acknowledge that there is more work to be done.

Interestingly, the hon Nkondlo spoke for the first seven minutes and then again for the second seven minutes, and I want to paraphrase what she said for the first seven minutes, to quote hon Nkondlo.

Some of the comments hon Nkondlo rightfully made was around policy indifference; failed fiscal and trade policy; spaces for people to thrive, structural adjustments; bylaws, etcetera, which is also something hon Cassiem pointed out and during the second seven minutes hon Nkondlo talked

about new liberalism and she talked about the Growth for Jobs, which is very interesting because it was George Shaw who said:

"I often quote myself; it adds spice to my conversation."

It was a witty remark that he played upon, how he added conversation and ideas to himself. So the hon Nkondlo debated herself the first half, and then the second half, because the answers to her questions in this debate lie in questions I am going to ask her that she should have posed in the first seven minutes.

The hon Nkondlo, via you, Deputy Speaker, talked about safe spaces and she talked about policy indifference. The reason we are 405 at the Cape Town Port on the latest World Index is because of policy indifference. The reason Ngqura Port is number 401 on the latest World Policy Port Index is because of policy indifference. The reason Durban is port number 398 is because of policy indifference. . The reason Port Elizabeth – aka Gqeberha, rightly known as Gqeberha – is port 301, is because of policy indifference. [Interjections.]

Products to and from our townships do not teleport there; products to and from our townships gets taken there, but they have to arrive at a functional port and our Growth for Jobs Strategy, our trying to fix our economy in the Western Cape, is enabling small business and the township economy to thrive. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Lies, lies, lies!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: So her question around policy indifference in her first seven minutes, it is the ANC that has failed us when it comes to policy indifference. [Applause.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Lies, lies!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The questions around regulations and laws, it is the ANC that has failed us. The reason we have a GNU – I like the new name – a National Government of Unity, is because of the policy indifference. The voters disagreed with the power of the ANC's trade policy. The voters disagreed on the way the country was going. The voters disagreed on the high levels of inequality. That is the reason we have a Government of National Unity.

The hon Nkondlo talks about thanking hon Marais for the first time she has acknowledged extortion. The President again did not teleport in last week Friday. The President has been invited for years by hon Premier Alan Winde, many members of the Cabinet, members of the backbenches, to come and deal with the challenge of extortion. He did not just wake up Friday morning at the Union Building and said "Let me fly to Cape Town." [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): That is all lies, all lies!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: He arrived here...

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: We have been begging him for decades, for years, to deal with the challenge of expansion.

An HON MEMBER: You are thwarting your responsibility.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: That is the reality of life! That is the reality of businesses in Khayelitsha, in Thembalethu have to pay extortion. [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: And what did you do about it?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: A teacher was killed the other day because he failed to deposit R50 000 in the bank account of an extortionist in the Eastern Cape. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: That is what we are talking about.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: We have

highlighted these challenges for years, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Yebo!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: So when we talk about township development, we did not just wake up and decide, let us invest in townships, let us cut the red tape. The hon members talk about and including the hon member online, hon Jacobs, talked about red tape and hon Cassiem, to an extent. The reason Premier Alan Winde, 10 years ago when he was the MEC of Economic Development, started the Red Tape Reduction Unit, because he saw it coming.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You lie!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The President... [Interjections.] That is not on, that is unacceptable. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Please be seated, hon Mackenzie, please be seated.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): You never set up the Red Tape... [Inaudible, 00:57:24 (H)]. That is not true.

The PREMIER: The Red Tape Reduction? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member Nkondlo, I am on the floor and you are continuing... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Deputy Speaker...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Thomas.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Chairperson, I did not actually want to interrupt the speaker on the floor, but there was repeated shouts of "Lies, lies, lies" to the speaker, including when it was pointed out that the National Government runs the port. It is an objective fact, yet it was shouted: "Lies, lies, lies." Can you please make a ruling whether that is parliamentary? [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: True! True! True!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we are fully aware of that particular word that has been used. I will check the Hansard and, if necessary, revert back to this House, but please let us maintain the decorum of this particular House. We are heading towards the end of this debate.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Who is lying?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is this a different point of order, member Masipa?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: *Aye wena!* They are

not in kindergarten here.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I can help you if you want me to help you who said the Minister is lying.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be seated. [Interjections, simultaneous shouting.]

Hon members! Member Lekker, hon members! [Interjections.]

Hon members, please, we are heading towards the end of this particular debate. Members of our communities that are listening, want to actually fully engage in this debate, so I will now see the hon Mackenzie to continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Please ensure that I keep my time via you. Hon Deputy Speaker, it is common knowledge that the Red Tape Reduction Unit was started in the Western Cape. It is common knowledge.

An HON MEMBER: No, no.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: It does not require debate or anything. The President has just started the Red Tape Reduction

Unit last year in his office to deal with the red tape to ensure small businesses thrive and if you really want to understand where the opportunities lie, hon Nkondlo, you have really touched the right point, small businesses, but the Department of Small Businesses did not see the opportunity.

It is the new Deputy Minister of Small Businesses in the DA that visited Mitchells Plain last week. It is the new Deputy Minister of Small Businesses that is bringing a whole technical team to Mitchells Plain next week, led by the Deputy Director-General of Small Business Enablement. Check my Facebook. They were there last week. They are coming again next week. They love the opportunity to help... [Interjections.]

But the ANC Ministers have failed to see the opportunity that you are seeing for bringing the debate here. They failed to see to visit the small businesses in Mitchells Plain to lift them up. They are going to visit Khayelitsha as well and I am going to extend an invitation to you, hon Nkondlo, to join them, because it is individuals like you, who has put this on the agenda there who understands the value of small businesses, but the National Minister of Small Businesses do not understand it. Luckily, she has now got somebody.

†Dat hulle bietjie vorentoe kan stoot, 'n DA Minister wat kan sê gaan kyk wat gaan aan in Mitchells Plein. [So that they can push ahead, a DA Minister who can say go and look at what is going in Mitchells Plain.]

So they are coming next week, and they were there last week, to help us thrive small businesses and I hope that hon member Jacobs will help us to ensure in Mitchells Plain and everywhere else that those small businesses are registered for VAT, because if you put VAT in, you get VAT out – it is a simple equation. It is not just a take-take-take, you must give and the State will also give you back.

Hon Cassiem raised an important point, but then she contradicted herself. If anyone were to get sick tomorrow, whether Mitchells Plain, Strandfontein or anywhere in Cape Town, because the City did not check if they have a food certificate, she raises the issue of sickness later in the debate. Of course, she will come to this House and raise a concern. So anyone can operate a small business, but we have to operate within the rules of the laws of the City or the Government. That is how good functional societies function.

The 10 Commandments – do not kill each other; basic rules to make sure the human species survive. So there are rules and regulations for every small business, whether you are in Khayelitsha, in Mitchells Plain, please abide by each other so they also do not push each other out in the space allocated to them by the City of Cape Town. There are good success stories in Khayelitsha in Mitchells Plain, where small businesses thrive because the City has enabled them to thrive. That is what we need in our society. So, hon Minister, hon member Marais and hon member Petrus, we agree with you around functional small businesses, but they need to operate in a safe, secure environment.

That is why we are very happy that the President of the country came last week Friday, invited by Minister Marais, invited by the Premier to come and sign an agreement to make our Western Cape safer because a safer Western Cape will ensure safer economies, particularly in communities like Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, Langa, Thembalethu, where small businesses are being hamstrung by extortion. We have been asking these things for years.

The GNU is a great forwarder of helping these things to thrive. The GNU will make this country succeed, enabled by members, like member Nkondlo, who bring these debates to the table. So hon Nkondlo, the reason why the taxi - and luckily I was there, we were and still to this day, as of today, 5 September we are still the only Government that has helped the taxi industry to succeed. We are still the only Western Cape Government that has formalised the taxi industry.

The first thing my colleague behind me, hon Sileku, did, was to meet with the industry and talk about how can we assist you forward. It is not being done in other provinces. In fact, what we know is that the Eastern Cape has given the taxi industry, via the back door, permits. That is why the Court ruled to say "People don't hijack Intercape. Please make sure that you protect Intercape."

That is the difference between an ANC-led Province, and the Western Cape DA-led Province. So thank you, Minister Sileku for the good work in ensuring the taxi industry is formalised through Shayela, a smart model that is going to continue in the future and roll out. That is the difference between

us. We have enabled them, we formalised it and we will continue to ensure that there are rules and order in our industries so all of us can thrive so that people do not get thrown out of taxis, that people do not get extorted like we see in KwaZulu Natal now.

Even taxi owners, despite the fact that they have got a great system for looking after themselves, even they are now being extorted in KwaZulu Natal. So when we talked to them a year ago about protecting themselves from themselves, we knew what they were talking about because we knew the extortionists were coming in. So our enablement, our making the Western Cape safer, our Safety Plan, our bringing the President here, it is exactly to ensure small businesses and economies thrive in the Western Cape, protecting small businesses in Khayelitsha, protecting small businesses in Mitchells Plain and protecting small businesses in Thembalethu by having a functional good relationship between provincial SAPS, our City of Cape Town, our Community Oversight Minister led by Premier Alan Winde. That is why President Ramaphosa came here last Friday because he understood the importance of what a functional Western Cape Government is doing.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: I thank you.

[Applause.]

†Die PREMIER: Mooi!

[The PREMIER: Good!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon members. That concludes the debate on this subject.

[Debate concluded.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: In terms of Rule 197 we will now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I now recognise the hon Minister Maynier.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Ms A Cassiem asked Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

What is his Department doing to address the scourge of racist incidents that continue unabated in Western Cape schools?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We are not going to tolerate racism in our schools and where allegations are made they will immediately be investigated by school governing bodies, who are responsible for establishing and enforcing schools Codes of Conduct under the South African Schools Act, Act 84 of 1996. But, Deputy Speaker, the reality is that our learners are unfortunately exposed to prejudice that is expressed intentionally or not at home or on social media or during social engagements and that is why the school curriculum covers this topic

extensively and why schools codes of conduct address it.

In the school curriculum, lower grade learners are taught about different cultural groups and major religions and concepts such as discrimination, stereotyping and bias, and in higher grades, issues such as promoting nation building, citizens' rights and responsibilities and respecting differences in terms of race, gender and ability, are covered in our curriculum.

We want to ensure that these topics are discussed and understood by our learners and where incidents occur, they are immediately investigated by school governing bodies.

It is, of course disappointing that when there are incidences a difficult situation is often made even more difficult when external groups start to threaten schools and learners, but I want to reiterate that we will not tolerate racism in our schools and where allegations are made, they will be investigated.

Let us all remind ourselves of the founding principles contained in the Preamble of our Constitution, which require all of us to recognise the injustices of our past, honour those who suffered for injustice and freedom in our land, respect those who have worked to build and develop our country and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity, and, most importantly, to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and

fundamental rights.

The Speaker took the Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Speaker, it is sad to witness racist elements... There is an echo coming from the platform. I am not sure if it is your side or my side?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the Table Staff. We cannot hear any echo in the Chamber. [Interjections.] Order, members!

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Speaker, it is sad to witness racist elements embedding themselves and becoming entrenched in our schooling system as if they formed part of the syllabus. What is more painful, Speaker, is the inability of those in power to show willingness to deal with the scourge of racism in schools, because these racist elements now come from both learners and teachers alike, and the situation is just out of control.

Hon Speaker, schools are supposed to be places of learning and development where learners need to be taught about the negative social ills associated with racism from an early age and parents also have to play their role in the upbringing of children by instilling good model values which best defines our Constitution's democracy.

Hon Speaker, before I ask my question to the Minister I just want to note, a few years ago in 2020 a Ms South Africa contestant, Bianca Schoombee, had to withdraw from the pageant following an uproar over her use of unethical, racist and offensive words back in 2013 on social media, which used the N-word specifically. Now Bianca at the time was 14 years old and knew very well what was wrong from right.

Now the story of Bianca shows how racist utterance can later affect your future prospects in life and that one cannot hide forever behind a youthful age for their deeds as there is no child born a racist, as racism is a social construct which individuals learn and voluntarily adopt as they grow.

Hon Speaker, being racist can never be classified as being a mistake or an incident, it is voluntary and intentional. So there is a lot that our schooling system and society at large can do to change that, but at the moment I do not think we are doing enough, especially in our schools.

So my question to the Minister is whether all schools in the province have a code of conduct that speaks against racism and whether this code is uniform

across all public schools in the province when dealing with the racist incidents in schools. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Cassiem. I now recognise the hon member Van Wyk.

