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THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. [Interjection] Order! Hon members, before we proceed I would like to remind you about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been our practise to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff, and via Microsoft Teams, and our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sitzings.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules and unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their

votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020. Hon members, present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law.

Hon members, when you are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer, you will have your microphones muted and called to order. The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance.

Hon members, if you wish to raise a point of order, hon members, please if you are in the Chamber to do so by addressing the Presiding Officer as expected, but you must please remember to mute your microphones when you are done or completed speaking.

Hon members, the media have also been granted access to this Microsoft Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP; however members of the press may not use the chat room, or speak, or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

Hon members, for the Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings and to this end I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, before we move on to Interpellations, please allow me an

opportunity to welcome all the guests in the gallery. Welcome to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, welcome to the Sitting today. I wish to remind the guests in the gallery that you may not participate in the proceedings of the House, but you are more than welcome to observe, and welcome to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Hon members, with that being said, in terms of Rule 197 we will now proceed to Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Premier.

## INTERPELLATIONS

### 1. Mr M K Sayed to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:

Given the critical trade and investment relations between the Western Cape and China:

- (a) *Whether Minister Meyer's excursion to Taiwan has jeopardised these vital ties;*
- (b) *whether he will reprimand the Minister for this conduct; if not, why not; if so, what specific disciplinary measures or remedies will be taken?*

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Leader of the Official Opposition for the question. Hon Speaker, as previously communicated in this House in a written reply to the member,

which was just a few weeks ago, I think also in a similar question during the State of the Province Address when we were in Beaufort West, this question was asked, but to answer again.

The Minister Meyer's trip to Taiwan was not an official engagement conducted on behalf of the Western Cape Government or any of its entities. It was conducted strictly in his personal and private capacity and not as a member of this Government.

If the hon member probably realises that it was the ANC that actually made his father a Consul General in that country, and of course then you find personal relationships and people can do that.

I have been informed, hon Speaker, that at no time did Minister Meyer suggest that he made the trip as a representative of this Government nor did he attempt to suggest any endorsement of the trip on this Government's behalf. Like any resident of the Western Cape of South Africa, Minister Meyer has a right to a freedom of speech and expression under our Constitution. The Western Cape Government respects Minister Meyer's expression in those rights.

Certain members opposite appear to be intent on damaging the Western Cape and South Africa's economic interests for their own petty political gain.

So once again, hon Speaker, I wish to use this opportunity to reiterate the

Western Cape Government's stance and that is made as clearly as I possibly can. We deeply value our ties and friendships with the People's Republic of China, especially our long standing regional partnership with Shandong Province. This partnership between the Western Cape and Shandong is South Africa's first ever provincial level arrangement with China, and our relations with China have benefited the Western Cape, not only in terms of trade and investment, but also in terms of sustainable development, innovation and entrepreneurship at large.

As the hon member asking this question he is undoubtedly aware our absolute focus over the next five years is enabling a job rich economy. In this regard we consider the People's Republic of China a vital partner to the Western Cape and we stand ready to deepen our economic ties with that nation in the spirit of mutual cooperation. In an increasingly complex global economy it is essential that we diversify our economic interests, while deepening our long standing relationships we have with the region of Shandong and China. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I now recognise the hon Sayed. Hon Sayed, before you speak, hon members, please just be reminded of the clock for you as an indication of your time on the screen.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much ...  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please give me one second... You may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and my thanks to the hon Premier for the response. Just let me again reiterate that there is only one MEC Meyer. There is not a private MEC Meyer and a MEC Meyer here in the House. Whatever he does reflects on his position that he holds, hence he takes an Oath of Office. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes, that is why [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: But I want to ask the Premier whether the Premier and the Provincial Government, given his response, are willing to abandon their denialism, as he has just gone into a state of denialism now, and accept that based on the undeniable facts available, that the recent visit to Taiwan by MEC Meyer does in fact run the risk of jeopardising and straining the Western Cape's, and indeed South Africa's vital diplomatic trade and investment relations with the People's Republic of China; especially considering that South Africa's official foreign policy position regarding the One-China Policy; whether the Premier intends to reprimand MEC Meyer for potential risks that have been induced by his damaging conduct?

If not, why not, and if so what specific disciplinary measures, corrective actions or diplomatic measures will be taken, including with DIRCO, to mitigate any fallout and reaffirm the Province's alignment with National

Foreign Policy of China, because it is a stated fact that the Chinese have issued a public statement that MEC Meyer is a persona non grata in China. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Unambiguous answers to these questions from the Premier, as the Leader of this Government, is vital in the context of South Africa as a unitary state, where the foreign policy for the Republic and having severed diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1997.

The answers are necessary at this critical time of global geopolitical trade and supply chain uncertainty and volatility, which the South African economy and the Western Cape economy are not guaranteed from being shielded from. This is why as a country our bilateral relations with our major partners, including China, need to be consolidated and enhanced, not diluted, while diversifying and expanding horizons with our partners.

Finally, how then does Premier Winde justify MEC Meyer's actions when the DA National Leader, Minister John Steenhuisen, in his capacity as a South African Government Minister of Agriculture, has actually been appointed as the South African Government's Inter-Ministerial Head of the Task Team, with developing viable solutions for South Africa to ensure favourable market access with our major trading partners, and this extends to the strained relations with the United States of America. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I now recognise the hon Van Minnen. [Interjection.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, I am not sure whether the hon Sayed is suffering from selective amnesia or this is simply a case of blatant hypocrisy; just eight days ago the hon member proudly shared footage on X of himself engaging with Russian representatives, recklessly risking our trade relations with Europe and the United States. [Interjection.] Such actions threaten vital agreements like AGOA which underpin key industries and thousands of jobs.

Yet today he rises to launch a frivolous and deeply inaccurate interpellation levelling baseless accusations against Minister Meyer, ironically for the very conduct he himself is guilty of, but that aside. [Interjection.] Can the Premier please elaborate on the impact of the Provincial Government's relations with the Shandong Province? I thank you. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] Province.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I please ask the Table Staff, I think that there is somebody on the online platform, if all microphones can be muted on the online platform? Hon members that are participating on the online platform, if you wish to raise a point of order, please do so using the hand raise functionality. I recognise the hon Christians.



Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we have debated this topic over and over again [Interjection.] and I think the ANC is causing more damage by misleading the people. [Interjection.]

I want to say what I said before, parliamentarians, members of this House, when they visit countries in their private capacity, must do so. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): They must do so. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] there is a statement.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): So now they are misleading the public [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

An HON MEMBER: There is a statement. Did you read the statement?

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): You must ask for an apology [Interjection.]

Hon Windvogel must still ask her apology [Interjection.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I will never do that.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): She must still ask for an apology.  
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon Christians, please take your seat.  
[Interjection.] Order, hon members! Hon members, there is a member on the floor, so allow the member to make his input, if you disagree with the member, like I always say, interjections are allowed but please do not drown out the hon speaker, and I am struggling to hear the hon speaker on the floor. Hon Christians, you may continue.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, you know we must be fair and honest with ourselves. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Why does the ANC want to make a political debate about this? Minister Meyer, who was in his private capacity and it must be respected, and the Premier just said and we have mentioned it to this House, it was never in his official capacity. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: That is it!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): How can we now tell members, “you cannot go to China, you cannot go to America, because you are a member of the House or you are of the Executive.”

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): You cannot do that! So the ANC must be truthful and I do not know ... [Interjection] ... the damage that they are causing by misleading the public [Interjection.] is more than what we are thinking at this moment. So I believe members of this House, the Executive, if they act in the private capacity, they must do so. I thank you. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] they expect too much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Christian. Order, hon members! [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: They must get ...

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: When are they going to ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] distraction. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] writing on the other side.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, on my left hand side, have you completed your dialogue? [Interjection.] Hon Herron, you may continue.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we cannot lose sight of the fundamental principle that when you are elected an official, the lines between your personal and public life are inevitably blurred. [Interjection.] This is not just a matter of perception; it is a matter of responsibility. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): The MEC Meyer, as the Western Cape Minister for Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, holds a position of public trust. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): His foremost duty is to protect and advance the economic interests of this Province. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Did you say something?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): So how can that duty be effectively carried out if he is personally banned from entering China, our largest trading partner in Asia. If the MEC visited Taiwan in a private or personal capacity, the question is what exactly happened, or how egregious was his behaviour to lead to a ban? [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): On the other hand if he met Taiwanese officials the trip cannot fall under the banner of a personal or private visit. Let us be clear, China is not just another market, it is a key player in our Province's export strategy, potential tourism and foreign investment pipeline. Being banned from engaging directly with Chinese officials and business representatives, places MEC Meyer in a compromised position. It limits his ability to build relationships, attract investment and promote trade, all of which are critical functions of his portfolio.

If the MEC Meyer's personal actions or history have led to a ban, that now impairs his ability to do his job, then it is not merely a private issue ...  
[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ... it is a public concern and one that demands accountability. We cannot allow a member of the Executive to jeopardise

strategic provincial interests. If his capacity to serve is undermined and there is no clear plan to fix the damage to our economic diplomacy, then he must be removed from Office. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah, yes!

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): This is not about personal persecution; it is about safeguarding the provinces' economic future. Thank you. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! While we wait for the podium to get to hon Sayed - hon members, interjections are allowed as I indicated earlier on; but what is happening in the House at the moment is that there are dialogues across the floor with members, and in fact it is even interjecting the speaker on the floor. So can I please ask if you want to have a dialogue with your colleagues, please do it outside of the Chamber? Hon Sayed, you may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much. Just to the hon Van Minnen, I think she needs to understand South African foreign policy. [Interjection] [Laughter.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The South African Government has fully fledged relations with a BRICS partner known as the Russian Federation. [Interjection.] So I have got no apologies, I will continue to attend more of the Russian functions if invited. [Interjection.] [Applause.]

On 2 September 2024, President Ramaphosa led a State delegation to China that included the National Leader of the Governing Party in this House, the hon Minister John Steenhuisen, in his capacity as the Minister of Agriculture, at the invitation of His Excellency the Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The two Heads of State not only reaffirmed the strategic importance and the ever growing nature of the friendship between our two countries over the past 26 years, they also recommitted to intensify efforts to work towards building a high quality China-South Africa community with a shared future.

Now to advance the special bilateral relationship, consolidate mutual trust, expand cooperation and enhance coordination, our two Heads of State agreed to elevate the bilateral relationship to all round strategic cooperative partnerships in the new era, underpinned by strong political ties and focused on prosperous future with balanced trade and accelerated transformative economic growth.

The two Heads of State actually reached a series of important common understandings, including amongst others, working towards a high quality China-South Africa community with a shared future, structured bilateral mechanisms at various levels [Interjection.] to encourage the deepening of exchanges between Government departments and legislative institutions and to accommodate subnational interactions at multiple levels.

Now the latter is mutually inclusive of the provincial sphere of Government, including the Western Cape Province. This South African Government also there reaffirmed the commitment to the One-China Policy, recognising that there is but one China in the world represented by the Government of the People's Republic of China as the sole legal government representing the whole of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, not an independent state.

Now against this backdrop both States thus committed to providing a stable and fair enabling business environment for companies of both sides to ensure the safety and legitimate rights and interests of the relevant personnel projects and institutions. MEC Meyer has actually undermined this. On all of these accounts the MEC Meyer's actions, and the denialism that we are seeing here by the DA and by their partner the ACDP ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, your time has expired. Please conclude. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: It is time to [Inaudible.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... and this Provincial Government [Inaudible.] governance lapses with potential dire economic implications nationally and provincially. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Premier.



The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much to those who participated in this mini debate. I thank the hon Sayed, he posed the question and he obviously spoke now at length on an official visit between South Africa and China [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yeah.

The PREMIER: ... and of course my answer spoke about a private visit versus an official visit. [Interjection.] But in that regard and following some of the questions raised by some of the other members that I have had a meeting with the Chinese Ambassador on this specific subject, also with the Consul General, and in actual fact addressed these details with Minister Meyer, and we have written to the Ambassador in this regard. Interestingly enough two days ago, on the very floor that I have my offices, I engaged with the Consul General following our engagement on this specific issue, because we do value our trade and relationship between China and the Western Cape, between Shandong and the Western Cape. [Interjection.] That was just two days ago. In actual fact last night I spent the evening with 30 Chinese entrepreneurs that are here from China. [Interjection.]

I also want to say that perhaps in regard to the question about our relationship with Shandong, Minister Meyer's Department submitted this report to our Cabinet, which is the report of the visit of the Department of Agriculture to Shandong Province of 22 to 29 November, and I mean it is

really a detailed report on every single one of the meetings that took place between Minister Meyer's Department and the officials and departments in Shandong Province, just in November.

I also would like to, in relation to the question around our relationship with Shandong and China itself say that, of course we really as the Western Cape value these relations and we think about the investors that are investing in our region, we are talking about Vivo Electronics, we talk about Hisense, and not Hisense in their original 10 years ago, or 11 years ago now, investment, they have invested three times in the last 10 years, and in actual fact my own visit to China last year was to engage with Hisense on the next investment and their future next 10 years, and celebrate with them what they have achieved since being a small manufacturer, to being the major manufacturer in our country, and second biggest on the African continent, on their way to become the biggest on our continent, and using this province as their gateway to trade in.