Mr L VAN WYK (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response and for the seriousness with which he and his Department have addressed these issues.

It goes without saying that racism can never be tolerated and that the onus is on all of us to work together to ensure that the legacies of the past are defined and dealt with, but at the same time it is vital that proper procedure and cool heads prevail when dealing with what are undoubtedly emotive and highly sensitive issues. We have a duty to educate the perpetrators of these despicable actions, but this must be balanced with the need to protect victims.

With this in mind I would like to ask the Minister to explain the avenues to deal with incidents such as these above the school level. We always advise children to tell their teacher or their principal when an incident has occurred, but what should children or teachers do if they do not feel that an incident has been addressed by their school? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Van Wyk. I recognise

the hon member Christians.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we know that schools must be safe spaces. The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation released an article saying that every other month we wake up with the news of yet another racial incident in our schools in South Africa.

So it is a nationwide problem not a Western Cape alone, but what I want to ask the Minister is that are there safe spaces where these learners can dialogue and have critical conversations? You know, you have it in the curriculum, but are there safe spaces? And also when there is a racial incident there is a big hype in the media, but when the perpetrator is caught or there is action, you see nothing in the headlines. So it looks like nothing has been done.

So is your Department doing something when a perpetrator is brought to book, or something happens, that it gets the same media coverage because the media runs with racial activities at school and we know about the two that were recently made, but I am asking the Minister, you must make a concerted effort when action is taken that the media also broadcast that. Thank you very much.

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

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, thank you very much and allow me to also thank the member for raising this particular interpellation which speaks very much so to the kind of Western Cape that we should all be striving for. An inclusive Western Cape.

The recent racist bullying incident at the Pinelands High School where African learners were confined in a cage and auctioned off by Coloured learners is profoundly abhorrent and must be denounced with the utmost severity that it deserves.

This highlights a larger, deeply troubling pattern of school racism that the Western Cape Education Department and this Provincial Government have consistently failed to address with the seriousness that it demands.

Instances of racism in schools, including racist bullying and discriminatory behaviour by educators and staff have frequently gone unpunished across the Western Cape, despite all the processes and programmes the MEC speaks about. The lack of decisive action by the WCED's political leadership is directly contributing to the current rise in these heinous acts.

Moreover we must hold this Provincial Government accountable for their inaction regarding Herzlia High School, which has been complicit in promoting racism and supporting the Israeli Defence Force, a racist, genocidal apartheid defence force.

Learners from the Western Cape under the watch of this MEC and the DA-led Administration have been encouraged to join the killing machine of the murderous state of Israel [Interjections.] and no action was taken against this particular school. How can we expect a DA-led Provincial Government [Interjections.] to decisively tackle racism when they allow a school to go untouched for supporting a racist, murderous state. It is inconceivable how ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, your time has expired. Please conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: It is inconceivable how the authorities can claim to address racism in schools while allowing institutions like Herzlia ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITIONS: ...to continue the endorsement of a ...[Interjections.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, your time has expired. [Interjections.]
Order, members.

†n AGB LID: Die waarheid maak seer.

[An HON MEMBER: The truth hurts.]

Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Cassiem.

†n AGB LID: Die waarheid maak seer.

[An HON MEMBER: The truth hurts.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Sayed for mentioning the Herzlia issue as well, but, hon Speaker, in the month of July 2024 alone there were two reported incidents of racism in the province; one at Table View High and then the other at Pinelands High as well.

So these incidents gives us a sense that either there is no Code of Conduct in the schools classifying racism as an offence, or the perpetrators just do not know the Code of Conduct exists.

However, I still hold the view that educating one about the negative effects of racism and prioritising it in schools, is better than it being too late and reaching a point of punishment as there is nothing greater than a changed, positive behaviour in a student.

Hon Speaker, it is the so-called model C schools, now Quintile 4 and Quintile 5 schools, where you get a situation where the school uses rogue mechanisms to dodge the Code of Conduct in order to protect racist learners.

So a few years ago, in 2021, there was a complaint that a White Matric student from Camps Bay High School had used the K-word against two learners from lower grades; one was an African and one was an Indian student. These two learners in question reported the matter to the Principal – or sorry, it was either the Deputy Principal or the Principal at the time, but, hon Speaker, the disciplinary process dragged for months and the perpetrator was only taken for the disciplinary hearing later that year when she was about to write her final Matric exams, with the rumours circulating that by the time the sanction is passed the perpetrator must have completed her Matric so that the sanctions can remain debatable.

So, hon Speaker, these are some of the situations unfolding in these schools with the chief aim being to protect and to aid the perpetrators of racism.

Having said that, as the South African Human Rights Commission was aware and investigated both the racist incidents at Table View High School and at Pinelands High, does the Department have any initiatives or joint programmes or collaborations with the Commission aimed at addressing racism in schools and in reaching the development of school Codes of Conduct around the province? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Cassiem. I now recognise the Minister of Education, Minister Maynier.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker.

I would like to start by complimenting the hon member Aishah Cassiem for taking a firm position against racism, in stark contrast of course to the leader of her party, Julius Malema, who has probably done more than any other person to fan the flames of racism, [Interjections.] of xenophobia, [Interjections.] of division and of hate in our country. [Interjections.]

I would like to assure the hon member Cassiem that schools have been asked to review their Codes of Conduct with School Governing Bodies to ensure that all potentially discriminatory aspects are removed and they must ensure of course that the Code of Conduct is enforced at all times, particularly when it comes to allegations of racism.

To the hon member Van Wyk. When learners or teachers feel that an incident perhaps has not been adequately addressed, we would encourage those learners and teachers to report the incident to the Department and we will of course ensure that the matter is dealt with decisively. Of course learners always have the opportunity to contact the Safe Schools Hotline on 0800 45 46 47 to report any such incidents.

I have to say I disagree with the hon member Khalid Sayed. The Department,

as I have said, takes these matters extremely seriously and I have said that we will not tolerate racism in our schools and where allegations are made they will be investigated and indeed they are investigated, and the matter to which he refers has certainly been investigated and action has been taken.

Perhaps in closing, hon Speaker, I would like to pause and perhaps to paraphrase the words of Robert F Kennedy after the death of Martin Luther King. I think what we need in South Africa is not division, what we need in South Africa is not hatred, what we need in South Africa is not violence or lawlessness, but love and wisdom and compassion towards one another, and a feeling of justice towards those who still suffer in our country.

So let us all in this House dedicate ourselves and commit ourselves as the preamble of the Constitution requires us to do, to work together, to work together to heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights. Thank you.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

Hon members, just for the record, Interpellation 2 and 3 have been withdrawn and that brings us to the end of Interpellations.

Hon Members, we will now deal with Questions on the Question Paper. I wish to advise hon members that once the hon Minister has started to reply to

the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for the Sitting of the House to indicate that they want to ask a follow-up question, for those members that are joining us on the hybrid platform. Alternatively an indication for those members in the Chamber.

Hon members, I wish to remind you that there are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who has posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper will have the first opportunity for a follow-up question. Thereafter the hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask the follow-up questions.

Hon members, just for your noting, we will first deal with questions that stood over from Thursday, 22 August 2024, as agreed by the House. Question Number 3 has been withdrawn.

I therefore move on to Question Number 5 as printed on the Question Paper and I recognise the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, hon Minister Marais.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

5. **Mr D G Jacobs to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:**

How will the LEAP programme be amended to address the rising

number of daily deaths due to gang violence?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, member Jacobs, for the question.

The LEAP law enforcement officers have been working on the ground with all other partners in order to make our community safer for all our people. The officers enforce by-laws and assist enforcement agencies with crime prevention, which will include stop and searches, and house searches in conjunction with the South African Police Service.

The operational concept includes a visible enforcement presence, relationship building with residents, businesses and key community structures, information gathering on crime patterns and key areas of concern, as well as working with other enforcement agencies.

LEAP officers are specifically deployed in areas where the murder rate is highest. This includes the following areas: Delft, Gugulethu, Harare, Khayelitsha, it is a Site B policing precinct, Kraaifontein, Mfuleni, Mitchells Plain, Nyanga, Phillipi East and Samora Machel. Other high crime areas in which they are deployed are Atlantis, Bishop Lavis and Hanover Park, along with Lavender Hill, Steenberg and Grassy Park.

The operational deployments are based on evidence and data. This approach is also used as part of monitoring and evaluation to determine the

effectiveness of LEAP and inform a cycle of continuous improvement.

The Department, working together with the City of Cape Town and the South African Police Service, will continue to prioritise the implementation of LEAP with joint operations between SAPS and the City of Cape Town, in exercising their duties and responding to all forms of violence in the priority areas.

We are in a process of revising our LEAP strategy in our attempt to improve the impact LEAP makes in reducing deaths, and remember, the operational deployments are based on evidence and data. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Jacobs. Hon member Jacobs?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Speaker, am I audible?

The SPEAKER: You are indeed audible.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay. So, ja, just a follow-up question is why were the full 3 000 LEAP officers not appointed as per the Premier's initial announcement and how many of them are still now in the communities?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: I

did not hear, I could not hear [Inaudible 1:26:19].

The SPEAKER: Hon member Jacobs, the Minister was not able to hear you. Can you pose your question again?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay. Am I now audible?

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The SPEAKER: You are audible.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Okay. So my question is why were the full 3 000 LEAP officers not appointed as per the Premier's initial announcement and how many of them are now still within the communities?

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, before you respond. [Interjections.] Hon members, you are allowed one follow-up question. There were two questions in that sentence. I am going to allow the Minister to respond to the first part of that question.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Member Jacobs, I think you have the wrong information. All the LEAP officers will be deployed.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, just for the House to

note, I got an indication from hon member Walters, hon member Masipa and hon member Lekker, and that is the end of the four opportunities. Hon member Walters?

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Minister, what lessons have been learned from the LEAP programme and how can these lessons be applied to general policing in the Western Cape in the future, particularly with the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed last week. I would like to hear some thoughts on what strategically you think can happen and what we can use from the LEAP programme in that regard? Thanks. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] Hon members – hon members, [Interjections.] I wish to remind the House – hon members, I am on the floor. I wish to remind members that your follow-up questions need to link to the original question.

Hon Minister, as always I am not going to dictate to you how you respond, but you are more than welcome to respond, but I am reminding members that your follow-up questions need to relate to the initial question being posed. Hon Minister.

An HON MEMBER: There is no need to answer, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, member Walters, for the question.

It is difficult for LEAP to have the desired impact without access to live data. That is one of the things that we have learned.

The recently signed MOU between the National Minister of Police, the Province and the City of Cape Town provides for a sharing of data which will significantly help LEAP to proactively deal with the high levels of gang violence and reduce the murder rate. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Masipa.

Mr N K MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, according to the Annual Performance Plan 2022/2023, the actual human resource gap was 11 250 members in the Western Cape.

So the question really relates to the question that was posed by hon member Jacobs to say, based obviously on the MOU signed, could you see an opportunity to amend some of the workings of the LEAP officers to tackle crime easier as such in order to fill this particular gap that I have just read from the report on News24? Thank you, hon Minister.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, member. I must say that what is interesting is that LEAP must be doubled-up.

If you have 50 LEAP officers deployed say for instance in Khayelitsha, then SAPS must have 50 from their side. Now what is happening, there are 50 LEAP officers – I am just taking an amount – then there are only two SAPS officers.

So LEAP is not the SAPS officers, so that was the initial understanding. So we will use this MOU and we are already in discussions with the Minister to have our reasonable allocation of police officers to the Western Cape, and we will also have the Criminal Intelligence, devolution of power in Criminal Intelligence, to empower us more to combat the murder in our province. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise – before I recognise you, hon member Lekker, I just want to, I see there is a hand from hon member Jacobs. Hon member Jacobs, is that a point of order?

Mr D G JACOBS: No, no, it is fine, I will pass this one.

The SPEAKER: No problem, hon member Jacobs. I recognise the hon member Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER: †Ngyabulela Somlomo [Thank you Speaker]. Hon Minister, the PNP reports for various districts identified challenges as lack of accessibility in informal settlements, insufficient lighting in crime hotspots and lack of CCTVs. How does the Safety Plan then address these challenges in partnership with municipalities?

The SPEAKER: Hon member, that is a brand new question, but like previously I am going to say, hon Minister, that is a new question. If you so wish then you can respond, but I recognise you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you for question.

Member Lekker, I will answer your question if you give it to me in writing, please. Thank you.

Ms P Z LEKKER: You answered the first one.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members.

That brings us to the end of Question Number 5. I move on to Question Number 6. Hon members, I recognise the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, hon Minister Marais.

6. Mr F C Christians to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police

Oversight and Community Safety:

Regarding the ShotSpotter gunshot detection used to pinpoint gunfire during gang violence in hotspots on the Cape Flats:

Whether statistics are available to prove that ShotSpotter is successful (a) in combating crime, (b) with regard to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators and (c) in decreasing gang violence; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, member Christians, for this question. It is quite a lengthy answer.

The reply of the Cape Town Police Department about the sum of successes based on deployments within the ShotSpotter areas, and the statistics includes a combination of ammunition, cartridges, firearms, imitation included, and arrests.

So the sum of successes based on deployment within the ShotSpotter areas is 2 307, and the sum of successes linked to response to detections is 1 255.

Then the successes based on deployment. I am not doing Hanover Park, Lavender Hill, Manenberg and Nyanga as total.

- For ammunition recovered 1 927.

- Arrests made 198.
- Firearms recovered 120.
- Imitation firearm recoveries 50.
- Cartridges recovered were 12.

Then successes based on response to detection, I am also going to take Hanover Park, Lavender Hill, Manenberg and Nyanga as one.

- Cartridges found on scene 487.
- Injuries reported at detection 278.
- Ammunition found on scene 233.
- Fatalities reported at detection 130.
- Arrests made 81.
- Firearms recovered 36.
- Imitation firearms recovered 10.

And then case status on successes in ShotSpotter areas.

- In court 78.
- Withdrawn, including provisionally, 65.
- Now prosecuted 42.
- Awaiting feedback 10.
- Filed were 7.
- Abandoned 6.
- A warrant of arrest issued 5.

- Closed and filed 5.
- No CAS is number 1.
- Remanded 1.

So the grand total was 220.

Now whether or not ShotSpotter can reduce gang violence is open for debate, as with cameras. These technology assisting policing actions are still up to the policing agencies, and is it successful? Most definitely. It is clear from the above statistics.

However, it has added value that it provides situational awareness of firearm violence and the proliferation of firearms in a specific area that we would never have had without. The technology has directly and indirectly assisted in the number of arrests and firearms being taken out of circulation, and I can also say that ShotSpotter data can be used to assist with the data-driven approach to police gang hotspots, which are normally associated with the high prevalence of firearm-related crimes.

The situational awareness it provides makes it possible for law enforcement agencies to devise strategies for a calculated and appropriate response.

ShotSpotter is therefore an important tool in the fight against gang violence.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon member Christians?

Hon members, as I indicated, before I recognise your, hon member Christians. As I indicated before the start of Oral Questions, once the Minister has started replying you must give me an indication of any follow-ups. I have said it in the beginning and for that reason the order indicated to me is hon member Christians, hon member Walters, hon member Masipa and hon member Bryant. In that order.

Hon member Christians, you may continue.

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Minister, for the comprehensive answer.

Hon Minister, you know, when you read the *Daily Maverick* on 14 July, it says 52 people shot dead and now with the murder rate, the crime stats out, murder rate up 21,2%; attempted murder 51,6% up.

That is why the question is linked to this, that it seems that we are losing. You know, I agree with the stats, but it is like we are not making a dent in retrieving these firearms, because we have been to the presentation of the ShotSpotter and they can detect where it comes from, but it seems that the guns are endless.

So are we winning? There is a good success, that you are saying, but it seems like lives are being lost, more people are being killed than ever before, and that is why the murder rate and the attempted murder rate is very, very concerning.

So it seems to me we are not making a dent. Thank you, hon Minister.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon member Christians.

I know it is daunting and it seems that we do not make a dent, but I must tell you I have been in Delft last night and we do retrieve firearms, but it is still an ongoing fight and I can promise you we do our best to fight these firearms.

We also ask that we have a Firearms Destruction Unit in Cape Town which is also in discussion with the National Minister.

So I can give feedback, I think, after almost in October, I can give feedback about that. Thanks.

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

member Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Chairperson, in addition to ShotSpotter and there were stats and the answer was given, but in addition to ShotSpotter, what other technologies does the Minister's Department employ to fight crime, and how could these technologies augment policing if applied more broadly? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Walter, and, hon Minister, before you respond I wish to remind members again that you can pose one follow-up question. There were two questions in that to the Minister. Hon Minister, you can respond to the first part of that question.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon member Walters, ShotSpotter actually is a tool of the City not of our Department and other technological support systems that we use, including tracking of all LEAP officer vehicles, body cams on LEAP officers and the new Neighbourhood Watch app, which has been rolled out to 50 Neighbourhood Watches so far as a pilot. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and, hon Minister, thank

you for the data that you have just provided.

I think to manage anything properly you need data and I do understand that you are obviously hamstrung in terms of the powers that you have in terms of managing this scourge in crime.

Do you feel that maybe, if you would have been given much more powers to deal with these issues, the issues of really that you just addressed, [Interjections.] will be really taken care of much easier in terms of strategies that you have got in place? Thank you, hon Minister. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Masipa, and, hon Minister, before you answer I wish to remind the members that you cannot pose a question and solicit an opinion from a Minister, but, hon Minister, once again I am going to allow you to respond if you so wish. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon Speaker.

What I want to say is that we are looking at changing, if I can say, rewriting the Safety Act of the Province and we will also look at our Safety Plan. It is a plan, a working document. So we will work with our Standing Committee on this. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon member Booysen,

I saw a hand. Is that a point of order?

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): No, it is a ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Booysen, please rise.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): No, hon Speaker, it is a follow-up question.

The SPEAKER: The follow-up questions have already been allocated, so unfortunately you cannot ask any follow-up questions.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Can I put it in writing, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: You are more than welcome to use all parliamentary mechanisms available to you. [Interjections.] Order, hon members!

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and, hon Speaker, it was great to hear of all of the successes of the ShotSpotter programme from Minister Marais earlier, and I think it just shows the incredible steps that have been taken by our DA Government, like the City of Cape Town [Interjections.] and like the Western Cape Government with the LEAP

programme, and the broad support that we have got from the House for the ShotSpotter successes. But, hon Minister, the question that I have for you and it is a question that I think speaks to the heart of our current challenges across South Africa, and that is what more can be done by other spheres of government, such as National Government, which controls the SAPS, to really come to the table and assist the hardworking ...[Interjections.] local governments under the DA and the Provincial Government, who are doing their part and certainly playing a significant role? [Interjections.]

What more can be done from National Government to assist? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Bryant. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon member Bryant.

I think with the MOU we will be better off in the Western Cape and with the oversight role. The oversight role is, as you know, very important. You can hold the PC as well as the SAPS members accountable for the help that they must do or can do for us, and then, you know what, the devolution of powers is not off the table. Even though we have a very good relationship with our National Minister, we also had that discussion.

So we have a MINMEC on 25 September and as I have said, I will give feedback of what happened there almost in October. Thank you so much.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! [Interjections.]

That – hon members, that brings us to the end of Question Number 6 on the Question Paper. We now move on to Question Number 7. I wish to remind members again that there are four follow-up questions. You can give me an indication once the Minister started speaking, hon member Lekker, but also, hon members, may I please ask for your indulgence to please pose the question. You do not need to motivate your question. [Interjections.] Please just ask the follow-up question.

I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Marais.

7. Mr F C Christians to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

With regard to the death of Sergeant Raoul Hugh Murray:

What measures are in place for the early detection of conditions and situations that lead to officers taking their own lives and (b) how many officers have died by their own hand in the year to date?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon member Christians, for this question. [Interjections.]

The session Employment, Health and Wellness is rendering trauma debriefing on a daily basis for all reported incidents. Trauma management sessions are also rendered as part of ongoing support as members react and respond differently to shock and traumatic incidents.

The multiple stress or debriefing programme is provided to higher risk units once a quarter. Trauma is dealt with in different stages. Initial debriefing is done immediately when members return from a scene and are observed on how they react to that exposure, like a gruesome scene, GBV, police attack, shooting incidents.

Trauma debriefing is done within 72 hours after the exposure. This allows the individual to undergo all emotional and mental phases that trigger any negative emotions. This assists during the actual debriefing as the individual is mentally taken back to the scene and all emotions are identified.

The debriefing of SAPS personnel is regulated by National Instruction 18 of 1998, and what I also want to say is that our Department of Social Development is helping us a lot in debriefing, especially on scene and off scene.

Then you ask how many officers have died by their own hand in the year to date. From January 2024 to August 2024, four officers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, just for noting, the order will be as follows: hon member Christians, hon member Lekker, hon member Bosman and hon member Van Minnen. Hon member Christians?

Mr C F CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Minister, for that question.

Hon Minister, you know, the Western Cape is already under-resourced when it comes to police resources, but I think the Anti-Gang Unit is under severe pressure and now four are not a lot, but four under an under-resourced province are a lot.

So – and what saddens people is that he took his own life and – so I heard what you said and I know it is a national and directive competency, but surely this must be picked up sooner. You know, for a person to commit suicide is not an instant thing. It is a thing after a time, trauma.

So, hon Minister, I know you gave the answer, but I would truly say, when somebody takes his life in the Anti-Crime Unit it is a major problem.

So is your Department engaging with SAPS to say, “Listen, how do we improve that?” and in this case did you engage SAPS to see how can we prevent another suicide? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Christians. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, member Christians.

Yes, we did engage with them. †Wat moeilik is, is dat veral in die polisiemag sê mense nie sommer dat hulle nie lekker voel nie, of dat hulle *depressed*, jy weet, depressief voel, want hulle voel dan, jy weet, mense sien op hulle neer, hulle kan dit nie hanteer nie, so dit maak dit baie moeilik.

Dan wil ek juis ook sê van ons maatskaplike werkers se lading is geweldig hoog, en soms tel mens nie dit sommer op nie, tensy jy iemand regtig verwys, en as jy bewus raak daarvan, en daarom moet medewerkers dan ook sê, jy weet, aanmoedig om te gaan of bel en sê, jy weet, “Kan ons help?” en ek wil weereens vir die Departement vir Maatskaplike Ontwikkeling baie dankie sê. Jy weet, hulle is regtig net ’n oproep ver en daardie maatskaplike werkers doen geweldig baie om so ’n situasie te voorkom. Dankie.

[What is difficult is that especially in the police force people do not just say that they don’t feel well, or that they feel, you know, depressed, because they then feel, you know, people are looking down upon them, they cannot cope with it, so it makes it very difficult.

Then I also want to say that some of our social workers’ load is very high, and sometimes one does not pick it up easily, unless you really refer someone, and you become aware of it, and therefore co-workers should also then say, encourage them to go or phone and say, “Can we help?” and I again

want to thank the Department of Social Development. You know they are only a call away and those social workers do a great lot to prevent such a situation. Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Lekker. Hon member Lekker, are you covered? Alright, in that case hon member Bosman, hon member Van Minnen and hon member Walters. He indicated and he was the fifth hand that I saw.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister.

Hon Minister, are you able to perhaps expand on whether support is also provided to members of Neighbourhood Watches and CPFs who are also sometimes first responders to gruesome crime scenes, who also have to deal with the trauma of those crime scenes and whether your Department has made support available through the funding and also the operational support that you give to Neighbourhood Watches?

The SPEAKER: Hon Members, and before you continue, hon Minister again, I wish to remind you that the question needs to relate to the original question being posed and you can ask one follow-up question.

Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you respond to that, but I recognise you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon Chief Whip.

No, I am just going to respond, say yes, we do have help for the Neighbourhood Watches and we look after them as well.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Van Minnen.

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

Hon Speaker, it is common knowledge throughout the world that police personnel do tend, because of their occupations, to suffer from a higher rate of suicide than many, many other jobs. It is also common cause that unfortunately police personnel, because of the stress, and I think very much in this province because of the enormous pressure of having so few members, also suffer from high substance abuse issues.

I would just like to please ask the hon Minister if there are in fact programmes that deal specifically with the substance abuse that could be an early indicator of problems. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Van Minnen. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon member Van Minnen, for the question.

Yes, there are. I do not have the detail and I can provide the detail for you.

Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Minister, I have the same question that member Bosman asked. What I was interested in is whether the support services and the kind of support that should be provided for the police, whether that kind of counselling extends to the families of affected police officers? It is an incredibly sensitive topic, but I believe the environment that we are trying to create to both prevent and to also deal with the consequences of something so terrible as suicide should be looked at.