The Chinese Construction Bank, the China Classification Society or CCS, Hisense again as I said, Suntech Power Holdings, Jinko Solar, Renesola - these are all companies that have invested into our province; and specifically out of Shandong, I have spoken about the Hisense investment, three of them so far, and there is also of course Sinotruk, which is a really important investment into our region, and that shows the commitment of this Province to our long-time relationship with the Shandong Province, how we engage, whether it is the Department of Agriculture, the Economics Department, our

Sport and Culture Department, the sailing exercises we have also in Qingdao, our port interaction with the Mayor of Qingdao, the Port of Qingdao, and looking at the new systems that they are putting in operation to find using AI and new technologies in delivering containers unbelievably efficiently through electronic systems, driverless trucks, it is unbelievable to see the throughput that they are getting in that port and looking for the opening of opportunities in our port to increase this trade.

Of course, South Africa and China's relationship is really important because the relationship between our two regions, we export, 10,29% of all of our exports go to China [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: Hon Premier, please conclude.

The PREMIER: ... and 18,8% of our imports come from China. They are a really important partner. Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I want to know, but it is unfortunate, I want to know if the Premier could take a question?

The SPEAKER: The Premier does not have any more time on the floor. You

are more than welcome to pose that question in using other parliamentary mechanisms available to you to do so.

Hon members, that concludes, or that brings us to the end of Interpellations.

We will now move on to Questions in terms of Rule 202. I wish to advise the hon members that once the hon Premier or the Minister has started 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 if they want to ask a follow-up question, for those members who are online; and for those members in the Chamber to give an indication to the Table Staff that you want to ask a follow-up question.

Hon members, 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 the follow-up question, and thereafter I will recognise the hon members for the remaining opportunities. That brings us to the first question on the Question Paper. I recognise the hon Premier.

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY**

### ***New questions:***

#### **1. Ms T Lithakong to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:**

With regard to the Tafelberg Place matter in which the Western Cape Government has been a party in various litigation stages involving the piece of land:

*(1) Whether the Provincial Government is a respondent in the same matter before the Constitutional Court; if so, why;*

*(2) whether the Provincial Government has now decided to abide by the order of the Western Cape High Court to develop the site for purposes of responding to inner-city social housing deficiencies in an effort to reverse the effects of racially skewed spatial planning; if so, what are the relevant details?*

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and to the hon Lithakong, thank you very much for the question. As we know the question is with regard to Tafelberg, well as you say, “the Tafelberg place”, and so for the purpose of responding to this question, it is presumed that the Tafelberg place, as you refer to in the question, you actually refer to, it is a reference to the former Tafelberg school site, 353 on Main Road, Sea Point.

The first part of the question, whether the Provincial Government is a respondent in the same matter before the Constitutional Court and why, and so as such the Department of Infrastructure has informed me the following, the answer is to (1) “yes”, the Provincial Government is a respondent in the same matter before the Constitutional Court as the owner of the property cited.

The second part of the question is “no”, the Order of the Western Cape High Court was set aside by the Supreme Court of Appeal, and of course, I think as this House knows, this matter has been held up in Court processes for years; but was set aside by the Supreme Court of Appeal on the matter and is now before the Constitutional Court. The Provincial Government cannot abide by an Order that is still under consideration by the Constitutional Court.

However in line with its service delivery mandate and as provided for by the Government Immovable Asset Management Act 2007, the GIAMA Act, the Western Cape Government has decided to investigate and plan for development of the property for both affordable housing and social services. An announcement by the Provincial Minister of Infrastructure and Social Development took place in January this year.

I want to emphasise that the Western Cape Government has always sought to make the best possible use of its assets to the benefit of the people of this province. At the time that the debate surrounding the Tafelberg site began, the pocket of land was judged to be surplus to Government needs as a decision was taken that the money from the sale of the site could be used for better uses and in order to fund vital projects.

Since that time 10 years has lapsed. The Western Cape's population has grown dramatically and we have suffered the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This confluence of factors drastically changed the demand for

Government services and housing in the area. Additionally, portions of the site are subject to heritage protection requirements and are unsuitable for development into housing. As such this Government's plan for the Tafelberg site has been developed to responsibly cater for the updated needs of the surrounding community within the constraints of the said property.

While we await the judgement of the Constitutional Court in this matter, we continue to believe that our plan for the Tafelberg site remains the best possible compromise in catering to demand for both affordable housing and vital social services in the area. As always we remain committed to using the site for the greatest possible benefit of the people of the Western Cape.

Perhaps also when we are talking about this specific site, one must not talk about it without having context of what is happening in the rest of the region, and specifically I think of the property very close to that area called the Helen Bowden Nurses Home, and of course that full hospital site, which we know has a plan on the table for far more social housing units than we could ever dream to fit into a small property like that 533 piece of land.

We talk about thousands of opportunities in probably the most prime piece of land on the African continent, right next to the VA Waterfront, and we also know - and I do not understand why we never get questions about that piece of property or get protests about that piece of property, which has been illegally occupied, and we are now battling to deal with that so that we can do the very thing that everybody is asking for - provide housing according to

that plan, and of course I can carry on with the Victoria, I mean the Woodstock Hospital site, exactly the same thing is an issue. But of course this House does not seem to want to engage on those matters, it just seems to be this one and that is stuck in Court.

As I always say to you specifically, Reclaim the City and Ndifuna Ukwazi, are the registered and affected parties in the future development of this property that Minister Simmers announced, and the answer is “yes”, they are, they have registered, they are part of the consultation process, and surely that is exactly what we want. The best thing would be to actually withdraw their case so we can get on with delivering housing to the people in places that need it.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, so ordinarily I would have provided the questioner the first opportunity, I have received an apology from hon Lithakong. So the follow-up questions will be dealt with in the following order, hon Herron, hon Van Minnen, hon Bryant and hon Sayed. Those were the four hands that I saw. Hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Western Cape High Court had made sweeping findings against the Provincial Government, including that it had failed to pay attention to its Constitutional obligations and it failed to take adequate steps to redress spatial apartheid. What was the Provincial Government's basis for its appeal? Thank you.



The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I mean we are very happy to give the hon member all of those aspects in absolute writing. Of course it is public documents in court, but just off-hand, when you have a court taking away powers of a province, you cannot just abide by that, you have to then challenge it, that was the original challenge that we took in the first Court Ruling, and of course that has been a ping pong from that date onwards.

But the hon member who has just stood up now is looking at a photograph of the very hon member at the gates of that site, looking to almost illegally occupy it himself, which was very interesting in the role that he has played in this process. But we know that we have got to make sure that in the interest of delivering housing ....[Interjections.] to the citizens of ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat. Hon Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, on a point of order. The hon Premier is casting aspersions on the hon Herron. To say that somebody illegally occupied something, that is a criminal offence against the person. I mean, the person is being accused of doing something criminal. So, he should either go to the police or bring a substantive motion instead against the hon member. [Interjection.]

Hon MEMBERS: Ja, ja, about yes!

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. [Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: He must withdraw!

An HON MEMBER: He must withdraw!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is no need to be so aggressive.  
...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: There was a point of order. Hon Premier, I am going to allow you an opportunity. [Interjections.] Did you refer to ...[Interjections.] hon Mackenzie, hon Minister Mackenzie, I will recognise you after I have dealt with this point of order.

Hon Premier, did you cast any aspersion on an hon member of this House?

The PREMIER: If you check Hansard, you will see I said, ‘on the verge of illegally occupying’ and so, if I can continue then, hon Speaker?  
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I will revert to Hansard and then revert back to the House if there is a need to do so. Hon Minister Mackenzie, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, I was covered, but the picture will show you he was on the verge, yes.

An HON MEMBER: Oh, ja!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. That is not a point of order, hon Minister Mackenzie. [Interjection.] Hon Herron, is that a new point of order because [Interjection] Hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you for the interventions, but being on the verge, being on the outside, is nothing illegal. So, I do not know what illegality the hon Premier is referring to. But if I was on the verge, as he says and as hon Minister Mackenzie says, then I was not in the premises and what is the point? [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: What is the point of order from ...[Interjection.]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): What is the illegality?

The SPEAKER: Hon Herron that is not a point of order. [Interjections.] I recognise the hon Walters and then I will recognise the hon Minister, and then I will recognise the hon Bans, because it seems like we ...[Interjections.]. Hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I do believe you have already ruled on the matter, ...[Interjections.] and I think the points of order on your ruling, it is in fact frivolous. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: What?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Walters, for the guidance. [Interjections.] Order! Hon members, I am very capable of chairing the Sitting but thank you very much hon Walters for the guidance. I recognise the hon Minister and then I will recognise the hon Bans.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, by the hon member's own admission, he was on the verge of doing the act [Interjections.] by his own admission. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: The matter has been [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that is not a point of order, and I now

...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Do you want to...

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

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] they may charge you for being on the verge of crime.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Bans. What is your point of order, hon Bans?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OPPOSITION: I withdraw; you have made your ruling. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Then, the last ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: She was just exercising [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order! [Interjections.] Hon members, order. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: The Premier does not need your protection, he is capable. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, order! [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: You cannot do that.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] opposition. [Interjection] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Hon Sayed, I saw your hand so I am going to give you an opportunity for the point of ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I was on the verge, I withdraw.

The SPEAKER: No-no, you first had your hand up for a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I withdraw.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, are you all satisfied that each one had an opportunity to raise their point of order? [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Sayed was on the verge of a point of order. [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Okay. Hon Van Minnen, I recognise you.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. As the Western Cape

Government has already indicated its intentions to include affordable housing and the redevelopment of the Tafelberg site, could the Premier please elucidate to us some of the key developments with regards to social housing in the Cape Town CBD and other urban centres. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, just to remind the hon members that you are allowed to ask one follow-up question. Premier, I am not going to dictate to you how you answer that question, but you are allowed one follow-up question, hon members. Hon Premier, over to you.

The PREMIER: Thank you, hon Speaker. I am just a little bit confused, we were actually dealing with something else when all of that happened and the point of order came in, so I will just complete the “verge part.”

The SPEAKER: My apologies, hon Premier, were you still responding to hon Herron?

The PREMIER: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: He was on the verge of completing [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order! My apologies, hon Premier. I am going to allow you an opportunity to respond, to complete your response to the hon Herron, and then you can do the hon Van Minnen in the same - my apologies, hon Herron. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and obviously when the hon Sayed raised a point of order, he also knows about it very well because perhaps was not alongside this attempted occupation of the property [Interjection.] but he was in the meeting just before that [Interjection.] and then I also want to get some clarity, I want some clarity, hon Speaker [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier, please take your seat.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] to sit down.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! [Interjection.] †Ek het nou self die *can of worms* oopgemaak [I have now myself opened the can of worms,] so my apologies. Hon Sayed, you may – is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, just a point of order, the Premier is misleading, in fact I was not only in the public meeting, I was alongside the hon member Herron and you know, proudly so, in defence of the homeless of this country, I was alongside the hon member Herron and I will be alongside him again when he goes there. Thank you. [Applause.] [Laughter.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] alongside the member [Inaudible.]



The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Order!

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] nerve when they said that Helen is the real opposition. [Applause.] [Laughter.]

An HON MEMBER: Shame!

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, I will recognise you now. [Interjection.] Hon members, order! Can you please mute everyone on the virtual platform. If there is a member on the virtual platform that wants to raise a point of order please indicate so with using the hand raise functionality. Hon Minister, is that a point of order?

An HON MINISTER: Yes, hon Speaker, there is now an admission from hon Sayed that he was also on the verge, so we have two members of this House that were on the verge that day.

† ‘n AGB LID: Ag, nee man, jy is ...[Onduidelik.] [Gelag]

An HON MEMBER:, no man, you are...[Inaudible.] [Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister that is not a point of order. Hon Premier, my apologies, you may continue.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you, I apologise to the hon member, I could have then said both of them were on the verge of

illegally occupying a piece of property, and it is not just for clarity, it is not the verge or the pavement. The photograph shows at the gate with the security guards stopping them from going into the property, and in actual fact if you listen to the recordings from the security company, you will hear them saying, “please, we need reinforcements because these people are trying to illegally occupy this piece of property.” [Interjection.] So the word is not the verge as in the pavement, they were on the verge of illegally occupying a piece of property. Luckily security stopped it and did not enable that to happen. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: ...Where is the person?

The PREMIER: So, if I can then move on, hon Speaker, to the next part or the hon Van Minnen’s question, and she actually asks about other properties. In my first response I spoke to - a really big frustration is that we have not managed to deal with enabling Helen Bowden to become an affordable housing space, or the precinct of the Victoria Hospital, which is a major precinct and with a major plan for development.

But I also think about Minister - and now of course I am now venturing into Minister Simmers’ space, but at least he and I were together when we announced Leeuloop, which will actually be - the construction will start this year still, right in the centre of the City. That is another Central City development for affordable housing. I have mentioned already the Woodstock site, and perhaps this is where we also need to, and maybe this is where I call

on the Leader of the Opposition and members in this House to join us to say, “how do we get at the same time other pieces of land, like Youngsfield and Wingfield that we have asked for so long.”

But even more importantly than that, I think a piece of property that where we have really failed the citizens of this province, in enabling, first of all symbolically a return, and really enabling - because I am talking about space now, and that is District 6, that more than 30 years after democracy we have not managed to utilise such a key and meaningful piece of property called District 6.

Really I must say to the hon Sayed, join me, let us go and try and get this thing finalised. It cannot be delayed this long, where people - and if ever there was a space for redress, and real redress, and real symbolic redress, it would be a site in the City like District 6, but you never hear anything about it, it really is distressing, and we need to engage on it, as a Province, as a Parliament, and as a Government, to say, “let us work together on making sure that we develop that site.’

Then of course there are other sites, I think the work that we started at the Conradie site has really shown a different form of housing development, where it is work, live, play, and I mean, Minister, when you and I were there to open a sporting facility, and of course the next phase where thousands more opportunities, the commercial investment that is taking place there... Just having a look at people coming home from work and then picnicking on

the side of the lawns or using the sporting facilities or going for a run around the perimeter that is being established, it really shows that these are the kind of new developments we want to see.

Then perhaps also following on from the hon Van Minnen's question, that is a document written by Professor Ivan Turok, and I would suggest that everybody go and have a read of this document, "Anatomy of an alliance of affordable urban housing", and of course you know that he produces this document also for the Human Rights Commission. Ivan Turok, the South African NRF Chair in City-Region Economies, and it really is an interesting document to read, and it really comes up for some of the projects that are being delivered in the inner-city of Cape Town, and it juxtaposes these affordable housing units to other cities and really shows that actually more is being done here. We have got [Interjection.]...

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

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Yes, hon Speaker, the Premier wants us to read more stuff, but I do not even know if the hon Kamfer has read the book I gave him, so you cannot give him more homework, Premier, I do not think he has read the book I have already given him. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Joh!

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that is not a point of order. [Interjection.] Order, hon members! That is not a point of order. Hon Premier, my apologies, you may continue. [Interjection.]

The PREMIER: So of course we need to be honest with regards to this specific issue of delivering opportunities to citizens that really need it, especially undoing the apartheid spatial planning legislation and what effects it had on our citizens, and I think that is exactly where the announcements that have been made by Minister Simmers really go a long way to show that we are working very, very hard, and here is an independent review of that analysis of what we are doing. There is still a way to go.

I spoke about Leeuloop. The Minister is soon to talk about the Founder's Garden and the opportunities there. We see in the City of Cape Town, I think some of their planning regimes, and he also talks about it here, on some of the areas where you actually have lesser regimes or enabling environments, where even someone who has received a property, a house on a piece of land, and proactive funding towards enabling densification on planning for some of those sites.

There is also really innovative and new ways of thinking of how we develop properties where people can not only have a place to live, but create value out of their properties. They have got their title deed, they can then instead of having one *†hophuis* [RDP house] they can turn it into six apartments or

eight apartments. They can then get funding from financial institutions who are partners with it, the City will then discount planning approval processes, so that at the end of the day people can not only have a place to live, but can use that title deed to grow value and wealth for themselves and of course for future generations.

These are the really important things that we have got to get right around this specific issue, and it is actually very sad that for years and years and years we get stuck in Court processes around a small piece of property, that in actual fact we have now, years ago said, “let us register interested and affected parties, let us change the idea around this property, and actually let us enable the specific development”, so that those people who are opposing it, are actually opposing it, I do not know why, but they are getting in the way of actually delivering on the thing that they are very asking for themselves.

We need to make sure that we speed this up, so I cannot wait for the Constitutional Court ruling so that we can actually move on and get it done. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. It is certainly heartening to hear ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker, I have got a question.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): ... all of the new projects that are being rolled out by Minister Simmers' Department, and yourself, Premier, but I wonder if you could perhaps expand a little bit on the points that you raised in your responses around the illegal and unlawful occupations, and what sort of an impact this is having on the rollout, not only on the projects, but also on those people currently on the housing waiting list who might not be afforded an opportunity at some of those development sites. Thank you.  
[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Is that not ...

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I just want to remind the hon members that you have one; you can ask one follow-up question, so you cannot have two or three subsections in your question to the Premier.

An HON MEMBER: Yeah, sure.

The SPEAKER: You can only have one question, and also hon members, I am not going to dictate to the person responding on how they should or should not respond, but please be mindful that you cannot pose a new question. If you pose a new question, then a new question must be placed on the Question Paper. So you can ask a follow-up question on an answer that you have already received. Hon Walters, is that a point of order on my comments?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I am respectful and I hope it is not a confrontational and I am too respectful of you, but the issue of illegal occupation and people on the verge of illegal occupation was raised. So I do believe it is part of the response of the substance of the discussion.

The SPEAKER: No, absolutely [Interjection]

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): So I just would like you to keep that in consideration that it perhaps is not a new question. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Absolutely. Hon members, hon members, it is for the [Interjection] Order hon members, I am on the floor, there is no need for - it is my duty to ensure that I facilitate a fair process and allow members to have the privileges in terms of the parliamentary privileges. The reality is I am reminding members that you can have one follow-up question and that you cannot pose a new question. With that being said, I cannot dictate how a question is responded to. Hon Sayed, is that a new point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, the hon member has now reopened an issue after you have ruled on the matter, and it takes me again, because this notion is now being spread that there was an attempt to occupy. There was no attempt to illegally occupy any land. [Interjection.] We were taking up the issues facing people; we were taking up the issue of social housing. I think it is this notion, after you have ruled



already, I think that is for me the principle, you have ruled on the matter, close the matter. Thank you. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] instructions.

The SPEAKER: Hon members [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Look who is talking.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

An HON MEMBER: Look who is talking over [Inaudible.] motion that we call a [Inaudible.] substantive [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Substantive motion.

The SPEAKER: Hon Walters is that a new point of order, because colleagues, I am also mindful of points of orders on points of orders which are against the Rules.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, perhaps just to clarify, I was talking about whether it is a new question or not [Interjection.] I was not raising the issue again of politicians on the verge of illegally occupying a site. I did not reopen that particular issue. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I do not know what it is today. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: This is not your House.

The SPEAKER: Today we are going into one year into office [Interjection.] Order! This month it is a year, nearly a year [Interjection.] Order, hon members! [Interjection.] Hon Bans, is that a point of order? Did you have a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, this is continuously happening. That member stands up and he speaks whatever he wants to speak and he continues as if this is a kindergarten. We cannot have that be happening. We will also just stand up and start speaking, and then I will be called to order because it is not friendly for the Chief Whip to listen to. This is not fair. You have made your ruling, we must all abide. There cannot be some getting privileges more than the others. It is not fair. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjection.] Honourable, order! [Interjection.] Order! [Interjection.] Order, hon members! I have allowed the Leader of the Opposition had a point of order, I have allowed that and hon Walters responded to that, so that was becoming a dialogue. I have ruled in that case and it is not a point of order. Hon members, I want to remind you again, if you want to have a dialogue with your colleagues across the floor, please do so outside of the Chamber. Hon Chief Whip, is that a new point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE RULING PARTY: Yes, hon Speaker, and I am rising on Rule 59. Hon Speaker, the Chief Whip of the Official Opposition is being ageist and she is reflecting on integrity and the dignity of an old senior citizen in the House, by referring in her response to hon Walters as an old grey man who belongs in a kindergarten [Interjection.] and also, hon Speaker, I am feeling quite verbally abused and attacked by both the Chief Whip and the Deputy, who are sending threatening messages my way. Please protect me, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjection.] Hon members, order! [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] substantive motions ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: I look older [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Order hon members. There are citizens watching this session. Hon Chief Whip, that is not a point of order. I cannot protect you with regards to your WhatsApp messages flowing. I will ensure that you have the necessary protection when you are on the floor.

Hon members, can I please ask that you follow the parliamentary mechanisms if you have any issues that you want to bring to the attention of the House, but we must also allow the - we have an Order Paper, colleagues and we must allow the Order Paper and the business of the House to continue. Hon Premier, my apologies. You may continue.

The PREMIER: Hon Speaker, I also must sincerely apologise to the House and to the hon Bryant, that after all of this I have actually forgotten exactly what he asked. Can I ask that he ask it again please. [Laughter.]

An HON MEMBER: Ask three questions then we will [Inaudible.]

An HON MEMBER: Three in one.

The SPEAKER: Honourable, I am going to allow the hon Bryant to pose his question. Hon Bryant, you do not need to make any introductory remarks, you are allowed one follow-up question.

An HON MEMBER: He is not taking questions now.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. It was, “what is the impact of illegal and unlawful invasions on the existing projects and the housing waiting list?” Thank you. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you and thank you very much for that question, and I think it is a really a relevant question because we are really trying to use high value inner-city properties to deliver affordable housing to people who really need it and deserve it, and then you have illegal occupations that are not easily dealt with, that result in long processes in courts to get to finality, [Interjection.] and what happens is that people then use that opportunity to jump the queue, and that is also not in the best interests of achieving that redress that we so desperately need. [Interjection.]

So as I mentioned earlier, the Helen Bowden Nurses Home, it is an issue and we have to actually get to a stage where this is perhaps a call to say to those parties that really want to see redress happening, “let us find a way of actually enabling those buildings to be repurposed, let us use Helen Bowden, and let us also use Woodstock Hospital.

The other impact of course is the uncertainty of other property owners in that vicinity, and how do we enable redevelopment of communities and enablement of communities and certainty for communities, and then of course people on the waiting list that just get pushed back because of these delays, that in itself is absolutely unfair.

Of course while the interjections were taking place, hon Speaker, I also had a look at one of the documents I had in my pack which spoke about the constitutional judgement on the Tafelberg case and the future of social

housing in our region, and you know again I want to reiterate that the illegal land invasions, the long court processes, how that really holds back investment and development, and you know this whole battle has been about 0,73 hectares of that piece of property, 0,73 hectares of that property that can be used for mixed-use affordable housing.

Then of course the heritage space, which of course you cannot use that for, because that is the actual school building space, and that is 0,86 hectares, and we have this huge long protected year after year after year battle around the small piece of property, when in actual fact that we should all be standing together, and which I do not have any questions on and we should be having them, which is the question that the hon Bryant asks, is what about the other invaded properties?

At the same time let us balance those with what Minister Simmers is announcing, and I mean we are announcing numbers that are huge numbers of opportunities for citizens to have access to affordable housing in the inner-city; at the same time that we are looking at other programmes for decentralisation of the economy, finding economic opportunity across the region of the province, and in those spaces that has got potential for jobs and growth, because this all links together with finding a space that we can give people opportunities.

Nothing changes your life like a title deed which Mr Simmers is now implementing; it is almost common practise, you get your key and your title

deed at the same time. That is opportunity and that is how we grow our economy, and that is how we reduce our unemployment rate, and that is how we enable a future that we are all looking for. I trust everyone in this House is looking for. Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Sayed. Hon Herron, is that a Point of order?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, yes, have we finished this question?

The SPEAKER: So we still, I need to recognise the hon Sayed now.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): I will do it afterwards, thanks.

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and let me thank the Premier for the responses even though I know there was a deflection from the real issues of the housing backlog in the province, and we even know waiting lists are not even adhered to. But let me just - I want to thank the Premier for outlining the public participation process when it comes to the sale of Government owned land, and the fact that stakeholders ought to be engaged, it is very important and we thank the Premier for that.

So I just wanted to know from the Premier whether this particular process was followed, the process that he speaks about with regards to the land in question here, was this process also followed not too far away within Walmer Estate during the sale of the Princess Hall? Was this process also followed? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Premier.  
[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: So, first of all thank you very much to the hon Sayed for that question. I mean first of all on this specific case, because of course this is the question on the Order Paper, I know that it is probably two years ago that the process of registration for interested and affected parties was registered and when people started to apply for it.

On the Walmer case that he has just asked for, I am honestly going to be able to say I cannot answer him on that, and I would ask him if he would actually put that in as a question, because it is a legitimate question. We have got to be able to get the detail on it. So unfortunately I cannot give him an answer. It is a different question, if I was able to answer it I would not say it is a new question, I would answer to him, but unfortunately I am not able to.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question 1. Hon Herron, is that a point of order?



Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, it is a request in terms of Section or Rule 65(2), I am asking your permission whether I may make a personal statement or a personal explanation?

The SPEAKER: You did not give me prior approval, or prior notice in terms of the Rule, but I am going to allow that. Hon members, the member can - in terms of the Rule, the member can make a statement that directly affects the member, and there is no debate thereafter. I will allow you those 3 minutes.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Chair, and thank you for allowing me to do so. Obviously I could not give notice because I did not know that I was going to be accused of illegally invading or occupying a provincial property ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: On the verge of.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ... or being on the verge of doing so, but I think it is important to set the record straight because this was also raised in the Premier's reply at SOPA when he accused me of illegally occupying or attempting to occupy the Tafelberg site.

I think it is important for the House to know that on 8 February 2025 a meeting was held in the Sea Point Methodist Church hosted by organisations who are involved in activating for affordable housing in the inner-city. The

Provincial Government, the Premier, and the MEC for Infrastructure were apparently invited to attend and participate in that meeting, but declined to do so.

The member Sayed and I did attend and we did address the members of the audience in the Sea Point Methodist Church Hall. The members then proceeded peacefully to walk and march to the Tafelberg site accompanied by law enforcement that was monitoring what we were doing. At the Tafelberg site, if anyone has been there, the site is secured by security guards and the site is closed, there is a gate.

The gate was opened by the security guards allowing members of the crowd to sit in the forecourt before you get to the second set of gates which is about the size of a car, and the members of the crowd which did not include me, I did not enter the site, and neither did member Sayed, then listened to two or three speeches ventilating frustration over the failure to use that site for public and affordable housing. The members then returned to the Sea Point Methodist Church Hall where the meeting continued.