So my question is, is the support also extended to family members of affected police officers?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Hon Speaker – thank you, hon member Walters.

Yes, it is extended to the families. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Hon members, that concludes Questions for Oral Reply that stood over from 22 August 2024.

We now move on to New Questions as printed on the Question Paper and I recognise the Hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Minister Marais.

NEW QUESTIONS

- 1. Ms A Cassiem to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:**

How many drug houses have been shut down in the province in the last five years as a result of the intervention of the Western Cape Government?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon member Cassiem, for this very important question.

I am going to give you the reply of the South African Police Service.

“The SAPS does not have the functionality on its corporate system

to monitor or record the requested information.”

But as I have said, thank you for an important question to which I received a disappointing reply from the South African Police Service, namely that they do not keep those statistics.

I would agree with you if you felt strongly that such statistics are important in order to measure the effectiveness of our police service, and I will negotiate with them to try and ensure that such statistics are kept in future.

What we are requesting Neighbourhood Watches to do is to forward the addresses of alleged drug houses to my Department so that these addresses can be forwarded to the police for the purpose of raiding those premises. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, just for noting, the first follow-up will be hon member Cassiem, followed by hon member Bosman, followed by hon member Masipa and followed by hon member Walters, in that order.

Hon member Cassiem, I recognise you.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, as the question of how many drug houses have been shut, had

not been responded to for the fourth time since last year and the previous term as well, let me then ask, does the Minister know or does she have any information, whether it be from SAPS or from her Department, as to how many people, or rather [Inaudible.] if there were any people arrested in association with those drug houses, and whether any of them was later convicted and sentenced? If you at least have that information, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Before you respond I wish to remind hon members again that the follow-up question must relate to the original question posed.

Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you respond to that, but just for the record, that is a new question.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, and no, that is a new question.

Hon member Cassiem, if you can put that in writing for me as well, but at this moment we do not have any information about any arrests. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and, hon Speaker, through you I would like to ask the Minister whether the

Department plans to use this newfound spirit of cooperation between the National Minister of Police through the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperation in the Western Cape, to perhaps get these statistics, get the South African Police Service to record the statistics of drug houses and also look at how the Department supports SAPS in maintaining those statistics?

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I am going to remind you once again [Interjections.] that you must please ask a follow-up question related to the original question being posed and you can ask one follow-up question. Hon members, you do not need to motivate your follow-up question. [Interjections.] Can I please ask that you adhere to the Rules and pose your follow-up question in the interest of the section of the parliamentary process that is allocated for Questions for Oral Reply.

Hon Minister, I recognise you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Chief Whip, for the question.

Yes, the MOU provides that we can have that discussion and to have more information more regularly in connection with any event about the police and what happens there. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, hon Minister.

Drugs, hon Speaker, are destroying our children and our community and I think it is an important area that we look at.

So the question to the Minister is, are there mechanisms of reporting these drug houses in the Western Cape, and if there are not within your spheres, are there some collaborations that are happening to just ensure that these drug houses are reported? Thank you, hon Minister.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member, for that question. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:
Thank you, hon member Masipa, for the question.

As I said we are requesting the Neighbourhood Watches to identify some of these drug houses and the community, and we say we will not disclose them if they bring that information to us, and that is at the moment what we are doing, and also I know that the City is very aware of dilapidated buildings, of problem buildings and they have a list of them, and they look into each and every one of them to see if it is drug houses and what is happening there.
Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon member Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, if I am giving too much of a preface to my question, please just call me to order, but I do believe a bit of explanation is required.

One of the concerns that we certainly had in our discussions in the Committee was that there perhaps is an overemphasis on urban areas when policing matters and community safety matters are being discussed.

Do you have statistics? Because I believe drug houses are not just an urban phenomenon, it is part of the distribution network that you also find in rural areas. Do you have statistics? Or can you give us an idea of whether the same approach of gathering information, is there a similar emphasis being placed on rural areas and perhaps if there is something specific that is distinguished from the urban areas, is it possible to highlight that in your answer as well?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Walters. Before you answer, hon Minister. I see the hand of hon member Booysen, is that a point of order, and what is your point of order?

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): My point of order, hon Speaker, is that as a newcomer if I do not understand can I get clarity?

The SPEAKER: You can absolutely get clarity if it is in the Rules. So what do you need clarity on?

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I need clarity, hon Speaker, on the shutdown of drug houses. What happens to ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Booyesen, that is not a point of order, that is not clarity. [Interjections.] That is in fact a question to the Minister, because you want a response from the Minister.

There are four opportunities as outlined in the Rules and those four opportunities have already been allocated to hon members. So I am unfortunately not going to allow you an opportunity to pose a question to the Minister.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I will put it in writing, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, you may do so.

Hon Minister, before you respond, I wish to remind members once again that you are allowed one follow-up question to the Minister, and in that case, in the last question posed to you, hon Minister, there was more than one question. There was an opinion sought during that submission of that question. As normally I am not going to indicate to you how you respond,

but can I please ask hon members to please work with me within the confines of the Rules.

Hon Minister, I recognise you.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you again, hon Speaker, and thank you, hon member Walters.

I do not have the detail, unfortunately. I know we have K9 Units, but our Dog Unit is also very stressed out, if I can put it that way. So there are not always dogs specifically for drugs.

So I would like to ask you that you put the question in writing for me to answer next time. Then I will give you the detail. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister.

Hon members, that concludes the Question Number 1 as printed on the Question Paper for Oral Reply. We now move on to Question Number 2 and I recognise the hon Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

2. Ms A Cassiem to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

With regard to the two housing complaints sent to his office by email dated 11 March 2024 and again on 21 August 2024:

When is his Department planning to complete the building of the house, which was left uncompleted by his Department since 2010, of a certain person whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply and (b) when will his Department hand over the house keys, which was due since November 2021, to a certain person whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Cassiem for I think a very insightful question, because in Human Settlements context to the answer I give is very important, because history plays a massive part in a lot of the matters which the hon member, through you, hon Speaker, and the members of the Opposition, actually bring to the House.

So it is within that, hon Speaker, that I will respond to the (a) part and the (b) part thoroughly to ensure that all members of the House are quite clear pertaining to the specific member's question, because I know that there are other examples which I have been receiving, hon Speaker, through you, almost similar to the hon member's questions.

Hon Speaker, what is very important for me in terms of the period within which the member poses her question too; it relates to the period of 2010, but we need to understand that in Human Settlements by the time a project is

implementation ready, it actually started three or four years earlier.

Now as you are aware, before the Democratic Alliance took over governance in 2009, there was one specific party which governed this province from 1994 until 2009.

So the period of the projects which the hon member refers to actually emanates from a period where within this province we saw a programme which was spearheaded and which was communicated effectively by the ANC to a number of communities, called the People's Housing Project.

Now this is and was a very, very noble project, hon Speaker. It sought to address the possible beneficiaries' human dignity by affording them the chance to actually build their own house. Again the road to hell is paved with good intentions and as much as the programme has very noble, or had very noble outcomes or envisioned outcomes, hon Speaker, what we saw from 1994 until 2009 in our province was the antithesis of what the African National Congress ultimately allowed to happen to the specific programme. Until today it affects so many poor communities across our province.

Because people thought they could take their destiny into their own hands, hon Speaker, they bought into the People's Housing Project or the PHP Programme, hon Speaker, but yet many, many of those houses are still incomplete. Yet those people they entrusted actually got the money in advance and now I will go to the (a) part of the hon member.

Firstly, hon member Cassiem, the specific beneficiary which you are referring to was one of those people who actually thought they could take destiny into their own hands. Who bought into the Masiphathisane People's Housing Project. A project which again for the period under review was implemented by the City of Cape Town, again from 1994 to round about 2006. We all know which party governed the City of Cape Town.

No surprises then that the City of Cape Town also were advocating for the People's Housing Programme in their own jurisdiction, and at that stage also the former Department of Housing, as it was called. Again, hon Speaker, history and the context thereof is very, very important, but it is also important, through you, hon Speaker, for the member to note that the contractor who started to build this house actually was appointed through a community organisation under the PHP Programme, which means the Department and the City of Cape Town and the leadership of both Province and the Local Government authority at that stage, entrusted that the community organisation would be acting in the interest of the very same community who sought to benefit through the PHP Programme.

Hon Speaker, again, this is just the (a) part of the questions. As a result of poor performance of that specific contractor, and we saw many of them across this province, so this story is not just unique to this specific beneficiary, a number of houses in the Masiphathisane People's Housing Project actually were never complete, but yet the contractor got the full

subsidy quantum to build these houses.

Hence in 2009 a new government came to be. The voters made a clear choice. A very right choice, I must say, in 2009 as well, hon Speaker, because the first thing we did in 2009 when we came into government, being well-aware of thousands of complaints and thousands of files which emanated from the old Department of Housing, was to actually (a) initiate forensic investigations in 2009.

The then Cabinet decided that due to the massive risk which the PHP Programme actually posed for this Provincial Government, a new Provincial Government, and the then the DA-governed City of Cape Town and a number of other municipalities, was to actually not actively encourage the PHP Housing Programme in the Western Cape in the municipalities, given the number of cases of fraud and corruption which were handed over in 2009 and 2010 by the Cabinet and the then former Minister now of Human Settlements, as it was later to be called; thousands of cases and thousands of cases were investigated, but to come back to the 2010 matter, as the hon member Cassiem alludes to. Again this is the (a) part, hon Speaker.

The City of Cape Town and the Provincial Department then agreed that the City of Cape Town will then take over the completion of the Masiphathisane Project, noting that forensic investigations were happening.

We did not as a province and a DA-led City of Cape Town encourage PHP

projects, but the City then took over to ensure that the houses could actually be completed, but also that the quality speaks to the hopes that the people had, who actually wanted to be and actively participate through the PHP process and programme to build the house which they so long waited for, but sadly due to shoddy workmanship and cadre deployment and all other various aspects of what influenced the quality in some of these projects, that would actually sadly play a massive impact in the quality which they ultimately got.

So in terms of the (a) part, hon Speaker, through you to the hon member Cassiem, all future project progress updates – again remember we stopped the PHP, we stopped encouraging it in the Western Cape. We consulted our local governments not to actively participate and encourage the PHP process, given the number and thousands of SIU investigations that were really ongoing across our province, not just in the City of Cape Town.

So when we closed that chapter, the City of Cape Town agreed to take over actually this specific project called the Masiphathisane People's Housing Project.

I would advise, therefore, the hon member, through you, hon Speaker, while they still have EFF members in the City of Cape Town's Council, to actually ask them to pose this question at the next Council or whenever they feel like it, City of Cape Town's Council meeting, because they are effectively the implementing government entity dealing with the Masiphathisane People's Housing Project.

Hon Speaker, then the hon member now asks me about the (b) part of her question. I would love to read it to her.

“When will his Department hand over the keys as it was due since November 2021 to a certain person whose name has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply.”

Again I thank the member for the (b) part as well, hon Speaker; (a) this specific beneficiary was approved under the City of Cape Town run project called The Hague in Delft.

So that is the first important information which the member is now well-aware of. That the specific beneficiary is to benefit from The Hague in Delft.

This beneficiary is also not unique. This beneficiary is part of 216 beneficiaries that have been approved by the City of Cape Town for a housing opportunity and this beneficiary will be allocated a house in this project.

The City of Cape Town has indicated that they actually still need to complete the serviced sites before they can start construction of the top structures, but, hon Speaker, in Human Settlements context is very important in my response.

We are all well-aware or we ought to be well-aware that The Hague Project in Delft is one of a number of Human Settlements projects within the City of Cape Town's jurisdiction, which faces many criminal-related challenges.

The Hague in Delft, this project, is not exempt from this sadly, which we have sadly now had to observe the contractor actually abandoning the site. The contractor, their lives were put in danger, workers were confronted, extortion attempts were – and there is only so much that one company could do. They walked, they abandoned the site.

The City of Cape Town again has now needed to start from the start again by procuring a new contractor who they hope will be able to complete the outstanding services to the sites before they can actually start building top structures for this specific project.

Hon Speaker, through you to the member, this will mean had it not been for criminal-related challenges the sites would have been serviced and this specific beneficiary would have been informed of when construction of their specific unit, as part of the 216, would have been built at The Hague in Delft, and we do hope, and I use the word “hope” not lightly here, hon Speaker, that the top structures, even that the start of the top structures will only be in 2025/2026, again permitting that crime-related challenges do not reoccur on that site. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, just for

noting, I got hon member Cassiem for the first follow-up question. Then hon member Bosman, then hon member Lekker and then hon member Masipa. In that order. Hon member Cassiem?

Ms A CASSIEM: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, with the Minister's response I would like to ask does the Minister have a timeline or does he have an idea as to when these houses will be completed and the others handed over as well? And then also can that information be handed over in writing or via email if possible, please?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Cassiem.

Hon Minister, before I recognise you, I see a hand on the virtual platform. Hon member Marais, is that a point of order?

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Hon Speaker, it seems that I have missed out on an opportunity again to ask a question, so I will lower my hand, apologies.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Marais. Unfortunately, yes, you missed out on that opportunity.

Hon Minister, I recognise you. Hon Minister, yes, you may.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Sorry, hon Chair, I thought there

was another question coming.

Hon Chairperson or hon Speaker, again context in Human Settlements is very important and I listen to what the hon member's question is. She is asking about a specific timeline and she asked if I can put it in writing, but I will also respond to this House because she posed her question in the House.

Again, hon member, I need to reiterate that (a) the process of procuring a new contractor, the City of Cape Town is actually busy with that now. So I cannot deliver comment on where they are in their supply chain process. That sadly you need to ask through your councillors that you still have left in the City of Cape Town in Council, to actually ask that to the Human Settlements Portfolio, or the Finance Portfolio.

Because there were criminal-related challenges the servicing of sites for the 216 is still not complete. Again, hon member, in a perfect project management world it was supposed to have been finished by now. †Hulle is nie klaar nie. [They are not finished.] Which means once the new contractor, whenever in this future timeline that might occur, hon Speaker, is appointed, the first call of duty of whoever is appointed as the contractor by the City of Cape Town, will need to complete the outstanding services, and here I will provide the member in writing, as she rightfully asks, the number of sites that still need to be serviced, which I believe will also give the member a clear timeline actually of when the servicing of sites is complete, which is the first step in the implementation of Human Settlements, and only then top

structures will be able to be completed.

Again, hon Speaker, in a perfect world where the community plays their part, where there are no criminal-related challenges, a perfect timeline would be that they would start in the 2025/2026 financial year and just so the member can understand, when I refer to the 2025/2026 Financial Year, I refer to the provincial start of the financial year, not three months later, which is the difference between Local Government and Provincial, and in our sphere, hon Speaker.

So I cannot give the member a definitive timelines because there are anomalies outside of my control, outside of the City of Cape Town's control, but what is well within the community's control is that they do not allow further criminal-related challenges to occur on The Hague site as we have seen now over the last period. Thank you.

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the hon Minister of Infrastructure. Hon Minister, are you perhaps able to outline for the House what is the procedure for dealing with housing complaints currently within the Western Cape Provincial Government?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker and through you to the hon member. Thank you for, I think, a very good question. Again, given the number of enquiries that we get, the number of enquiries that Local Government gets, and which is why we created, hon member, a central portal or an email address where if there are any Human Settlements or in my case now, Infrastructure related enquiries.

You can actually send an email, be it anonymous or if you are willing to give us your real name, given the type of issues we deal with in Human Settlements, you can email it to ministry.infrastructure@westerncape.gov.za. Again, it is a centralised system. You will get a response within a minimum of 72 hours, and if there is a case we will follow up, but that is the central point through which all correspondence is supposed to work in our province.

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): In light of the response that we have received from the hon Minister, I would like to know whether the Provincial Department does prioritise people with disabilities and what actions will be taken to investigate such cases?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member for that question and before I allow the hon Minister to respond, I wish to remind the hon members

that you are allowed one follow-up question per question, as per the Question Paper. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate to you if and how you respond to that question, but just, hon members, please, I request of you to please work with me within the Rules as adopted by the House. We were all in agreement once when we adopted those Rules. Hon Minister. Hon Minister Mackenzie, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Yes, hon Speaker. I just want to get clarity. I thought hon members are allowed four follow-up questions, but you indicate only one. Are four different hon members allowed to ask their questions each at a time? Just guide me with that Rule, again?

The SPEAKER: So, thank you very much, hon Minister. There are four opportunities for follow-up questions to an hon Minister. An individual hon member can ask more than one follow-up question, but when you have an opportunity to pose your follow-up question, you can only ask one question in that timeslot. So, you cannot ask two questions in the same one allocated spot or slot. Does that make sense?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Just for my understanding. So, one hon member is allowed one question, am I right, after each question, but four hon members are allowed one question. Not one hon member is allowed four questions.

The SPEAKER: No, hon members ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Just clarify that for me, please, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, as indicated at the beginning of the ...[Laughter.] as indicated in the beginning of Oral Questions in terms of the Rule. Hon Minister Mackenzie, you posed the question. I am responding to you, and you are conversing with the hon members on the other side.

So, in order for me to provide this, hon members are allowed four follow-up questions. You have four opportunities to ask follow-up questions. In those four opportunities, you can only ask one question per opportunity. So, you can ask four different questions at four different slots, but the first opportunity, the second opportunity, the third opportunity and the fourth opportunity, you can only ask one question.

Hon members, I have now addressed that. If there are any further or if you need any further clarity, the Rules are at your disposal. Hon Walters, is that an ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! Is that a new point of order because I have already dealt with that point of order of clarity.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Is that a new one?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): That is a new one.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order? ...[Laughter.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I did not want to interrupt the hon speaker, but is it possible for you to make a ruling on whether the questions are prioritising disabled residents? [Interjections.] Whether that is a part of the question? It could very well be. The individual concerned might be and I think it is an important question. But I just want to make sure that you were consistent with your rulings earlier and I also suggest, of course, the hon Minister actually answers that question, but it is in the interest of ensuring consistency. If you could assist there, please.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I have already ruled, actually. I have already ruled with regards to that point of order that is raised by hon Walters. I have indicated to the hon Minister. I am not going to indicate how he should or should not respond. There is one opportunity for follow-up questions, hon members, so I have ruled already and according to my understanding, I have been consistent.

If there is any hon member that feels that I have not been consistent, you can use the parliamentary process to challenge my rulings. Hon Minister, I am now going to continue. You may continue. Hon Mackenzie, I am not going to entertain any more follow-up questions or points of order on this matter. I have ruled and I have now recognised the hon Minister to respond.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and I will actually respond through you to hon member Lekker's question. Again, that is why I said background and history are very important in Human Settlements and many of the beneficiaries who were actually done in through the PHP programme and projects, sadly, some of them are people with disabilities. [Interjection.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Exactly!

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Many of them were done in by scrupulous contractors.

So, what we have done, hon Speaker, through you to the hon member, in 2020, I announced the five priority beneficiaries in terms of the Western Cape. Number two on that list are persons with disabilities, for a specific reason because we need to ensure they live a good quality of life. The only thing is you need to be a qualifying beneficiary.

I do want to thank, through you, hon Speaker, the hon member that has brought a number of cases to my attention which we are addressing together. Many of them are persons with serious disabilities which is why they will be assisted as qualifying beneficiaries in other projects which the City is currently not able to do, to ensure that we restore the dignity and the quality of their lives. Because again, many of them had put their hope in the People's Housing Programme but were done in by scrupulous contractors.

Thank you very much.

An HON MEMBER: Well done!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, unfortunately, we have reached the end of Oral Questions, the time allotted for Oral Questions. So, hon Masipa, unfortunately I cannot allow you to pose your question.

Hon members, that brings us to the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard. We now move on to Statements by Members in terms of Rule 145. Hon members, there will be an opportunity for members' statements, and I recognise the Democratic Alliance. The DA?

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. It is with a heavy heart that I am asking this House to note the passing of one of the unsung heroes of South African politics, Mr Greg Krumbock. Mr Krumbock held many key positions from the 1990s to date in the Democratic Party and the Democratic Alliance. These positions included operational positions, such as the National Director of the Party, Campaign Manager position, and he was also our resident election expert in the party.

Furthermore, he diligently served as a Member of Parliament and a member of the NCOP in this period, making him one of the longest serving Members of Parliament in our new democracy. Known for his relentless work ethic, intense perfectionism, and extraordinary intellect, Mr Krumbock was in many respects the electoral architect of the emergence of the DA as the Official Opposition, then the DA as a party of Government here in this Province, and lately a Party, part of National Government. What is little known outside of our immediate circle, was that Mr Krumbock was considered one of the top election experts in the world within the liberal international family. He was quite literally an unsung hero in how electoral politics shaped itself from 1997 to 2023.

However, apart from his accomplishments as a political force, Mr Krumbock showed a very human, vulnerable side that endeared him to those who worked with him. He was, amongst other things, a passionate believer and an active donor to the cause of animal rights and on a very personal note, he happened to share a deep appreciation of Roman history with me. He was a quiet tsunami for the positive in South African politics and will be remembered as a great patriot. We will think of him canvassing the angels in heaven with his beloved cats around him. Thank you.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The African National Congress is deeply concerned by hon Premier

Alan Winde's slow response and lack of transparency regarding the tragic building collapse in the George Municipality.

For months, the hon Premier has promised to investigate, yet progress has been frustratingly slow. The affected families and the public deserve more than delayed investigations and weekend press releases. We call for greater accountability from this Provincial Government. This includes regular and detailed updates in the Western Cape Provincial Legislature, not just through selective weekend media releases. The people of George and the broader Western Cape need assurances that this matter is being handled with the seriousness and urgency that it deserves.

The ANC will continue to push for accountability and transparency to ensure justice for those affected by the tragedy. The hon Premier must prioritise this issue and provide clear, timely updates to the public and their elected representatives in this Legislature. It is a pity that the hon Premier is not seated here, but we do hope that he has listened to the message. Thank you very much. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

†Mnr B PETRUS (PA): Dankie, agb Speaker. Die PA vra dat die agb Premier 'n veelparty komitee aanstel wat kan help om die onderwyskrisis in die Wes-Kaap op te los.

[Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The PA asks that the hon Premier appoints a multi-party committee that can help to solve the education crisis in the Western Cape.]

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, since 2011, the Western Cape has been hit by 55 disasters ranging from floods and droughts to wildfires, and with 30 of these occurring in the past four years alone. Yet, despite the growing frequency and severity of these disasters, accessing recovery funding from National Government remains a challenge. Therefore, there is an urgent need to develop comprehensive policies, frameworks and plans to address these challenges effectively.

Projections show us that by 2030, the disaster risks could increase dramatically. In the last two years alone, disasters have caused R6-billion in damages in the Western Cape, and this is money that could have been spent on building our economy and strengthening communities. If we do not act now, the impacts will only get worse.

Our Province has shown great leadership in disaster response and thanks to the efforts of the Department of Local Government and the Provincial Disaster Management Centre, but we cannot afford to become complacent. We need to improve our infrastructure to withstand climate impacts and invest in risk reduction strategies that protect our communities. The cost of

inaction is simply too great. We must be proactive in safeguarding the Western Cape's future. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. I recognise the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Unfair regulations regarding Social Relief of Distress Grant. The Economic Freedom Fighters welcomes the legal challenge by PayTheGrants and the Institute for Economic Justice against unfair regulations governing the Social Relief of Distress Grant which will be heard later next month in the Pretoria High Court. The Social Relief of Distress Grant was introduced in 2020 and as of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to assist those living in abject poverty and hunger. The Grant was introduced as a short-term solution; however, it has since been extended a number of times and eventually, its amount was increased from R350 to R370, effective from 1 April 2024.

Moreover, hon Speaker, the SRD Grant is not without problems of its own as its regulations and administration remain problematic for recipients and potential grant beneficiaries. Amongst the problems associated with its regulations, is the manner in which the term 'income' is defined in the regulations. The term is broad and has an effect of disqualifying a potential beneficiary due to monies deposited into their accounts ...[Audio distorted. 2:29:50] otherwise might not be intended for their own use.

For example, the deposit might be R700 because it was for the purpose of child maintenance. The income threshold for qualifying potential beneficiaries is capped at R625, meaning a single mother receiving R700 child maintenance money into their bank account ...[Audio distorted 2:30:16.] might end up with not qualifying for the SRD Grant, which is so unfair. The EFF further calls for the SRD Grant amount to be increased from R370, which is very little, to R2,000 or more. The Department of Social ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Can I please ask that you conclude.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Okay, thank you hon Speaker. The Department of Social Development and the South African Social Security Agency must also adopt a versatile system. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Jacobs, you are audible.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the National Coloured Congress rises in this House as we stand today against GBV, but also the marginalisation of our women across the history of our

country. From Krotoa who died on 29 July 1674 after being banished to Robben Island for being troublesome, Saartjie Baartman who perished on 29 December 1815 in France, after being used in a freak show in Europe to entertain the very same people who later colonised South Africa. Then, we have Coline Williams who died on 23 July 1989 while in the struggle of the liberation of our people.