The Premier, the MEC's, the Provincial Government, looking at a photograph and interpreting that as an intention to illegally occupy a site, is wrong. There was no intention to illegally occupy any site by myself, by member Sayed, nor by the members of Reclaim the City and Ndifuna Ukwazi, and all the other organisations and members who were attending this meeting to discuss affordable housing. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjection]. Hon members, order! [Interjection] Order! Hon members, that was in terms of Rule 65(2). I just want to [Interjection.] Order! The Rule makes provision where a member can vindicate or make a statement to vindicate him or herself, so it is only related to the conduct of hon Herron.

We will now continue with Question 2 on the Question Paper and I recognise the hon Premier.

**2. Ms A Cassiem to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:**

With regard to the George building collapse investigations by the Western Cape Government:

*(a) What are the purposes of these investigations by his Provincial Government if the South African Police Services (SAPS) and the National Department of Employment and Labour are already conducting similar investigations and*

*(b) what caused the investigations by the Province to take long, similar to those of the SAPS and the Department of Labour?*

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon Cassiem for the question.

(a) It is important to remember that the building that collapsed at 75 Victoria

Street in George on 6 May at 14:09 represented one of the worst single human tragedies in the Western Cape in recent memory. 34 lives were lost and many more suffered life change injuries. When I arrived at the site a few hours after the collapse our incredible dedicated rescue teams had launched a full scale response involving a vast array of different stakeholders.

To this day I am still in awe of the extreme dedication and professionalism of our teams and what they showed as they worked around the clock to save lives. In the face of such a harrowing tragedy I am also immensely proud of our teams for saving the lives of 28 survivors, some of whom I met in December last year.

In the immediate and aftermath of the collapse it was quite clear that we needed a record of critical evidence from the rubble. You know obviously as they were removing rubble we needed to record it because it was being put into trucks and being removed. However our immediate priority at that stage had to be search and rescue, and by the time this process concluded we knew it might be too late to collect some of the evidence we needed.

Because of this and because of no National Government department or entity seen to share our sense of urgency at the time, the Western Cape Department of Infrastructure appointed consulting engineers to document the evidence as quickly as possible, and to conduct an independent investigation into the cause of the collapse, with a focus on design adequacy, construction practise and related contributing factors, the strength of material, the reinforcing

materials used, etcetera, etcetera.

This process could not wait until the site was cleared and so material, soil and core samples were collected from the site by analysts under strict supervision and control of the South African Police Service. But more than the practical reasons for doing our own investigation, we also felt a sense of obligation to those who had been injured in the collapse and to the families of those whose lives have been lost.

For the Western Cape Government it is not about checking a box or being seen to be doing the right thing by the public, it is about giving those who have been directly affected by this disaster closure, and it is about making sure we treat this matter with the seriousness and the respect it deserves. We need to have consequences and that has to be determined through investigative processes and then a court of law.

(b) Given the nature of the collapse and the rigorous format of the assessment done, the investigation was completed in a relatively short time. If you remember publicly the engineer said this could take years, and I said we cannot and we have not got years, we need you to speed up that process. This process included the following, extensive sample analysis, structural modelling, material testing, document analysis, security of video and photographic records of site conditions prior to the collapse, collecting and studying information provided by third parties, including eye witnesses.

Importantly we also insisted that the report be comprehensively peer reviewed. We knew that this report was going to assist SAPS in pursuing accountability against those responsible for the collapse; we had to ensure that its accuracy and impartiality could not in any way be considered a doubt. This peer review by an independent party added some weeks to the process, but comprehensively ensured the report's validity before it was handed over to SAPS in January of this year. The investigation by the Western Cape Government is one of several that were launched, with SAPS being the lead body responsible for investigating an incident of this nature.

The report is now the domain of the South African Police Services, which must be considered both the finding of our report and all other evidence in their possession as part of the overall criminal investigation to determine if charges are to be brought. The findings in the report are of such a nature that the Provincial Government believes they will significantly assist the SAPS investigation. We now await the results of the SAPS investigation and will continue to assist their investigators in any way that we can.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, I will allow hon Cassiem the first opportunity, then I got hon Masipa, hon Wessels, and hon Van Minnen, in that order, and those are the four opportunities, there was no indication, hon members, from anyone on my left hand side. [Interjection] When we started Oral Questions I gave an indication that as soon as the hon Premier or Hon Minister start speaking, you must give me an indication that you want to ask a follow-up question. [Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] if the response ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member, I am not going to get into a dialogue with you with regards to the Rules, that is how the Rules will work, so those are the four opportunities. Hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you hon Speaker. Hon Premier, can the Premier please explain where the Western Cape Provincial Government got the mandate to conduct parallel investigations with regards to the George building collapse and more importantly, hon Speaker, why is the specific investigation report not being made public since it was the public's money which was being used to produce it? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, before you continue, hon members, I wish to remind you once again, you are allowed one follow-up question in terms of the Rule. Hon Premier, I am not going to dictate to you how you answer that question.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thank you very much to the hon member. So standing there on site, seeing the rescue taking place and the emotions that were running wild at that stage, then leaving the site and going into the Town Hall and engaging with the family members, whose families were now buried under all of this rubble, I came back out and I stood there and I had this feeling that I was standing on an earthquake site,

because you normally see those visuals, and I thought how are we going to find who is responsible for this while this is being removed?

I remember going back and then Minister Simmers and I were engaging and I said we have to, who is investigating this, and actually at that time the Department of Labour arrived, and that was quite interesting because in actual fact the question is do we have a mandate? We do not actually have a mandate, we are not asked to supply this investigation or do this investigation.

But the Department of Labour actually arrived on site and ordered everyone off the site, the rescuers, the whole lot, and said, “we are taking control of the site, you must all leave.” It was quite interesting, they were not interested in the investigation which is their mandate and what they should be doing. What they did was said, “everybody get off, we are taking control of the site.”

The interesting - what followed is General Patekile then stepped up and said, “that is incorrect, you cannot take control of the site, I am in charge here at the site, and the Disaster Management team who is saving lives is in charge of this site, and if you proceed with what you are trying to do, I will arrest you and put you in jail, and remove them from the site.” They should have then said, “how do we engage with our investigators to investigate this building site?” [Interjection]



But we then very quickly went through our procurement process and got investigators on site because we knew you had to test exactly as I have answered in this question, [Interjection.] you have to test as you are removing, because that is the only way you are going to really get down to what was the cause.

Then the second part is about making it public. I have said this many, many times, and absolutely, public money is used in this Government to produce this result, this investigation, and the document was handed over to the Police. It is not in the interests of any criminal justice process to have a trial by media or a trial by Parliament of the investigations beforehand.

In every single investigation that takes place, the Police use public money, exactly the same way, the Department at National level does not say, “well bring us all of your investigations before it gets to court.” That would be totally counterproductive, and I can assure you the Police would stop it through a court process, because you cannot do that, you cannot trial within a trial, before a trial, using the evidence. I have already said on a number of occasions, as soon as the papers are lodged and the charges are laid, that document will be made public, it will also be made available to this Parliament. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, in light of

Minister Simelane releasing her report publicly, did she discuss the report with the Premier or Minister Simmers prior to its release, or has she shared the report or convened any meeting to engage on its contents since its release? I thank you, hon Speaker. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: The answer is definitely “no”, [Interjection] but maybe if I could make a comment on it - it was seen as the report and then the next thing there was a whole lot of backpedalling and announced a draft report, [Interjection] because exactly the same thing applies, is if there is information in that report that is going to be compromised before a court of law has a chance to interrogate it, [Interjection] or before the investigators lay their charge, that does not make any sense to me whatsoever. [Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the next question is coming from hon Wessels on the online platform. Hon Wessels, I recognise you.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Premier, yes, a follow up to member Masipa’s question, the National Minister made her report public via the media, so my question would also have been were you finished with her report, but in the absence of that, what is the communication structures that should be in place between the different

spheres of Government in such a case, as I believe it is extremely important to serve justice to the victims of this tragedy. Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier, there are again two questions, or more than one question; I am not going to dictate how you answer it. Hon members, this is the last reminder then I am not going to allow - if you do not follow the Rules, I am going to dismiss the question in future. Can I please ask that you stick to the Rules, hon members; you are allowed one follow-up question. Hon Premier, I am not going to dictate how you answer that question. You may continue. [Interjection]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and to the hon member for the question. I mean I am being asked something here in the absence of legal process or advice, but quite frankly I would understand that because SAPS is in charge of this process going forward, and legally the first question they would ask is who has responsibility here, the Department of Labour, the NHBRC, the Municipality, the South African Council of Engineers; and those are all parties that have been cross-questioned and I believe have put in their reports in different ways.

The last time I had an update from General Patekile was that they were 65% through their investigation, and he raised with me there were two documents they were still awaiting, one was a document from the Municipality. I then elected to write to the Municipality and asked them to speed it up because the investigation needs it. I got a letter back from the Mayor to say, "yes", they

are aware and within the next 24 hours that document will be with the investigators.

I also wrote to the other entity which was the Department of Labour, I have not had an answer back yet and I am not sure whether they have reported, but those will be the formats, and then of course the investigator can then investigate and cross-question and ask anybody, that investigation gives the investigators openness to question people on site, people who were observers, whatever it was, in order to get to a position that the investigation enables them to make a decision on prosecution, I mean on laying off charges.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Could the Premier please provide an update on the status and expected release date of the report from the South African Police Service? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you to the hon member for the question. That is also quite difficult. I have not had a further update since my last one where they said 65%. I would imagine they are working as fast as possible to get it done quickly and I am pretty certain that once that happens and there are charges laid that judiciary will do the same thing.

I must use this opportunity to say that I actually had a meeting with the Judge President this morning and it was not on this case, but there is a willingness to try and process specifically these kind of cases with speed and I must congratulate them for the case that they have just held on the Joshlin Smith case and how very quickly they got it into the courts, and also how this time they actually took the courts to the people. So it happened in Saldanha, so people can actually see real-time justice being done, and I am pretty certain that this probably will be one of those cases as well, but unfortunately the last I had was 65% of the way. I know that that has probably moved a lot closer to 80 or 90% of the way because of the answer that I have received already.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

That brings us to the end of Question 2 and we move on to Question 3 and I recognise the hon Premier.

**3. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Mr A R Winde, Premier:**

*What is the overview of usage patterns at (a) the 10 most used eCentres in Cape Town and (b) what are the detail of the most (i) used eCentres and (ii) accessed services?*

The PREMIER: I need another bottle of water, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, thank you very much. Ah, excellent.

Hon Speaker, thank you very much and to the hon member Van Minnen for the question.

First of all the question is around our 10 most used e-sites in the City of Cape Town and what are the details. So as (a), 10 most used sites in the City of Cape Town. The Western Cape Government eCentres Programme has 82 eCentres across the province. Currently we have four Western Cape eCentres in the City of Cape Town's municipal area:

- One at Delft Nex Indawo-Yethu;
- One at Wale Street;
- One at Philippi Village; and
- One in Vrygrond.

Based on our statistics of the last four months the Delft Nex Indawo-Yethu Western Cape Government e-site is currently the most used eCentre in Cape Town. Between the four eCentres located in Cape Town the Delft Nex Indawo-Yethu records the highest number of user sessions.

So that is obviously how they measure them. They are called user sessions. So, it depends. They might be on for a number of hours, but if I look at the last four months in that reporting, Delft Nex, if I go to January, 3 460 user sessions, 3 440 in February, 2 422 in March and 1 373 in April. So that is 10 666 user sessions at that site. Wale Street also each month, 1 159 in

January, 967 in February, 950 in March, 936 in April. That is a total of 4 012 user sessions. Philippi Village, same thing, month-by-month, 570, 785, 765 and 534. That is 2 663, and then 409, 446, 606, 468 as the user sessions in Vrygrond, taking a total to 1 929.

Section (b), the Delft Nex Indawo-Yethu Western Cape eCentre is located in Delft, Cape Town. The eCentre is situated inside the Nex Hope Cape Town facility. That address is in 54 Vuurlelie Crescent, Roosendal, Delft. The number of computers there are 22 in the access room and the number of computer training rooms, that is not applicable. Of course it is in that Nex Centre. So there are a lot of other facilities around the Nex Centre which probably could be used as breakaways if you needed to do, etcetera.

The Wale Street address is right here, 9 Wale Street. That has 10 computers and the same around training rooms would apply.

Philippi Village in the eCentre is located in Philippi in Cape Town. If you know where Philippi Village is, that is at the old cement factory in Philippi. That has nine computers and it actually has... the number of computers in the training room is 12.

In Vrygrond, that is at the New World Foundation. That is Vrygrond Avenue in Vrygrond. That has 14 computers in the access room and 12 in the training room.

Then (b)(ii). The most accessed services based on the monthly regional reports are as follows:

- Updated CVs.
- Apply for online job applications.
- Government services online include applications for online school admissions and tertiary institutions.
- SARS e-filing.
- Free ICT skills training.
- Scholars and students doing research for assignments.
- Emails and social media.

*[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I see the hon member Van Minnen.

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

My question is what is the impact of Broadband 2.0 on the lives of people who are now accessing these centres?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for that question.

I think first of all, I mean I think what people are accessing in these service



centres really shows what people are using them for and when you get free access it is how economies are changed, and what is really exciting for me, I remember when we first did the trials of these access centres, those first trials, it was about students doing research for projects at school and it is interesting how that has moved down the list a bit.

I always said if that is all that we achieved it would be all that is needed, but to see that it is actually about CVs and job applications and e-filing and that really is exciting for me because that talks about jobs and the economy, which at the end of the day really is how does this platform enable us as a society to improve where we are, find opportunities, especially linked to jobs and economic growth, which changes your life absolutely and then of course underlying that is education, empowering yourself, enabling yourself either on skills training exercises or getting online applications at school or tertiary institutions.