Hon Speaker, we have just passed a month that we celebrate as Women's Month, giving recognition to Women's Day, a significant occasion that unifies our nation and builds our cultural heritage. Let us never forget that on 9 August 1956, approximately 20 000 courageous women marched to the Union Buildings to protest against the country's pass laws, which restricted their rights and freedom. Now, hon Speaker, these women came from diverse backgrounds, cultures and languages, but they stood together for a common purpose. They showed us that when we unite, we can achieve remarkable things.

As South Africans, we must continue their legacy. We must respect and appreciate the women in our lives and work towards a future where everyone has equal opportunities. We must also acknowledge the challenges that women still face, such as Gender-Based Violence and inequality. Hon Speaker, let us rise beyond this level of confusion and build bridges between our communities, and learn from each other's cultures to create a brighter future for us all. Let us honour the women who paved the way for us and inspired those who must still come after us. By celebrating women, we

honour our past, we unite our present, and we inspire our future. We can make a difference if we start today. †Kuzakuva, daiches. [You will hear]

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. †Ten spyte van die DA se viering van die bereiking van skoon oudits in munisipaliteite, illustreer die harde werklikheid van wye finansiële wanpraktyke, wanbestuur en onreëlmatige uitgawes 'n veel somberder beeld van wanbestuur onder hulle toesig. In Kaap Agulhas het die onlangse forensiese ondersoek kommerwekkende korrupsie aan die lig gebring wat betrokke is by die voormalige uitvoerende burgermeester, Paul Swart, wat intussen aangestel is in die Nasionale Parlement. [Tussenwerpsel.] *Cadre deployment!* Hy het die gedragskode oortree deur sy ...[Tussenwerpsel.] affiliasies met die Elim Community Trust, die Struisbaai SOS Funding Trust en die Marais Familie Trust ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[In spite of the DA's celebration of achieving clean audits in municipalities, the harsh reality of wide financial malpractices, mismanagement and irregular expenditure illustrates a much more sombre picture of mismanagement under their watch. In Cape Agulhas the recent forensic investigation exposed corruption of great concern in which the former Executive Mayor, Paul Swart, was involved, who in the meantime was appointed in the National Parliament. [Interjection.] *Cadre deployment!* He transgressed the code of conduct by keeping his ...[Interjection.] affiliations with the Elim Community Trust, the Struisbaai SOS Funding Trust and the

Marais Family Trust ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...nie bekend te maak nie.

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...undisclosed.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Die Elim Community Trust ...[Tussenwepersel.]

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The Elim Community Trust ...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Order!

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...waarvan hy die stigter was ...[Tussenwepersel.]

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...of which he was the founder...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, hon Stoffels, please take your seat.

[Interjections.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Ek weet.

[An HON MEMBER: I know.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Masipa, please take your seat. Hon members, there is an hon member on the floor. The hon member is trying to utilise her right to

make a submission in the form of a statement. Can I please ask that you allow the hon member to do that. In terms of the Rules, an hon member of the Executive will have an opportunity to respond to any member statement that has been delivered in the House during this Sitting. Hon member, can I please ask that you speak to me, and I will make sure that you are protected. ...[Interjection.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Yes.

The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel ...[Interjections.], you may continue.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Die Elim ...[Interjection.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. The hon member ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): The hon member is casting aspersions on an hon member of this House and needs to bring a substantive motion if she is making allegations to the House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, did you refer to any hon member of this House? [Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you. The hon member has said no. There is ...[Interjections.] Hon Stoffels, please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon Chief Whip, what is your point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I am not sure if the hon member is not familiar with the hon members of the WCPP, but hon Paul Swart is an hon member of the WCPP acting as our representative to the National Council of Provinces.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I am not ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Haaibo, haai.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order, hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, there ...[Interjections.] Hon members, there was a point of order. I have allowed the hon member to ask. I asked the hon member if she has referred to anyone in the House. The hon member said no. The hon Chief Whip rose again to inform me that the reference was named to the hon Paul Swart. I will consult Hansard and revert back to the House.

Can I just remind the hon members that you may not reflect on hon members of the House and if you do so, I will ask you to withdraw. You must please use the rules, i.e. a substantive motion if you want to bring the attention of the House to any such allegations. Hon Stoffel, in the interest of providing you with an opportunity, I am going to allow you to continue.

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Die Elim Community Trust, waarvan hy 'n stigter is, is met R30 000 bekroon sonder behoorlike bekendmaking. Verder, in Augustus 2021, net voor die plaaslike verkiesing, is R950 000 aan 62 organisasies toegewys sonder formele versoeke vir befondsing. Hierdie blatante verontagsaming van die munisipaliteit se donasiebeleid het tot onreëlmatige uitgawes gelei. Geen regstellende aksies is geneem nie, eerder, hy is 'n veilige landing in die Nasionale Parlement gegee. In Witzenberg is beweerde finansiële wanpraktyke deur senior bestuurders by die raad weggesteek deur die destydse burgermeesters, Hendrik Smit en Speaker, Elizabeth Sidego. Dit het ingesluit die toekenning van R3-miljoen ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The Elim Community Trust, of which he was a founder, was rewarded with R30 000 without proper notice. Further, in August 2021, just before the local election, R950 000 was allocated to 62 organisations without formal applications for funding. This blatant disregard for the municipality's donation policy led to irregular expenditure. No corrective actions were taken, rather, he was given a safe landing in the National Parliament. In Witzenberg alleged financial malpractices by senior

managers at the Council were hidden by the then Mayors, Hendrik Smit and Speaker, Elizabeth Sidego. That included the allocation of R3-million ...[Interjection.]

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Pardon?

†Die SPEAKER: Die tyd is verstreke. Kan jy asseblief afsluit.

[The SPEAKER: The time has expired. Can you please conclude.]

†Me B N STOFFEL (ANC): Dit het ingesluit die toekenning van R3-miljoen in die akkommodasievoordele van Mafoko Sekuriteit sonder dat daar goedkeuring ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC) This included the allocation of R3 million in the accommodation benefits of Mafoko Security without approval ...[Interjection.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.] Hon members, just for the record, I am going to consult Hansard and hon member, if there was any reference to an hon member of the House and reflection on an hon member, I am going to discard it as if you did not deliver the statement in the House.

Hon members, we move on. I recognise the DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, September is National Heritage Month during which we take the time to celebrate our shared history and to reflect on our progress as a nation. But less well known is the fact that it is also National Wills Month. The loss of a loved one is always especially painful, but too often, it is made even more difficult by ensuing dispute over the distribution of property and other assets.

For many in our country and in our province, an officially executed document dealing with the distribution of one's assets after death remains out of reach. The presence of a carefully considered and professionally drafted will can prevent this, but it is vital that we highlight the necessity of this document. There are also many who have drafted their last wills, but who lack the sufficient legal knowledge to ensure that the requirements of the law are met with regards to testamentary writings. Sadly, errors and inconsistencies in one's wills are typically only uncovered after death and could have the effect of voiding the document.

Between the 16th to the 20th of this month, participating law firms across South Africa will offer their services to draft basic wills for free. This initiative organised by the Law Society of South Africa, gives anyone the chance to ensure that their freedom of testation is upheld without incurring any financial cost. Participating firms will be listed on the Law Society website, and I encourage anyone who does not yet have a proper will, to make use of the opportunity this initiative offers. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): Baie dankie, agb Speaker. Agb Speaker, die Vryheidsfront Plus is bekommerd oor die potensiele verlies van hoogs gekwalifiseerde onderwysers wat 'n baie belangrike rol speel in die kwaliteit van ons skoolonderwys. Die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid en die DA Nasionale Minister van Onderwys moet verseker dat ons alle onderwysers behou wat tans in die Wes-Kaap se skole werk.

Daar is ook berigte in die koerante wat aandui dat Afrikaanse klasse verminder het terwyl dit die moedertaal is van die meerderheid inwoners van die Wes-Kaap. Die verwagting rus natuurlik op die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid om die vertrouwe en hoop van alle Suid-Afrikaners te herstel en die moedertaalonderrig te beskerm. Terwyl daar ook berig word dat omtrent 1 000 skole in die Oos-Kaap gaan sluit weens lae hoeveelheid leerders, ervaar die Wes-Kaap eksponensiële groei in leerders. Daar kan nie meer vinger gewys word slegs na die ANC as alleenregeerder nie. Die land se toekoms is nou in ons almal se hande wat deel vorm van die Regering van Nasionale Eenheid. Baie dankie. [Applous.]

[Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is concerned about the potential loss of highly qualified teachers who play an important role in the quality of our school education. And the DA National Minister of Education must ensure that we retain all

teachers who are currently working in the Western Cape's schools.

There are also reports in the newspapers indicating that Afrikaans classes have reduced while it is the mother language of the majority of the inhabitants of the Western Cape. The expectation of course rests on the Government of National Unity to restore the trust and hope of all South Africans and protect the mother tongue education. While it is also reported that about 1 000 schools in the Western Cape are going to close because of the low numbers of learners, the Western Cape experiences an exponential growth in learners. One cannot point fingers at only the ANC as sole government anymore. The country's future is now in the hands of all of us who form part of the Government of National Unity. Thank you.
[Applause.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.] I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim. Teachers are our greatest asset and reducing the number of teachers in our schools will negatively impact learning outcomes. So:

“This is a decision that we have not taken lightly.”

Said hon MEC David Maynier.

As usual, when this Province takes decisions that will negatively impact on the lives of mainly the poor working class and already under-resourced schools, it conveniently puts the blame on National Government by using the Wage Agreement as a scapegoat. The Wage Agreement should not be used as a scapegoat. The Department must comply with the formula and learner-to-teacher ratio. It is misleading to say that the Department is not firing and retrenching educators.

The decision to relocate permanent teachers to other schools is nothing more than an old apartheid tactic to further overcrowd our classrooms and overburden educators. We cannot afford to lose any more educators. We have a shortage of schools, and this Province is crippling the children's right to quality education. This Province is also known to have returned unspent budget to the National Treasury while schools are understaffed, lack proper resources, and classrooms are overcrowded.

There seems to be an onslaught against educators. If they are too progressive, they face harassment and eventual demotion or dismissal. Contract teachers face disillusionment in this noble career they chose as they are denied the chance to a stable future and to be of service to provide education to our children. Al Jama-ah is against any decisions which put the education of our learners at risk. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. I also want to voice my opinion, my voice to the reduction of the basket of teaching posts of 2 407 teachers. It is a major concern and the ACDP wants to reiterate that the bomb is about to explode. The unions came forward and said, ‘Stop the plan to cut teachers or we will strike.’ We are worried that the unions will push a political agenda and deprive our children of learning. Professor Jonathan Jansen also said on the Voice of the Cape, he said:

“This is extremely alarming, not just for the Western Cape, but also for the rest of the country as well. This signals a crisis.”

He further says he cannot understand that the National Government cannot look at our learners and foot the bill. He says ...[Interjections.] and I do not know, but he says that classes will extend from 60 to 80 learners and the National Government must prioritise the funding of our learners. He says: Are you telling me that as the National fiscus, you cannot prioritise a single most important sector in society. I thank you. [Interjections.]

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

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. For many communities, especially rural ones, drugs and other substances are used as a means of escape from poverty. When these habits are passed down to younger generations, the quality of education is affected. Opportunities are limited

and a cycle of poverty repeats in perpetuity. In the 1990s, several European countries suffered from high levels of alcohol, tobacco and harmful drug use in their schools, just as we in South Africa do today.

While many of these countries turned to school-based instruction and education programmes, Iceland took a different route. They developed the Iceland Prevention Model using a community-based approach designed to deter adolescent substance abuse. The emphasis was to get their relevant stakeholders to the table and to build a network of support, monitoring and opportunities for positive youth development at the local community level. The success achieved has led to this programme being implemented around the world.

Early in 2023, George became the pilot site for launching Planet Youth on the African continent. In March/April 2023, 6 400 Grade 8 and 9 students from 18 George schools answered various questions on their intake of a variety of food and substances, as well as their attitudes towards schooling and general life circumstances. The data from this survey has been used to introduce measures of support and activities over time, to assist in behaviour change. Involving the Western Cape Departments of Education, Health, Social Development, Culture and Sport, this programme of Planet Youth represents the Western Cape Government's ceaseless desire to innovate and institute cutting edge projects which mobilise all of society against pervasive social ills. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Wyk. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to Members' Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. I recognise the hon Minister Bredell.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, thank you. On the George building collapse: what a tragedy. But if that tragedy had happened in any other province, many more people would have been dead. We have received a 54% recovery rate, the best in the world.

Hon Speaker, but the ANC is such a shameful organisation. You know, they do not ask for a report from the Department of Labour, they do not ask for a report from SAPS because they are in control of those institutions. I can tell you that this hon Premier of this Western Cape, although it is not his responsibility ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ...he will bring a report, hon Speaker. [Interjections.] There was no one ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon members ...[Interjections.] hon members, there was a member ...[Interjections.] Hon

Nkondlo, I am on the floor. Hon members, there was an opportunity for hon members to make member statements. In terms of the Rules, it is now the hon members of the Executive's opportunity to respond to those statements.

Can I please ask hon members that you do not engage the hon Minister now. If you want any further follow-ups, you are more than welcome to do that after this Sitting or use the parliamentary processes to pose another question. But the hon Minister, as now in terms of the Rule, is allowed an opportunity to respond. As I protect you when you are on the floor, I will protect the hon Minister. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, thank you. Hon Speaker, and the hon Premier spent hours on that site to understand what has happened there and to realise that we need to get engineers to do the investigation. This is a complex investigation from the quality of steel to the quality of cement, et cetera. We will come up with a report. We will not lie to the people like the ANC ...[Interjection.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Ja, ja.

[An HON MEMBER: Yes, yes.]

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Go to the site emotionally ..[Interjections.] and tell people that they will pay them UIF. [Interjections.] If they are not

registered for UIF, they cannot pay them. [Interjections.] They make misuse of people as they always do.

Hon Speaker, on Disaster Management. Yes, and we have got a huge shortfall, but luckily, we are in the Western Cape. The ANC again, because of corruption and they will not be able to reimburse us, but we will work hard to safeguard our people.

To the hon member Stoffel, †sy moet miskien net eers gaan uitvind en die reëls leer, en iemand moet haar miskien net so 'n bietjie klas gee, agb Speaker. Want agb Speaker, as sy kriminele klagtes het, moet sy dit gaan lê by die polisie. That is how it works. †Sy kan nie hiermee sit nie en speel ...[Tussenwerpsel.] [she should probably first go and find out and learn the rules, and someone should perhaps give her a bit of teaching, hon Speaker. Because hon Speaker, if she has criminal complaints, she should go and report it to the police. That is how it works. She cannot sit and play with this ...[Interjection.]]

The SPEAKER: Order.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: ... met mense se lewens nie. [Tussenwerpsel.] Sy moet na die polisie toe gaan, agb Speaker.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: ... with people's lives. [Interjection.] She

should go to the police, hon Speaker.]

Hon Speaker, I am very proud to be an hon member of this Parliament and be an hon member that will bring, together with the hon Premier and hon Minister Simmers, a report to show the people of this province that we care. Thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members! Hon Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I think we all share the hon member's concern about the impact of the fiscal emergency on Education in our province. But hon Speaker, the National Government is not a scapegoat. The National Government is responsible ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...and this situation ...[Interjection.] this situation arises out of the fact that the National Government failed to fully fund the 2023 Wage Agreement. [Interjections.] I have to agree with the hon

members. This is a crisis, but it is not just a crisis in our province, it is a crisis in all provinces ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...and it is probably a crisis that is even more acute in other provinces. It is precisely for that reason that the National Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube, has stepped in and will convene a special CEM to consider the impact of the fiscal emergency on Education in all provinces in our country. I would urge, hon members, I would urge hon members to join us, rather than fight us ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: ...as we work to save our teachers here in the Western Cape. Thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members of the Executive, are there any further inputs? If not, that brings us to the end of Members' Statements.

MOTIONS

The SPEAKER: Hon members, we now move on to Notices of Motion in terms of Rule 151. In terms of Rule 151, all notices of motion 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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the discontinuance of the Walking Bus Project and the detrimental effect it has had on the communities it served.

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the current state of municipalities in the Western Cape and their capacity, or lack thereof, to provide sustainable and effective services in the Western Cape with a view to implement remedial action and to improve operational standards and efficiencies in the spirit of cooperative governance.

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

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House, considering the serious allegations and ongoing legal proceedings involving Mr Farrell Payne, a senior manager in the Department of Mobility, who is currently facing charges of sexual misconduct involving a junior female employee; notes with deep concern that the complainant has not received a copy of the internal investigation report despite repeated requests, and is currently at home due to the distressing nature of the situation, while the accused remains in office; acknowledges the need for transparency, accountability and the fair treatment of all parties involved, and the importance of upholding the principles of justice and workplace safety; calls on the Premier to ensure that the complainant receives a copy of the internal investigation report related to the allegations against Mr Payne to maintain transparency and provides the complainant with access to the findings of the investigation; and further calls for the immediate suspension of Mr Payne pending the resolution of the court case as an essential measure to uphold the integrity of the Department and the Provincial Government.

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

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Motions without Notice in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform you that in terms of Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary of 3 September 2024. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice

pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting and that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 3 September 2024, political parties did submit the names of the 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 purposes 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 D G Jacobs, hon F C Christians, hon M K Sayed, hon M K Sayed, hon T C R Walters, hon T C R Walters.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the South African Para Olympic team currently taking part in the Paralympics; notes that their hard work, determination and resilience in the face of adversity are truly inspiring; keep on shining and showing the world what true strength and perseverance looks like.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its condolences with Marinette Janse van Rensburg at the passing of her son Marlo van Rensburg, Marlo van Rensburg passed away in April 2024, 11 months after it was discovered that he suffered from cancer. Marlo would have celebrated his 6th birthday on 13 August of this year. He had embryonal sarcoma, a type of cancer that develops in the skeleton before birth. Tragically, Marinette was diagnosed with breast cancer shortly after the diagnosis of Marlo. This was a battle that she and her son fought against the disease in both their bodies. The good news that comes out of this tragedy is that after her treatment Marinette is cancer free. We thank God for her remission and our thoughts and prayers are with Marinette at her tragic loss.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of Elizabeth van der Heyden, affectionately known as Ma Betty; further notes that Ma Betty was a remarkable figure in our struggle for freedom and justice, being the only female political prisoner to serve a full 10-year prison sentence, and she was the last surviving member of the Cape Peninsula Students Union, who stood shoulder to shoulder with illustrious

comrades such as Neville Alexander, Frank van der Horst, and Dulcie September; celebrates the remarkable life marked by her contributions and sacrifices in the fight against apartheid which deserve the highest recognition and should resonate through the annals of South African history; acknowledges that her death, just days before what would have been her 89th birthday, marks the end of Women's Month on a sombre note; and conveys heartfelt condolences to her family, loved ones, and the community she cherished.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of Professor Brian O'Connell, a distinguished academic, a revolutionary intellectual and community leader and activist whose contributions have profoundly shaped both the Western Cape and our nation; further notes that Professor O'Connell's legacy is one of unwavering commitment to education and community service, and that his remarkable contributions include his leadership as Rector of the Peninsula Technikon – later known as Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) – his pivotal role as Director General of Education in the Western Cape Education Department, and his impactful tenure as Rector of the University of the Western Cape from 2001 to 2014. Acknowledges that each of these roles exemplifies his dedication to advancing our educational landscape

and his profound influence on shaping the academic and community institutions he served; extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the many communities he touched throughout his life; and celebrates his contributions and honour his legacy of intellectual rigor, community engagement, and visionary leadership which will continue to inspire generations to come.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the First XV rugby team of Paul Roos Gymnasium, who have not only topped the South African schools rugby tables, but have done so unbeaten, with a sterling 15-0 record; and should congratulate the players involved with this stunning result, as well as the school's coaching and support staff. All of those involved, whether on or off the field, have represented the Western Cape to the highest standard, and should be immensely proud of their achievements.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Cape Town City Ballet on its 90th anniversary, which was celebrated late last month. The CTCB is the

Southern Hemisphere's oldest ballet company and has built a glittering reputation over the years as a global force to support the evolution of their art form. More than this, the company has worked to develop the talents of South African choreographers and performers, delivering a vital platform for South Africa's best talents to work their way into the global scene of top-tier ballet, and should send its congratulations to the Cape Town City Ballet and wish it well for the next 90 years.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Hon member, are there any objections to the motions? No objections, agreed to and the motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's name as if the member had read them out aloud.

Hon members, I will now afford the opportunity to the hon members to move Motions without Notice in terms of Standing Rule of 150(2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved by the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members, you are reminded that 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d) will start now. I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes on Friday, 30 August 2024, about 80 security guards picketed outside Groote Schuur Hospital over late salary payments by Gold Security Services which is contracted to the Western Cape Department of Health, for purposes of providing security services. The security company only started providing services on 1 July 2024 and had promised workers that they will be paid on the 15th of each and every month which has never happened to date. It then became a norm that the company would pay the employees on any random day after the 15th without any explanation. It reiterates its call for the insourcing of all security guards, cleaners and other employees stationed and providing services in Government department buildings and institutions across all levels of government. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I move on to hon Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes on Wednesday, 4 September 2024, police in the Eastern Cape shot and killed two men who were part of the extortion syndicate in Mthatha. The shooting incident is reported to have been started by the extortionist gang, whilst the police retaliated thereafter; further notes that among those killed is Chief Sakhumuzi Dalinzolo who is said to be their kingpin behind the recent extortions initiated against schools in Mthatha; a similar incident also took place last week in the province where four men alleged to have been part of the extortionist gang were shot and killed by police in Milnerton, whilst four others remained wounded, after they also opened fire against the police, and they were shot back. In conclusion, by stating that, whilst shoot-outs create a dangerous environment for communities, the police efforts must be embraced and welcomed. We hope that extortionists will realise that crime does not pay and hope that they will abandon their criminal campaign. I so move. Thank you, †Somlomo.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There is an objection, so we move on to hon Windvogel. [Interjections.] Hon Windvogel. Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You guys.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I cannot see now. Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern the recent protest actions undertaken by the security guards employed by Golden Security Services at Groote Schuur Hospital and Heideveld Day Hospital, caused by ongoing salary payment disputes; notes further that these protest actions have placed the lives of both patients and workers in jeopardy, and intensify the difficulties faced by hospital staff, and caused significant inconvenience to the smooth functioning of these critical healthcare facilities; calls on the Department of Health and Wellness to immediately investigate these issues as a matter of urgency as it is morally unacceptable to exploit labour in this manner, and it is imperative that the Department ensures that all its suppliers adhere to ethical labour practices; further calls on the Department to intervene decisively to assist the affected security guards, address their grievances, and ensure that Golden Security Services rectifies any

shortcoming practices; and urges the Provincial Government to hold to account the company, Golden Security Services, for its failure to meet its contractual and legal obligations to its employees and takes appropriate action to ensure that all its suppliers comply with all relevant labour laws and regulations. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Windvogel. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? Is that an objection? No objections, agreed to. I move onto the next motion, hon Lekker. Order, hon members.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern the current challenges and tensions surrounding the relocation of informal farmers occupying state-owned land in Eerste River, as the planned relocation to areas that are already occupied has exacerbated community tensions and threatens the livelihoods of these farmers; notes further and acknowledges the profound impact this situation has on the livelihoods of the informal farmers as the proposed relocation sites are not only inadequate in size to accommodate their livestock, but also cause further displacement of existing residents, adding to the community's overall strain; calls for the protection of the farmers' livelihoods by ensuring that any relocation

plans account for adequate space, proper facilities, and the preservation of their agricultural activities, as it is crucial that the relocation does not adversely affect their ability to continue farming and supporting their families; further calls on the Provincial Government to end the tensions in the community by releasing a suitable and adequately sized parcel of land for the relocation of the these families to a land that is free from current occupation; and calls on the Provincial Government to facilitate a dialogue between all affected parties to address concerns and prevent conflict. I so move. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Lekker. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Apologies, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Speaker.