So I think between those two that really says to me this kind of platform gives you a massive opportunity to change your life and really in places that really need it, and it is really amazing that in a place like Philippi, who also suffers massively because of crime levels, etcetera, and you are finding these interventions making a real difference in people's lives, that is actually how the violence prevention side linked to all of the other programmes we have started to change people's lives and make it safer and more opportunities.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, with 18 seconds remaining I see no

further follow-ups with regards to the relevant question. I will then conclude this part of our session.

So that is the end of Oral Questions as printed. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

Hon members, we will now move in terms of Rule 204 in terms of Questions to the Premier without Notice. I have been informed that the relevant draw was administered by the administration and I will now see the hon member Kamfer.

### **QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE**

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon members in the House, MEC Londt, are you here? To you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] I have your book.

†'n AGB LID: Dankie.

[An HON MEMBER: Thank you.]

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, allow me to the †*agb Premier*. Agb Premier, gegewe dat die winterstorms na verwagting binne 'n paar weke, oor 'n paar maande sal begin en die herstelwerk aan die oorstroming van die R303 in die Weskus buitekant Citrusdal vertraag is en nog nie voltooi nie – *yes* – watter onmiddellike maatreëls neem die Provinsiale Regering om

konstruksie te bespoedig en te verhoed dat duisende weer weens padineenstorting afgesny is, en buitekant die dorp bly. *Step up*. Dankie. [hon Premier. Hon Premier, given that the winter storms wil begin within a few weeks, in a few months, and the repairwork to the flooding of the R303 in the West Coast outside Citrusdal has been delayed and is still not completed – yes – what immediate measures is the Provincial Government taking to speed up construction and to prevent that thousands are cut off as a result of road collapse, and remain outside the town. Step up. Thank you.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much to the hon member for that question and it is evident that †ons Minister is op dit [our Minister is on it] and he stepped up because, of course I do not really know all the detail of that site, but right here it says on the exact question:

“Good progress on MR310. If all goes according to plan two-way traffic by Thursday this week.”

So I am sorry to the hon member, you might be looking for some failure, but it is quite interesting the question on that site because last time the hon member was asking questions about fires and things. He was still going on about the fires when they were put out by the teams already and on this site specifically, [Interjections.] the kind of money that is being spent on redeveloping a new way of dealing with floods.

So in other words the new canals that have been, or the new culverts that

have been designed have been designed specifically because climate change is affecting towns like this and I think about this question by this hon member in context of a road in the middle of Johannesburg and there is definitely ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Are you the Premier of Joburg now?

The PREMIER: There is definitely ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Are you the Premier of Joburg?

The PREMIER: You can feel the contrast, you can see the contrast.

An HON MEMBER: Are you the Premier of Joburg?

The PREMIER: I have been there myself to see it. I have engaged with the other role-players, which is the agri-sector, because it is not only the building of the road or the new bridge which is being constructed, [Interjections.] it is not only that bridge and the redesign of the culverts. I mean this, we could have just filled it up again like last time, but we know it is going to wash away.

So we have got to, with climate change, put extra design in. We have got to spend more money on making sure that it does not happen again and so one is that culvert design that I spoke about, which is really innovative. I have gone

and stood there with the Minister in the middle of those culverts, engaged with those companies who got those contracts, who are putting them in place and the photograph I have just seen is seeing those tar layers going on the top.

I think that is an outstanding effort from this Department in getting us prepared for what we knew as a major one in 100 year flood that took place.

Another part of that specific issue is the silting up of the river and how in that bridge the silt has over many years built up and then the reeds take hold in that silt, and that is actually probably the main cause, because we have got this pipeline which is under a bridge which now gets filled half of it with sand and of course when the water comes down it then spreads out and destroys roads and infrastructure and floods people's homes, etcetera, etcetera.

So I really think that this is an outstanding investment and an outstanding response to a major infrastructure damage from, and if I remember correctly in those floods, 153 I think was the number of roads that were damaged and closed, and while this Minister repairs not only that bridge, we have a look at all of these other roads over the last year that have been repaired, reopened, put in place.

There is no other province in South Africa that is able to respond to that kind of disaster with the speed that is being responded to here, and it is

outstanding.

I mean one would think that this was a sweetheart question from one of my own members, because it gives me the ability to actually talk about our response versus, I said think about that road that blew up with that a gas explosion in the middle of Gauteng.

Actually think about the floods from three years ago that happened in KZN and still those infrastructure [Interjections.] canals are not repaired.

An HON MEMBER: You cannot compare [Inaudible]. You cannot compare it.

The PREMIER: They are not repaired yet, and if they have floods again ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: No, you cannot compare.

The PREMIER: ...the chances are that Toyota will not rebuild that factory [Interjections.] and that is what shows you the difference between a responsible government and a responsive government who really applies their mind, brings in good planning and actually deals with a big issue that we are facing, what is called climate change.

We are getting more water over much shorter periods of time and in actual

fact this is just the tip of the iceberg, because all of built environment across our country is built with certain formulae. It says that for so much square metres of paved area you need a drainpipe this big. Well, I am sorry, you need a drainpipe this big now.

We need to double up. We need to build bigger infrastructure and imagine you have to rebuild almost every single town and city's drainage infrastructure across South Africa to deal with this climate change that is coming at us, and of course that is exactly what the Minister ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Thank you.

The PREMIER: ...has been doing in this case. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, just to remind yourself, the person posing the question has two follow-ups. Hon member Kamfer?

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, †ongelukkig, agb Adjunkspeaker, moet ek die [unfortunately, hon Deputy Speaker, I have to] true – I must give you the true facts ...[Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Die regte feite.

[An HON MEMBER: The true facts.]

Mr F KAMER (ANC): ...and I must question, I must question it to the hon Premier.

†Wanneer laas was die agb Premier of sy adviseur self op 'n ter plaatse ondersoek? Ek het gister oor die brug geloop en weer 'n ompad gery. Daar is nog geen *move* dat dit na 'n kant toe gaan kom nie. [Tussenwerpsels.] Ek het gister daar gery, ek ry nog daar uit en in. Ek het nog nie in die stad verblyf gehad nie.

[When last did the hon Premier or his adviser have been on an on-site investigation? I walked across the bridge yesterday and again took a detour. There is still no move that it is going to come to some direction. [Interjections.] I drove there yesterday, I still drive there out and in. I still have not stayed in the town.]

†'n AGB LID: Jy lief.

[An HON MEMBER: You love.]

†Mnr F KAMFER (ANC): Dit is een ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr F KAMFER (ANC): It is one ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Kamfer, I want to caution you that is already one question. [Interjections.] I would not want you to overstep and miss your opportunity. [Interjections.] Hon Premier, that is the first question. [Interjections.]



The PREMIER: So, hon member, [Interjections.] of course the road is not open. I am looking at the photographs, the current photograph of that road, it has still got wet tar on it. You have got to drive around the wet tar, [Interjections.] but the point is, the point is he is driving, the hon member is driving on a construction site [Interjections.] where you are repairing damage from a major flood. That is the point. [Interjections.]

Go and drive in any of those other places where nothing has happened, [Interjections] † nada, niks,[nothing] in three years.

†'n AGB LID: Wanneer was jy daar?

[An HON MEMBER: When were you there?]

†'n AGB LID: Wanneer was jy daar?

[An HON MEMBER: When were you there?]

The PREMIER: In this province we get things done.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

†'n AGB LID: Wanneer was jy daar? Vandag?

[An HON MEMBER: When were you there? Today?]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Kamfer, are you utilising your final

follow-up?

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

†n AGB LID: Wanneer was jy daar?

[An HON MEMBER: When were you there?]

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I understand and I see the pictures.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): My last question is how much money has this Department spent? '23 that happened on the same bridge. '24 that happened ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: The same.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): ...the same bridge broken. What is the plan of the Department in the future and how much money was spent for the repairs of this road? Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wanted to give you leniency based that you were the first person to draw, but I will allow the hon Premier to answer.

An HON MEMBER: Where is the book?

The PREMIER: The hon member must know that the [Interjections.] bridge did not wash away. He just said the bridge washed away. The bridge did not wash away. So he must not come and spew nonsense here.

The second thing [Interjections.] is the first R5 million wash away...  
[Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Premier, I see hon member Sayed.  
[Interjections.]

† ‘n AGBARE LID: Ai, man.

[An HON MEMBER: Oh, man.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I beg for your indulgence. [Interjections.] I know you will indulge me on this one. I think the hon Premier is getting hot under the collar. [Interjections.]

He is leading Government, he leads Government. [Interjections.] He must carry himself like a leader of government, not as if he is a backbencher and fighting here. [Interjections.] They must calm down, respond properly. There is no need to use words such as saying the hon member is talking nonsense. [Interjections.] That is totally out of order. Just respond. Thank you.  
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members [Interjections.] – hon members, we are doing extremely well today. I would want us to continue in order to ensure that those that are in the gallery, those that are listening, are ultimately benefiting from these debates and discussions. [Interjections.] I see hon member Kamfer.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You rise on a point of order?

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Yes, on a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

†Ek voel die agb Premier raak my aan. Hy moet *withdraw*, agb Adjunkspeaker. [Tussenwerpsels.] [I feel the hon Premier is insulting me. He must withdraw, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]]

An HON MEMBER: Withdraw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not regard that particular [Interjections.] word as deeply unparliamentary. I would, however, once again state that the discussions and the debates in this particular House is by its very nature highly political and I will encourage hon members to remain calm and to allow for the debate to proceed.

Hon member Nkondlo, as you rising on the same matter?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I just want to check with yourself.

Do you regard when another hon member says to another he is speaking nonsense, that is part of being highly political in a debate? Is that what you are saying?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is very clear. It is very clear in this House, the debates that are ongoing. In this House, hon members, we have heard worse on what hon members say on how people are engaging. [Interjections.]

I am not going to have the debate now. I will allow the hon Premier to proceed. The time is running out. This opportunity does not come along every Sitting where we are able to ask questions to the Premier without notice. So we will proceed. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. To avoid any kind of confusion here, hon member, I withdraw and apologise for saying that you were spewing nonsense.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you, it is the right thing to do. [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: I would like to say, hon Deputy Speaker, in... [Incomplete.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] call it nonsense, then you must accept.  
[Interjections.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Now you realise.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not going to have the debate in this regard, hon Premier, and I will caution hon members. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you to the hon member for the question. I would just like to correct the hon member in that the last three floods and washaways in that very area, where I have personally been every single time, the bridge itself has not washed away. So that is incorrect, but the washaways have occurred on the roadway leading up to the bridge.

I think the hon member also knows that, and of course now I have got to be careful because I am not stating exact facts because I do not have the budget in front of me, but to actually put a proper correction there we actually need to rebuild the causeway all the way from the main freeway to the bridge. That is just short of a billion, R800 million I think is what that would need and we do not have that kind of budget at the moment, but the budget that is being spent is being spent on these new innovations and these new spaces, like

what I have just said around the culvert.

What I have just quickly got across the floor, because of course these are questions to the Premier without notice. So I do not know what the hon member is going to ask me. I would be prepared. I try and bring a lot of stuff with me so that I am trying to anticipate questions so that I can give responsible answers in the House. You know, we are the only province that actually does this and I want to do it properly and I want to do it well.

So what I have just – and luckily my colleague sits right next to me. So we are talking about R5 million for the first washaway and we are talking about R10 million for the second washaway. The first washaway and the second washaway are different spaces. It is not exactly the same place that washed away again.

Of course as I have said already that it is about saying within our means, we cannot build a R1 billion or R800 million new causeway for the whole way, but what we can do and try and respond, as the hon member said, as quickly as possible before the next flood season happens, that we do get this in place and of course that is the urgency that the Department is putting in place.

That is why the hon Minister keeps following it up, saying, “Where are we on it?” and he can actually show me that the message he got this morning already was, “Hon Minister, we should be opening it to two-way traffic on Thursday.”

I mean I think that is really great news and to see the speed in which they have rebuilt, and I mean those culverts, the hon member knows the work that went into those culverts, the reinforcing, the concrete, the depth that had to be dug down to make sure that those culverts are going to respond to potential new flooding again.

In addition to that it is not only what this Department is doing, it is the money that the Department is also transferring from the Agriculture Department to the Water Users Associations and the agri-sector to make sure that we actually get the riverbed cleaned again, because that is also a big issue and also do not hold me to the exact number, but I think we are talking about two transfers and we are probably sitting in the region of 15 to R18 million that has been spent now in that region to make sure that we are cleaning out the river space so that we can also mitigate that risk. Open up the culverts, open up the drainage systems and of course that is what we try and do across every one of our municipalities now as we are moving towards potential winter rainfall and winter flooding time. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I see the hon member Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, with regards to the question to the hon Premier.



With regards to exports and their contribution to the Western Cape economy, what collaborative interventions has the Western Cape Government undertaken to ensure that the Port of Cape Town effectively delivers on its mandate in support of Growth for Jobs Strategy? I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I think we all know that the Port of Cape Town in its global efficiency ranking sits right there at the bottom, which is really unacceptable. We cannot have a conduit to the economy blocked like it is.

I was just seeing [Interjections.] – I said that I brought documents to help me with these kind of things. I was actually – I first want to respond to say that myself, hon Minister Sileku, hon Minister Meyer, the Mayor, the MACO member for Mobility in the City, had a meeting with Minister Barbara Creecy towards the end of last year with specific reference to the Port of Cape Town, because we cannot have this conduit for jobs in the economy blocked like it is.