I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the recent financial and operational crisis faced by Mineral Sands Resources (MSR), which owns the Tormin mine on the West Coast, which has led to a severe cash flow shortage, resulting in the delayed payment of August salaries to employees and placing the mine's future in jeopardy; notes further the

severe impact this crisis has had on the livelihoods of the employees at Tormin mine, as the inability to pay salaries not only affects the financial stability of workers but also exacerbates the economic hardship faced by their families; calls for an expedited resolution to the financial difficulties at Tormin mine, as it is imperative that business rescue practitioners and management work swiftly to stabilise the company's financial situation, ensure that overdue salaries are paid promptly, and restore normal operations as soon as possible; and in light of the gravity of the situation and its potential to affect many jobs and the local economy, calls upon the three spheres of government to intervene and support the business rescue process, and provide strategic guidance to help the company navigate its crisis whilst protecting jobs and ensuring the continued operation of the mine. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

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

That the House notes with deep concern the continuous decision by this DA-led Provincial Government to cut 2 407 teaching posts effective January 2025, despite heightened broad-based opposition to this

nonsensical decision; further notes and rejects this reckless decision as it has been made without adequate consideration of the severe consequences it will have on the quality of education in the province, especially for learners in previously disadvantaged schools; further notes that reducing teaching posts by over 2 400 will have a devastating impact on poor learners from previously disadvantaged schools that cannot afford to employ additional educators through School Governing Bodies (SGBs), which will lead to even greater educational disparities, larger class sizes, decreased individual attention, and overall diminished educational outcomes; calls on the WCED to reconsider its decision to cut teaching posts instead of reducing the number of educators, the bedrock of our education system; the WCED should explore alternative cost-saving measures, such as cutting expenditures on less critical programmes like the BackOnTrack programme and the School Evaluation Authority; urges the WCED to adopt a more equitable approach that protects the quality of education for all learners and addresses the specific needs of schools that serve economically disadvantaged communities, as it is essential that the WCED engages in meaningful consultation with educators, parents, and community stakeholders to ensure that any budgetary adjustments do not disproportionately harm those who are already at a disadvantage; and calls on all the progressive forces and education stakeholders including activists and civic organisations to unite in rejecting this move by the DA-led Government. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

Hon MEMBERS: Objection!

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): †Nkosi Somlomo. Somlomo, [Thank you Speaker. Speaker,] I move without notice:

That the House notes with appreciation the recent improvement in the Business Confidence Index, which has risen by three points to reach 38 in the Third Quarter of 2024, marking the highest level of business confidence since the Fourth Quarter of 2022; further notes and welcomes this positive development as a sign of improving business conditions and investor optimism in South Africa; and commits to working collaboratively with businesses and policymakers to ensure that the gains in business confidence translate into tangible economic benefits for all sectors of the economy. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections. No need to debate it. There is no objection, and the motion is agreed to. I recognise the hon Bans.

Ms A P BANS (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the recent development wherein the South African Police Service (SAPS) successfully confiscated 400 bricks of cocaine worth R252-million from two suspects in Stilbaai as well as the arrest of the suspects, which followed a high-speed chase and a detailed investigation, notes further that the swift response by Stilbaai officers, including the pursuit and apprehension of the suspects, and the seizure of such a large quantity of illicit drugs demonstrates the commendable bravery and efficiency, represents a significant blow to the drug trade and highlights the capacity of our SAPS officers; acknowledges the vital role of community support in aiding SAPS efforts and encourages continued public vigilance and cooperation with police operations, as this is essential in ensuring the effectiveness of crime-fighting initiatives and maintaining public safety; and commends the SAPS for their diligence, professionalism, and effective operations leading to this successful bust. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bans. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections. No objection, and the motion is agreed to. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

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

That the House notes and welcomes the significant progress made in the reopening of the Central Line, specifically the resumption of train services from Nolungile train station in Site C to Cape Town; acknowledges that this development has significantly improved transportation options for residents, providing affordable and reliable travel at rates starting from R9, with further discounts available off-peak; commend the National Department of Transport and PRASA for their sterling work in reaching this stage of the Central Line reopening; notes further and expresses concern that devolution of rail or privatisation, as proposed by some in the House, could undermine the quality of service and lead to increased fares and rejects these reckless calls; and reaffirms support for maintaining rail services under national oversight, ensuring that they continue to function optimally and remain accessible to all. I so move. [Interjections.]

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank ...[Interjections.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): [Laughter.] [Interjections.] Can I be protected ...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...from the hon member, from all of you.

The SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjections.] Order, hon members.
[Interjections.] Hon member.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): He is harass ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Order, hon members!
[Interjections.] Hon Stoffel, when you are on the ...[Interjections.] Hon
Stoffel? [Interjections.] Hon Stoffel, when you are on the floor, I will
absolutely protect you, but when you take your seat and you are no longer on
the floor, I cannot protect you. [Interjections.] Hon members, I have not had
an opportunity to put the motion to the House. Are there any objections to
the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Object!

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, once it is printed on the Order Paper it will come, it could potentially come back to the House for debate. So, there is no need to debate it now. There is an objection, and it is printed on the Order Paper. I now move on to hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): You cannot. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the recent decision by the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) to terminate Learner Transport Services for students residing in Vredebes and surrounding farms who are enrolled at Ceres Primary School and Morrisdale Primary School; further notes the decision also affects high school learners enrolled at Bella Vista High School who reside in Kliprug and surrounding farms; further notes and rejects the WCED's decision to discontinue these vital transport services, as this action will have a devastating impact on the affected students, particularly those from low-income households who rely heavily on these services to attend school; acknowledges that unexpected termination of transport services is likely to lead to increased absenteeism and a high dropout rate among these vulnerable learners; notes further that the termination of learner transport services will disproportionately affect poor learners,

exacerbating educational inequalities and hindering their ability to access quality education; and calls on the WCED to urgently reconsider this decision and reinstate the learner transport services. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and it will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Kamfer.

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Dankie, agb Speaker. Ek stel voor 'n mosie sonder kennisgewing, agb Speaker. Kan ek voortgaan?

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move a motion without notice, hon Speaker. May I proceed?]

†Die SPEAKER: Jy mag voorgaan.

[The SPEAKER: You may proceed.]

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Dankie, agb Speaker. Ek stel voor sonder kennisgewing:

Dat die Huis met diep kommer kennis neem van die onlangse tragiese busongeluk op die Van Rhynspas tussen Nieuwoudtville en Van Rhynsdorp in die Wes-Kaap, wat tot groot verlies van lewens gelei het, agb Speaker; verder ook kennis neem van die mense wat in die hospitale is, agb Speaker; dan wil ek ook dat die Huis so kennis neem dat die bus 42 passasiers van die Noord-Kaap na die Wes-Kaap vervoer het, met die botsing teen die kant van die berghelling het die drywer die beheer verloor en daarvoor het hy die bus teen die kant omgegooi; ons opregte simpatie aan die families en geliefdes van dié wat lewens verloor het, aan hulle vriende en kinders en familie. Agb Speaker, verder wil ons 'n beroep doen op alle bestuurders om met groot sorg te bestuur en waaksaam te wees wanneer hulle op gevaarlike en uitdagende roetes ry, aangesien padveiligheid 'n gesamentlike verantwoordelikheid is, en die bestuurders veiligheidsregulasies moet nakom en waaksaam moet bly om sulke verwoestende ongelukke te vermy. Agb Speaker, ten laaste wil ons 'n beroep doen op die Provinsiale Regering om onmiddellik aandag te gee en padveiligheidsmaatreëls toe te pas op sulke tipe paaie soos die Van Rhynspas en soortgelyke passe. Ek dank U.

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the recent tragic bus accident on the Van Rhyns Pass between Nieuwoudtville and Van Rhynsdorp in the Western Cape, which led to a great loss of life, hon Speaker; further also notes the people who are in hospital, hon Speaker; then also notes that the bus

transported 42 passengers from the Northern Cape to the Western Cape; with the collision against the side of the mountain the driver lost control and the bus overturned against the side; our sincere sympathy to the families and loved ones of those who had lost their lives, to their friends and children and family. Hon Speaker, further we want to ask all drivers to drive with care and be alert when they drive along such dangerous and challenging routes, as road safety is a joint responsibility, and the drivers have to adhere to safety regulations and stay alert to prevent such devastating accidents. Hon Speaker, finally we want to ask the Provincial Government to immediately pay attention and apply safety measures along such types of roads like the Van Rhyns Pass and similar passes. I thank you.]

[Motion as moved by Member.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agb lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.] Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. Can we just, because there are more families that were involved. It is not nine, it is twelve. Can the hon member change his disservice to those that are not mentioned in here. It is not nine, it is twelve. So, that is why we object and not because of the motion itself, but not to be rude to the other families who are not in this

motion. [Interjections.] So, we object ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members. Order, hon members. Hon members! I am putting the motion to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? Hon Mackenzie, then ...[Interjections.] So, you are objecting to the motion being moved without notice?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): And the motion itself for the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Alright.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes.

The SPEAKER: So, there is an objection to the motion being moved without notice and to the motion itself.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Itself.

The SPEAKER: So, it will be printed on the Order Paper. I move on to hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes the concern that extortionists are targeting schools. Basic Education Minister Siviwe Gwarube has raised ‘deep concerns’ about the increasing rate of extortion in the Eastern Cape. Criminal networks are expanding operations in schools. If this crisis is allowed to flourish in our centres of learning, it will have dire consequences for education. We must stamp it out before it takes root in the Western Cape and other provinces. Extortionists will not limit their operations to the Eastern Cape but will spread their wickedness in the Western Cape. The ACDP cautions against the spread of education extortionists whose actions will have serious repercussions for all, teachers and learners alike. They will force their evil intentions upon our schools. Lives have been lost due to the mindless violence perpetrated by extortionists in the construction industry. We must prepare to offer combined resistance to the pending disaster looming on the horizon. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christians. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Bryant.

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

That this House notes with approval the City of Cape Town's achievement in being named the national winner of the WWF's 2024 One Planet City Challenge; notes further that this competition rewards cities for their efforts in both mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change, and that the jury for the competition found the City had achieved a striking balance between adaptation and mitigation efforts which has been integrated with the UN's Strategic Development Goals across all departments; and lastly notes that it is future oriented and innovative governance that makes such an achievement possible. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Wessels.

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

That this House notes the City of Cape Town's Human Settlement Directorate held an open day for community members to discuss the plans for a new social housing project in Lansdowne area; that the proposed affordable housing development will yield approximately 308 social housing opportunities for qualifying beneficiaries; further notes

that the City's actions seek to make affordable housing projects more feasible for private sector partners by offering developmental packaging, land discounts, and leveraging municipal land to make projects more viable for private sector partners. Over the past year, through the Accelerated Land Release programme they have been making significant interventions in the market with an estimated 10 000 units underway. I so move. Thanks.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Wessels. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Wessels.

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

That this House notes that on Tuesday, 27 August 2024, the Provincial Minister of Infrastructure handed over the first batch of houses at the Railton Housing Project in Swellendam; that the House further notes that this catalytic project is set to deliver a total of 950 housing units, providing much-needed homes to residents of Swellendam. I so move. Thanks.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Wessels. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bryant.

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

That this House notes the Premier and Minister Bredell's engagements with the new municipal management in Beaufort West and Laingsburg to address key issues and ensure sustainable governance to improve service delivery. I so move. Thanks.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bryant. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Wessels.

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

That the House notes that the City of Cape Town has started the construction of stormwater infrastructure along Japhta K Masemola Road between Baden Powell Drive and Nyanda Avenue. The outlet of the existing stormwater drainage system is currently blocked as a result

of the establishment of the Island informal settlement which is causing road flooding at the low point of Japhta K Masemola Road when it rains. The installation of the new stormwater infrastructure will alleviate the risk of flooding along Japhta K Masemola Road, thereby extending the longevity of the city's road network and improving the safety of all road users. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. Order. Hon members, I did not want to interrupt proceedings during the round of Motions without Notice we have just concluded, but I have noticed that a number of these Motions without Notice did not comply with the Rules as far as the form and substance of motions were concerned. I want to put on record that I appreciate the fact that hon members may not have had the required orientation in this regard and will therefore direct that the procedural staff reach out to these hon members, in whose name the procedurally problematic motions appear, with a view to making them compliant with the Rules.

Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice, but before we conclude the business for the day, I would like to take this opportunity or allow me this opportunity, hon members, to congratulate Mr Shelton Fortuin for 20 years of dedicated service to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. [Applause.] Mr Fortuin, on behalf of all the hon members present, thank you very much for 20 years of dedicated service to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, but also to the citizens of this beautiful province that we are privileged to serve and for 20 years that you have seen many hon members come and go, but you are still here. So, thank you very much and thank you for the years that you will still contribute to this institution. Thank you very much.

Hon members, with that being said, that concludes the business for the day. The House will be adjourned. 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 17:38.