I want to say and I will say in this House to Minister Creecy, thank you very much, because she responded to us in that meeting that she would act decisively and quickly and make sure that we get our rail and our port out to concessions.

An HON MEMBER: What does that mean? A private entity [Inaudible.]

The PREMIER: I really am excited about that. Just like the private entity in Durban Port ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak to the Chair, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Just like the private entity in Durban Port [Interjections.] that the ANC has put in place, we want exactly the same thing in the Cape Town Port and with the rail, because she has put out the rail and the ports for requests for information.

So publicly I want to say to her thank you very much, Minister, for taking that next step in moving away from broken, failed policy of the last 30 years and let us move towards global best practice and how we actually can compete globally. That is the first thing.

The second thing I must say that our own Port interaction [Interjections.] – I do not know if the ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The PREMIER: ...hon members are listening, but our own interaction through hon Minister Meyer's team in the Port and the delivery, thank you now for the rubber tyred gantries, the first ones have arrived, and that is going to make a massive difference.

If we go back a year we were all excited because we managed to find some second-hand rubber tired gantries, but they did not fit and they did not work and they were broken and old and unserviceable. We have got brand new ones, the first tranche has arrived, and we will be getting a number of tranches this year so that we really start to get those efficiencies lifted.

There I want to say thank you to Transnet and Michelle Phillips and the work that she is doing alongside our team to make sure that we find those efficiencies. I mean we are now in the midst of our citrus exports.

The previous question was about the roads and the ability of our roads to be repaired before the winter season. We know how those road blockages and floods blocked our ability to get citrus to market, specifically †vanaf Weskus [from West Coast.] We have got to make sure that these pipelines and blockages are open and removed.

Then of course it is how we get those port operators to come into our market through a tender process, through an open bid process, to give us the efficiencies that we need that will get our products to market so we do not lose market share to our competitors in South America or in Australia or wherever else with those products that are moving through our port, or at the moment not moving through our port quick enough.

I also want to say that I was looking at a document because we have just

come back from the UAE and we engaged with Dubai Port, that now operates 60 ports around the world across every single continent, and it is amazing to see those efficiencies they are finding in those countries where they came in, and that is exactly what we are trying to achieve.

So I really hope that when this process is concluded we will find operators coming out of other parts ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

The PREMIER: ...of the world... [Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

The PREMIER: Other parts of the world that are really going to be efficient, because our port used to be efficient.

An HON MEMBER: Your time is up! [Interjections.]

The PREMIER: In 2012 we could move 33 ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Your time is up!

The PREMIER: ...standards ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I said your time is up!

The PREMIER: ...and we reduced that right down ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Your time is up!

The PREMIER: ...to inefficient rates of 14 at a time, and that is just unacceptable.

An HON MEMBER: Your time is up!

The PREMIER: We have got to get our game up. We have got to be competitive.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Premier.

The PREMIER: We have got to get [Inaudible.] going. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon members, that concludes Questions to the Premier Without Notice. In terms of Rule 145 we will now deal with Members' Statements and I will see the DA.

## **MEMBER STATEMENTS**

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Today, on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of victory in Europe, we honour the courage of those who stood

against the tide of tyranny, among them over 334 000 South Africans. Volunteers from every corner of our then divided land answered the call to fight fascism long before the world fully grasped its horror.

From the unforgiving deserts of North Africa to the shadowed hills of Italy, South African troops fought with tenacity and resolve. In the Northern African campaign the First South African Infantry Division helped turn the tide. At Operation Crusader they broke the siege of Tobruk at El Alamein. Our engineers crawled through minefields under fire so others could advance, and then came Italy.

In 1944 the Sixth South African Armoured Division landed in the birthplace of fascism, fighting through dust and mud towards Europe. At the shadow of Monte Cassino under fire our troops endured. As General Dwight D Eisenhower described the Sixth Armoured Division was, I quote:

“A magnificent fighting force, courageous and capable.”

Many of our soldiers fought in separate units, unequal in pay, weaponry and rights, and yet they fought together against a greater evil. They fought for a world better than the one that they came from.

Let us pause to remember the thousands of South African soldiers who never returned home, those who fell in the sands of El Alamein, in the rubble of Cassino or in the skies above Europe. Their names may be etched in stone or

lost onto the wind, but their bravery endures. They died not only for victory, but for the hope of a freer, fairer world.

Today we carry the memory forward with pride, with sorrow and with eternal gratitude. Let us remember them not only as soldiers of war, but as soldiers of principle. Warriors [Inaudible.]. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Masipa.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired. I recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government, under the Premier's watch, has abandoned our elderly and neglected them. Indignity and suffering, the horrific conditions of KSE Kraaifontein Tehuis are not an isolated incident. They are a damning indictment of this Government's dereliction of duty and heartless disregard for our vulnerable citizens.

Nineteen years ago a serious allegation of abuse, rape and horrific conditions at this very home were investigated by the then MEC, MEC Kholeka Mqulwana. In 2025 these horrors are back.

A viral post by social justice activist Bianca Booysen revealed shocking

allegations of rape, abuse, filth and elders left to lie in their own faeces. This prompted ANC members to urgently visit the facility. What we saw was heartbreaking. There are only three nurses over 130 residents, no emergency call buttons in the rooms, frail elders soaked in mattress without blankets, sheets or diapers and no dietician.

Though the Provincial Government allocates R1,4 million per quarter, majority of it goes to salaries not care. SASSA grants meant for the elderly are being used to buy groceries.

Last year seven residents reportedly died within two weeks due to neglect, yet the hon Premier and his MEC have done nothing. This is not just bad governance, it is disgrace. It is a tragedy unfolding before our eyes. This is another Life Esidimeni in the making.

A 2019 forensic report exposed mismanagement and called for action, including investigations by Ms Nondumiso Chona, yet nothing has happened. The facility board operates illegally with only three members instead of seven. Why the silence?

The hon Premier cannot plead ignorance. The death, squalor and despair in our old age homes have been well-documented and yet there has been no action, no urgency, no justice, just silence and suffering.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired, hon member Bans.



The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We welcome the visit of our Human Rights Commissioner, Chris Nissen, to the home yesterday. We hope that the DA Government will do something about it. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Bans. I see the PA.

An HON MEMBER: They must step up. [Interjections.]

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart and a deep sense of responsibility to bring this House's attention to the ongoing crisis at Benevolent Park Old Age Home in Mossel Bay, a place that should be a sanctuary for the elderly, but which has sadly become a space of instability, fear and mismanagement.

As previously highlighted the law is clear. We have a legal and moral obligation to protect and care for the elderly in our province. The residents in Benevolent Park, our mothers, fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, deserve dignity, not distress.

It is unacceptable that instead of receiving the care and protection they deserve these residents are being intimidated, silenced and even dragged into legal battles merely for expressing concern about their living conditions or the conduct of those meant to serve them.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are now witnessing a troubling pattern. The very same governance and interference issues are being reported at Kraaifontein Old Age Home, Oudtshoorn Old Age Home and several others across the Western Cape. We cannot and will not remain silent.

On behalf of the Patriotic Alliance I therefore call on the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the relevant departments to first:

- Urgently intervene at Benevolent Park, Kraaifontein Old Age Home and other affected facilities.
- Establish an independent task team or the existing committee to assess the governance, care standards and the role of municipalities and board members in the mismanagement of these homes.
- Ensure that any court cases or legal actions against residents simply for voicing their opinions are dropped or withdrawn immediately.
- Implement a provincial oversight mechanism that protects the rights and voices of the elderly and ensures these institutions are run with accountability and compassion.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we cannot preach about dignity and human rights while turning a blind eye to the mistreatment of those who build this country with their hands and hearts.

The Patriotic Alliance will not sit back ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): ...while our elders are disrespected, neglected and ill-treated. We urge the House to act decisively, not tomorrow, not next month, but today. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Stephens. I see the DA.

An HON MEMBER: Where is Minister Londt?

An HON MEMBER: There is a crisis.

An HON MEMBER: It is a crisis [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

†Mnr T WALTERS (DA): Afrikaans word al vir veel meer as net 100 jaar gepraat en geskryf, maar tydens 2025 en spesifiek vandag, 8 Mei, word die taal amptelik erken vir die 100ste bestaansjaar as 'n landstaal, 'n amptelike landstaal.

Afrikaans is ingeboesem in die kultuur van die Wes-Kaap. Sonder Afrikaans sou gesprekke darem regtig vervelig gewees het. Afrikaans is 'n kragtige vorm van uitdrukking, al is jou moedertaal Engels of isiXhosa, en meeste Suid-Afrikaners skel graag in Afrikaans wanneer die Bokke of Bafana

verloor.

Dit is 'n pragtige mengelmoes van Nederlands, Portugees en Afrika-tale wat eintlik meer as 'n taal geskep het. Vir talle Suid-Afrikaners weerspieël dit hulle unieke kultuur en diversiteit. Dit verbind gemeenskappe en bou verstandhouding.

Die viering van hierdie eeufees is 'n geleentheid om hulde te bring aan al die digters, skrywers, opvoeders, kunstenaars en gewone Afrikaanssprekendes, en die verskillende Afrikaanse dialekte wat Afrikaans vorm en uitbou. Die taal is lewendig en veerkragtig en nuwe woorde en slagspreuke word elke dag geskep in ons gemeenskappe.

Die herdenking is ook 'n geleentheid om ons ryk geskiedenis te herdenk, gesprek te voer oor dinge wat nog krap en fees te vier in jou taal, terwyl ons seker maak dat ons Afrikaans se toekoms bewaar.

Mag ons altyd saamwerk om alle tale te bevorder vir die verspreiding van diversiteit en dit herken as 'n waardevolle deel van ons kultuur. Dit is hoe ons Suid-Afrika se wonderlike meertalige toekoms bewaar.

[Mr T WALTERS (DA): Afrikaans has been spoken and written for more than just a 100 years, but during 2025 and specifically today, 8 May, the language is officially acknowledged for the 100th year as an official language, a country's official language.

Afrikaans is embedded in the culture of the Western Cape. Without Afrikaans conversations would really have been very boring. Afrikaans is a powerful form of expression, even if your mother tongue is English or isiXhosa, and most South Africans like to swear in Afrikaans when the Boks or Bafana lose.

It is a beautiful mixture of Dutch, Portuguese and African languages that have created actually more than a language. For many South Africans it reflects their unique culture and diversity. It connects communities and builds understanding.

The celebration of this centenary is an opportunity to honour all the poets, writers, educators, artists and ordinary Afrikaans-speaking people, and the various Afrikaans dialects constituting and building Afrikaans. The language is lively and resilient and new words and slogans are created every day in our communities.

The commemoration is also an opportunity to honour our rich history, discuss things that are still bothering us and celebrate in your language, while are we ensure that we protect the future of our Afrikaans.

May we always work together to promote all languages for the distribution of diversity and acknowledge it as a precious part of our culture. That is how we conserve South Africa's wonderful multilanguage future.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Walters. I see the EFF.

[Interjections.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The EFF extends its condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of the three SAPS members whose lives were tragically cut short and whose bodies, along with two civilians, were recently recovered in a river in Gauteng. The EFF commends the rescue and investigation teams who worked tirelessly to recover the five bodies, utilising drone technology and enduring challenging conditions to bring the remains home.

In addition to the three SAPS members identified, two other bodies were also identified and recovered. The development is deeply concerning and the presence of multiple bodies in one river system within a short timeframe and geographic radius suggests a broader and possibly coordinated pattern of violence and demands urgent and thorough investigation.

The EFF urges authorities to work with urgency to identify the last individual and to notify their families. No family should have to endure uncertainty about the fate of their loved ones and every life lost is [Inaudible.] justice and closure.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF calls for a full and transparent investigation into the deaths of SAPS officers and civilians and the National Police Minister must provide answers, not only to the families, but to the police, about what happened, why and who must be held accountable. The

country deserves to know whether these are isolated incidents or something far more criminal and sinister.

May the souls of the departed rest in revolutionary peace. We hold their loved ones in our thoughts and remain committed to demanding answers and justice in their name.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Cassiem. I see the NCC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to all. I greet you all in the name of the Highest.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the NCC is shocked to see that the DA MP, Michael Bagraim, has on 29 April posted a written question to the Minister of Employment and Labour relating to employment equity stats, the definition of Coloured versus Black and employment of Coloureds in general.

Now, hon Deputy Speaker, what is even more shocking in this instance is that the very, very same MP Bagraim has a history of dismissing Coloured employees at the CCMA and at the Labour Court.

Hon Deputy Speaker, because of this MP many Coloured employees have lost their cases at court or better yet, many cases do not even reach the court. The bribing in connection at courts has seen many sexual predators walk free.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this MP got full control over the employment sector. He even controlled the Labour Practise Council. Can you believe that?

Now one of the most recent shocking incidents is where he represented D G Outsource, an online gambling platform administrator, against claims of abuse where Coloured women, Coloured female employees are involved.

Now Lisa Smit, she lost her job. Today she is still unemployed. She is fighting for justice and her financial losses. Senusha Rahman, an employee at the very same company, committed suicide as she could not deal with this pressure of abuse and it was reported, but obviously †weet ons wie is die mannetjie wat vir haar afgeskiet het [we know who the man is who shot her down.]

Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is so sad.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): ...these are the stories that we hear every day and to see MP Bagraim acting as a protector for the workers of the Coloured people in particular, asking questions to the Minister, is a slap in the face of the law-abiding workers of this country.

In the Western Cape Coloured people in particular suffer the most in terms of employment opportunities. So how can the very same people that want to see



us fail want to now speak out as our superheroes?

No, hon Deputy Speaker, 2026 is around the corner †en onse mense se oë is oop. Ek sê maar net. [and our people's eyes are open. I'm just saying.] Amase.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Jacobs. I see the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ANC wishes to state its unwavering support to the rights of all as enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa and that we shall never stand with anyone nor laws that discriminate people on the basis of their race, colour, creed and sexual orientation.

This we boldly state against the rogue behaviour of the Federal Chairperson of the DA, former member of this House and former Premier of this Province, Helen Zille, who in celebration of an unfortunate UK ruling against trans women said, I quote:

“They have protected the rights of the women across the English-speaking world.”

Equating trans women to a contagion as dangerous socially as COVID was medically. This hateful vitriol against trans women is testimony of how Helen Zille and her DA ilk are disgustingly hypocritical. This hypocrisy must

be called out as against the South Africa we stand on.

Helen Zille has always been found with such far right views and as a blue eyed *magogo* is not reined in by her very own party that has falsely purported itself to be friends of the LGBTQIA Plus community, including being a partner and a founder of the Cape Town Pride.

The City, under the DA, will be hosting the World Pride in 2027 here in Cape Town, yet we have such a leader with a very warped view of gender equality in modern times, as by the poem against the Holocaust by Pastor Martin Niemöller.

Let us remind opportunists in the DA, the poem goes:

“First they came for the communist and I did not speak out. Then they came out for the Jews and I did not speak out, and then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me.”

This is a message to the DA and your opportunistic silence.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA. [Interjections.] Order, hon members! I see the DA.

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. On this World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day we pause to pay

tribute to the heart of humanitarian work in our province.

The NGOs, civil society groups and volunteers who serve tirelessly in communities across the Western Cape. These are the people who respond first when disaster strikes. The ones who deliver meals in the cold, comfort the victims of violence [Interjections.] and provide shelter, hope and healing to those most in need. They are the pulse of compassion in our province.

The DA-led Western Cape Government recognises this work not just with words, but with action. Over the past five years the Department of Social Development has strengthened... [Incomplete.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] call me, I want to know. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you – you may continue, hon member.

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The DA-led Western Cape Government recognises this work not just with words, but with action. Over the past five years the Department of Social Development has strengthened its partnership with the sector, offering real, practical support.

Through the NPO Help Desk and Institutional Capacity Building Programme over 2 700 organisations have received support to strengthen their governance and impact.

A groundbreaking partnership with the United Nations Development Programme is enhancing resource mobilisation and institutional resilience among our NGO partners. Last year nearly 33 000 individuals accessed psychosocial services and more than 19 500 families received vital support through the Family Preservation Programme.

An additional R3 million was allocated in 2024 to boost humanitarian response capacity in the face of fires, floods and food insecurity. These numbers represent lives changed because of strong partnerships and shared purpose. To every organisation, volunteer and community leader, we see you, we thank you and we honour you.

The DEPUTY PLEASE: Please conclude, hon member.

Ms W KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): You remind us that dignity, kindness and service are the foundation of a just and caring society. Together we are stronger. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Philander. I see the Freedom Front Plus.

†Mnr G MARAIS (FF+): Agb Adjunkspeaker, vandag is Afrikaans as amptelike taal 100 jaar oud.

Die Vryheidsfront Plus was op 'n tyd in die geskiedenis van Suid-Afrika die enigste party wat geveg het vir Afrikaans in hierdie land. [Tussenwerpsels.] Dr Corné Mulder, ons nasionale leier, het bevestig hy was deel van die oorgangsperiode na die nuwe bedeling in 1994 [Tussenwerpsels.] en die aanhaling is:

“Toe die ANC en die DA voorgestel het dat Engels die enigste amptelike landstaal moet wees.”

Dit was die Vryheidsfront Plus wat alleen geveg het vir die erkenning van Afrikaans in Suid-Afrika en terloops, [Tussenwerpsels.] ook ander inheemse tale. Afrikaans was die moedertaal van my oorlede ouma en oupa gewees.

[Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Hon Deputy Speaker, today Afrikaans as official language is 100 years old.

The Freedom Front Plus was at one stage in the history of South Africa the only party that fought for Afrikaans in this country. [Interjections.] Dr Corné Mulder, our national leader, confirmed that he was part of the transition period to the new dispensation in 1994 [Interjections.] and the quote is:

*“Toe die ANC en die DA voorgestel het dat Engels die enigste amptelike landstaal moet wees.”*

It was the Freedom Front Plus that alone fought for the acknowledgement of

Afrikaans in South Africa, and by the way, [Interjections.] Also other indigenous languages. Afrikaans was the mother tongue of my late grandmother and grandfather.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, are you able to take your seat? Is that a point of order?

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Yes. Hon Chair, this is an alternate reality not just misleading the House. That is factually not true what is being said there in terms of the DA's predecessor organisation. [Interjections.] Even the ANC did not support it. It is just not factually true.

An HON MEMBER: Sit down, you are talking nonsense.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much [Inaudible.]

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, are you telling me to sit down or the anti-poor party again?

An HON MEMBER: Sit down! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking ...[Interjections.]

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Is it yourself? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members! I am asking

...[Interjections.]

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Okay, thank you. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon member Walters, that is not a point of order.

An HON MEMBER: Sit down!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Marais, please conclude. You have 50 seconds. [Interjections.]

†Mnr G MARAIS (FF+): Baie dankie, baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Ja, die waarheid maak seer, agb Adjunkspeaker.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, Afrikaans [Tussenwerpsels.] is die moedertaal van my ouma en my oupa wat nou oorlede is en ek het nog sy gedigte wat hy geskryf het in sy Bybel. Ek is lief vir Afrikaans.

Afrikaans is ook die moedertaal van 70% van die Bruin bevolking in Suid-Afrika. Mag Afrikaans nog lank lewe. Lank lewe Afrikaanssprekendes in Suid-Afrika en dié wie die taal liefhet, en ek is baie bly dat die DA wat destyds in 1994 as die DP – julle naam was mos DP gewees daai tyd? [Tussenwerpsels.] Dalk sal dit 'n bietjie terugbring wat jy vergeet het. [Tussenwerpsels.]

Die Vryheidsfront Plus ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, thank you hon Deputy Speaker. Yes, the truth hurts, hon Deputy Speaker.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Afrikaans [Interjections.] is the mother tongue of my grandmother and grandfather who are now deceased and I still have his poems that he wrote, in his Bible. I love Afrikaans.

Afrikaans is also the mother tongue of 70% of the Coloured population in South Africa. May Afrikaans still live long. May Afrikaans-speakers in South Africa live long and those who love the language, and I am glad that the DA that way back in 1994 as the DP – your name was DP in those days? [Interjections.] Perhaps it may bring back some that you have forgotten. [Interjections.]

The Freedom Front Plus ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, member.

†Mnr G MARAIS (FF+): Die Vryheidsfront Plus verwelkom die...

[Mr G MARAIS (FF+): The Freedom Front Plus welcomes the... ]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member. [Interjections.]

Order, hon members!



†Mnr G MARAIS (FF+): Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker.  
[Tussenwerpsels.] Beskerm my net teen hierdie stemme wat hierso van die  
linkerkant af kom. [Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]  
Just protect me against these voices coming here from the left.  
[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time has expired, hon member.  
[Interjections.]

†Mnr G MARAIS (FF+): Agb Adjunkspeaker, in sluiting, [Tussenwerpsels.]  
ons verwelkom dat die DA ook nou lief is vir Afrikaans. Baie dankie.  
[Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Hon Deputy Speaker, to conclude, [Interjections.]  
We welcome it that the DA now also love Afrikaans. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would have only entertained the heckling if it  
was in Afrikaans. Hon members, I now see Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy  
Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Al Jama-ah we want to wish  
all the Hajj pilgrims from Cape Town and all around the world that is  
embarking on their compulsory Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca, the holy land of  
Mecca and Medina, we wish for them a Hajj pilgrimage, *magule* and a  
pilgrimage *maghroor*. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis. I see the ACDP. [Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Ground Up, a non-profit organisation, news organisation, visited SASSA offices yesterday.

Yesterday, hon Deputy Speaker, they visited Athlone and Gugulethu SASSA offices. What they found we all know is disturbing, that people in the line in Athlone had to be there since 03:00 in the morning. [Interjections.] In Gugulethu people were turned away because of the new verification drive by SASSA.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the lack of satellite offices in Langa, Bonteheuwel and Hanover Park [Interjections.] means that people must travel and spend money to get to the SASSA offices.

So the plea to hon Minister Londt is to speak to the National Minister to make sure that people that go and draw disability – this was a disability grant queue that people had to stand in and we are asking that people are treated with dignity and respect.

This one lady that they interviewed had to leave Bonteheuwel early hours in the morning to get to her Athlone office and SASSA is failing our people,

and we are asking for help.

The plea that we are calling is to ask hon Minister Londt to engage with his national counterpart and make SASSA work. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: And the health, and health...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Long queues.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the GOOD party.

An HON MEMBER: The clinics, the hospitals, *ai*.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, no number of extra police ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: People are crying [Inaudible.], there are long queues.  
Long hours.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

An HON MEMBER: They are sitting with ....

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are pausing the time, hon member Herron. Hon member Windvogel? [Interjections.] You may proceed, hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. No number of extra police or security guards will address Cape Town's deeply entrenched culture of gangsterism.

The City has announced it will spend R100 million on security to protect emergency and service workers in crime ravaged areas and this follows the tragic deaths of 10 people in gang-related violence last weekend.

Meanwhile the Provincial Government blames National Government for not devolving policing powers, but while some devolution may be necessary, the idea that it will magically dissolve gangsterism is misguided.

The Province already pours billions into the City's policing through the LEAP programme and the Western Cape Safety Plan, which promised to halve the murder rates, but has shown no measurable impact. The truth is more police will not fix a problem rooted in inequality and apartheid spatial planning.

Cape Town is one of the most unequal cities in the world and it shows. In some communities nearly half the residents are unemployed, social services are scarce, infrastructure is crumbling and in these conditions gangsterism does not just exist, it thrives. A teenager in Newlands acting out may get

help, a teenager in Manenberg gets recruited.

Yes, the Province must ensure safety for frontline workers, but real change requires a shift in how we treat working class communities. Imagine if a portion of the billions spent on policing were redirected towards social development, into mental health support, school-based interventions, addiction treatment, job creation and housing. That would do more to disrupt gang culture than any increase in law enforcement.

The Western Cape cannot police its way out of this crisis. Real safety comes from the investment in people not just boots on the ground. It is time for this government to stop chasing headlines and start funding change. Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Stop chasing headlines?

†'n AGB LID: Die waarheid maak seer.

[An HON MEMBER: The truth hurts.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the DA. [Interjections.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I rise today to express our deepest condolences and mourning of the tragic and senseless killing of Councillor Xolile Kalipa, a dedicated servant of the Democratic Alliance and the people of Stellenbosch.

Councillor Kalipa was fatally shot on the night of 4 May 2025 in Kayamandi in what can only be described as an evil act of violence. We are deeply shocked and saddened by this loss and we strongly condemn this brutal attack.

We join the call for an urgent and thorough investigation by the South African Police Service. It is crucial that those responsible for this cowardly act are brought to justice swiftly and without compromise. The safety of our public representatives and communities cannot be negotiable.

Councillor Kalipa was more than a political figure. He was a humble, soft-spoken leader who earned the respect of all who knew him. He served his community with unwavering dedication, always listening, always acting, always putting people first. His legacy is one of compassion, resilience and an unshakeable commitment to bettering the lives of those around him.

To the Kalipa family, his friends, colleagues and the broader Stellenbosch community, we extend our heartfelt sympathies. In your grief know that you do not mourn alone. We stand with you in determination to ensure justice and to continue the work he so passionately pursued. May Councillor Kalipa rest in peace and may his memory be a blessing and a call to action for all of us. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van Minnen.

In terms of rule R145(6) I now give one or more members of the Executive that is present an opportunity to respond to member statements for not more than five minutes collectively. I see hon Minister Londt.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am going to start with hon member Stoffel and Stephens.

Hon Stephens, you ask for an oversight body. However, that is already there. We have regular monitoring and evaluation that happen at all of our facilities that we fund. Those reports are available for the Standing Committee as well, of which you are a member also, and you can also as a committee go to these facilities, as you have done in the past, such as Vermont, which I will get back to now.

It is very important that we do not play politics with the lives of the elderly in our province. We are one of those provinces where we have an ever-increasing older population.

An HON MEMBER: Eastern Cape.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: That is then reflected in the money and the budget that this Government has allocated.

There was a R14 million increase for the funding to the Older Persons Programme and also a R13 million increase in subsidies to support frail older

persons in the old age homes in our province.

It is important that we as lawmakers and those that are exposed to the different types of facilities, that we educate communities, but also the boards as well because we see where boards function well, but we also see where there are failures in the management of the boards.

Now just if you were running a board, you would not want us to interfere in the day-to-day running, but we do flag the problems that we pick up through our regular monitoring and evaluation, like the committee did when they went to Vermont and to the credit of the community in Knysna, they said this is not good enough. They got involved, they attended the AGM and they actually elected a board that are starting to change around the things in Vermont, because if you will remember at the beginning of this term we kept raising, kept raising, kept raising Vermont. We have not heard that yet.

So I am going back to Vermont next week to pop in and see how things are going.

The same goes for all of these other facilities. [Interjections.] We need to make sure that a place like Benevolent Park, [Interjections.] that was in a much, much worse situation, there is now an effective management structure in place. Let us not get involved with politics. Let us allow them and let us support them, hon members Stephens, because that board is turning things around. [Interjections.]



The same with the KSE board. We need to make sure that they adhere to their own constitution and then the community get involved and turn that around the same way they have done so in Vermont. [Interjections.]

So from my side most of the time the committee does an incredible job and I thank you for that, but we need to make sure that we take that role of education and oversight in a dual role, and we leave the politics aside. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is you! [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: To the hon member Christians, you are correct to say that SASSA is a national entity and we are engaging with the SASSA officials that are at a national level, but we also engage with the SASSA leadership within the Western Cape.

Thank goodness they are moving away from the acting positions. They are now going to the permanent employment and they have also identified all of these points that you have raised and a few more. They have put measures in place to alleviate that. It is still not good enough, it is still not acceptable, especially with the rainy season coming up, the cold.

An HON MEMBER: Ja!

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: In the summer you can almost be outside, but it is now coming to the difficult part.

So we will continue to raise it. They have committed to improving that and I have texted my office and said let us have a follow-up meeting again with SASSA and take that up with them as well, but thank you so much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Mackenzie.

†Die MINISTER VAN KULTUURSAKE EN SPORT: Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Ek moet net sê, agb lid, dat natuurlik ons voorganger het baklei vir al die tale. Die Demokratiese Party het baklei vir al die tale in Suid-Afrika en ek wil net vir die agb lid sê my pa het ook 'n gedig gehad. My pa se gedig was "Moenie lieg nie." Dankie.

[The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I just have to say, hon member, that obviously our predecessor fought for all the languages. The Democratic Party fought for all the languages in South Africa and I just want to say to the hon member that my father also had a poem. My father's poem was "Do not lie." Thank you. ]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon member Jacobs made certain reflections upon a member of the NA who also happens to be an officer of the court. He is a lawyer, member Michael

Bargain, specifically.

This is also someone who weekly gives farm labourers free labour advice on the radio and approximately 2 000 people tune in to listen to his advice. [Interjections.] I have evidence because I was actually invited onto the Disa FM radio station [Interjections.] where he asked how does the budget benefit farm workers and how can they access some of our agricultural and social programmes, which we delved into in this regard, and this is also someone who supports NGOs such as those who work with disabled persons, [Interjections.] with free guidance and advice.

I know a particular organisation ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...with making sure that they save jobs instead of losing jobs because of national job killing laws and regulations, and this is also why we support his work in [Inaudible.] ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Baartman.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: ...Amendment Act and [Interjections.] helping grow our economy. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Baartman. Order, hon members!

That concludes Member Statements. I now recognise the Chief Whip.

### **MOTIONS WITH NOTICE**

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I give notice and move the motion in my name as it appears on the Order Paper. I so move.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion?

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to.

Hon members, in terms of Rule 151 all Notices of Motion by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

Further to Rule 150 I would like to inform hon members that in terms of the Standing Rule 150 pertaining to motions without notice, condolences and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to the plenary on 6 May 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting on 6 May 2025 political parties did submit 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 further, just for noting and for the purposes of the minutes, call out the hon members whose name have accordingly been submitted and approved. The following members' motion have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows.

The hon member D G Jacobs, the hon member W F Kaizer-Philander, the hon member W F Kaizer-Philander, the hon member W F Kaizer-Philander, the hon member W F Kaizer-Philander, the hon member B M van Minnen, hon member B M van Minnen, hon member B M van Minnen, hon member B M van Minnen, hon member B M van Minnen, hon member D W Bryant, hon member D Stephens, hon member R Windvogel, hon member F Kamfer, hon member B Ngqentsu, hon member A P Bans, hon member N D Nkondlo,

hon member M K Sayed and hon member B Stoffel.

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no objections, agreed to. The Motions will appear in the Minutes of Proceedings and in Hansard in each individual member's name as if the hon member had read them out aloud.

I will now afford opportunity for members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule 150(2)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved by the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members are reminded that a 30 minute time allocation is afforded in this regard.

I see the hon member Stephens.

### **MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

Ms D STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I give notice that I shall move without notice:

That the House notes that today we rise in recognition of the heartbeats of our homes, our communities and our nation – our mothers. Mother’s Day is not merely a celebration marked on a calendar, it is a reminder of the enduring strength, love and resilience that mothers embody each and every day; they are the first teachers, the constant nurturers and often the silent warriors who carry their families through trials with unwavering determination. We honour all mothers from those who cradle newborns with hope, to those guiding grown children with wisdom; we pay tribute to mothers fighting silent battles: those raising children entangled in addiction, who continue to love, support and pray through pain most will never understand. Your courage and devotion are immeasurable; we salute the single mothers who embody the roles of both protector and provider, who rise before dawn, work tirelessly and still return home with love to give. You are not just mothers you are anchors, leaders and everyday heroes. Mothers are the keystones of our communities. They are the builders of character, the defenders of dignity and the custodians of culture. As the proverb reminds us, “It takes a village to raise a child,” but it is mothers who are so often the village themselves; as a society we must reflect not only in gratitude, but in action to support, protect and empower the women who do so much for all of us. Let this Mother’s Day be a call to honour their contribution, to listen to their needs and to create a society where every mother

thrives. To all the mothers, we see you, we thank you, we honour you. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no objections, agreed to. I now see the hon member B Stoffel.

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

That the House must note that we welcome the announcement by the Minister of Finance to stop the proposed increase in Value Added Tax which was scheduled to [Interjections.] commence on 1 May 2025; the initial proposal for an increase to the VAT rate was motivated by the urgent need to restore and replenish the funding of critical services that have suffered reductions due to the country's constrained fiscal position. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

An HON MEMBER: It is a mess. It is such a mess. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. On behalf of the ANC I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences on the passing of His Holiness the Pope, a towering spiritual leader and a tireless advocate for human dignity; His Holiness leaves behind a profound legacy of compassion, justice, and peace. Throughout his papacy he reminded us that faith must always be accompanied by action, particularly in the service of the vulnerable and the oppressed. His unwavering commitment to peace was most evident in his courageous political interventions in some of the world's most troubled regions. He consistently raised his voice against violence

and injustice in Palestine, calling for a just and lasting resolution rooted in human rights and mutual recognition. His moral authority offered hope to millions and challenged the international community to uphold the dignity and aspirations of the Palestinian people. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections with the notice being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to.

I see the hon member B Stoffel.

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

That this House welcomes the announcement of an official inquest into the suspicious and unresolved deaths of African National Congress leaders during the apartheid era, including the tragic passing of Chief Albert Luthuli in 1967 and Mlungisi Griffiths Mxenge, who was killed in 1981; the apartheid regime was responsible for numerous deaths and disappearances of political leaders and activists, often disguised as accidents or suicides, while evidence increasingly points to calculated assassinations; the decision to reopen these cases is a significant step toward truth, justice and historical accountability, particularly for the families of

the victims who have waited decades for closure. I so move.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] Vlakplaas.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.] No objections, agreed to. [Interjections.]

I see the hon member Benson.

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

That this House sends its heartfelt condolences to the family of Norman Mbiko and the wider rugby fraternity on the passing of a South African rugby legend, who died in the early hours of Tuesday age 79; notes that Norman Mbiko was the last captain of the African Springboks and a former head coach of the Blitzboks. A man who rose through the ranks of a system designed to exclude him and who stood tall in the face of apartheid's cruel segregation of sport; further notes that the African Springboks was a team of Black players forced into separate structures, denied access to proper facilities, pitches and development under a system that sought to silence black excellence; acknowledges that Mbiko, like

many Black South Africans under apartheid, suffered repeated forced removals from his land and was eventually relocated to Nyanga on the Cape Flats, yet despite the injustice, made history. In 2000 he was the first black coach of South Africa's senior national rugby team post-apartheid, leading the Blitzboks to international success; recognising that beyond the pitch Mbiko gave his life to mentoring and uplifting young players, [Interjections.] planting seeds of transformation in communities long forgotten by the State and by sport; notes with deep concern that despite the passage of 30 years since South Africa's re-entry into international sport, true transformation remains a promise unfulfilled with the Springboks failing to meet their own 2023 transformation targets, as revealed by SA Rugby's 2024 internal audit; acknowledges that only 13% of players fielded in the 2023 Rugby Championship and 16% at the World Cup were Blacks; calls on Government to accelerate transformation in all sports, with an emphasis on developing infrastructure, coaching and high-performance support in Black townships and rural areas; honours not only for his remarkable contributions on the field, but for his unyielding commitment to justice, transformation and the empowerment of future generations. I so move. Thank you.

*[Motion as moved by member.]*

*[The Speaker takes the Chair.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.] No objections, agreed to.

I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

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

That this House conveys its heartfelt condolences to the family of Mongi Titi, the minibus taxi industry, the ANC and its alliance partners in the Western Cape; notes with deep sadness the cowardly assassination of Mongi Titi, aged 45 year old leader in the minibus taxi industry, who was gunned down on Wednesday, 16 April 2025, while leaving the Nyanga taxi rank to fulfil his church duties; recognises Mr Titi's significant role in the contribution and transformation of public transport in the Western Cape. Having risen from the position of security guard to a respected leader within the taxi industry, where he championed the legalisation and formal integration of taxi sedans/Avanzas, commonly known as Amaphela, into mainstream minibus taxi operations between Nyanga and Parow/Elsies River; acknowledges his unwavering commitment to promoting a taxi industry that is regulated, professional and free from the influence of criminal networks; expresses concern over the lack of progress in the police

investigation, especially in light of the City of Cape Town's widely publicised surveillance camera infrastructure, which has thus far failed to produce any footage to assist in the investigation of this heinous crime; calls upon the minibus taxi industry and all relevant stakeholders to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in identifying and bringing to justice those responsible for this brutal act; and remembers Titi as a sharp, dedicated and insightful leader who will be sorely missed by the minibus taxi industry and all those who respected his work and vision for a transformed public transport system free from the tentacles of the criminal network. I so move. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, can I ask for guidance, please? I think it was raised before, I have raised it before.

A motion of condolences is a condolence. It is not criticising another sphere of government, because when you object it looks like you are objecting to the motion of condolence, which no one in this world will do, but then you mix it up with politics. It just creates confusion. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon member, I take your – hon Minister, I take your point. Hon members, I will come back to the House at the

[Interjections.] next Sitting to give – order! There was a point raised by the hon Minister. I will come back and I will provide guidance, but we are in the process of this motion being delivered.

So can I ask, do you have an objection to the motion [Interjections.] being moved without notice and not to the [Interjections.] – hon members, as part of the parliamentary [Interjections.] – hon member Lekker and hon member – hon Minister. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You have got no conscience, *wena*.

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

An HON MEMBER: You have got no conscience.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Do not [Inaudible.] condolence...

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] and coming and talk nonsense. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is also – order! If you allow me the floor while I, when I am on the floor [Interjections.] – order!

An HON MEMBER: Rubbish.

An HON MEMBER: Nonsense.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is also, part of the parliamentary process, there is a process where you can object to the motion, you are objecting to the motion being moved without notice and not to the motion itself. So if you want to object in that context then, hon Minister, please do so.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Object  
[Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: There is an objection and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Hon members, the motions are part of our parliamentary process. [Interjections.] It is a part of our parliamentary process and I do not want us to get to a situation where motions are being objected and accepted frivolously, because then we might as well take it out of our Rules and out of the process, but that motion has now been objected to and it will be printed on the Order Paper.

I now recognise the hon member Windvogel. [Interjections.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Dankie, agb Speaker. [Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon Speaker.] Hon Speaker, on behalf of the ANC, I move without notice:



That this House welcomes the historic visit of His Excellency, President Zelensky, of Ukraine to the Republic of South Africa, marking a significant moment in South Africa's international diplomatic engagements. We hope the visit leads to an end to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, a war that has cost thousands of lives, displaced millions and disrupted global stability, including food and energy security in Africa and beyond. 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? [Interjections.] No objections, agreed to.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon member Nkondlo. Hon member Nkondlo, your opportunity?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I am asking the hon ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No, no, it is your opportunity to move your motion.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Oh. [Interjections.]

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

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

That the House commemorates May Day, celebrated annually on 1 May, as a tribute to the struggles and victories of the working class in South Africa; further notes that this day honours the resilience and unity of workers who, through the tireless efforts of the ANC–SACP–COSATU Alliance, have secured fundamental rights and protections in our democracy, acknowledges that among the most notable victories is the establishment of a national minimum wage, which affirms the dignity of all workers, including domestic workers, farm workers, and other vulnerable sectors, ensuring they are no longer excluded from legal protection or fair pay; calls on this House, as we celebrate this day, to recommit ourselves to defending the rights of workers across all sectors, and condemns any efforts to undermine their hard-won gains; let this day serve as both a celebration of progress and a call to continue the struggle for economic justice and equality for all workers in South Africa. I so move. Thank you, hon Speaker.

*[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?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. I recognise the agb Lekker.

†Me P Z LEKKER (ANC): Julle kan maar *object in advance*, nè. ...[Gelag.]

[Ms P Z LEKKER: You can *maar* object in advance, nè. ...[Laughter.]]

An HON MEMBER: I object in advance. ...[Laughter.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

An HON MEMBER: Object!

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): [Laughter.] I move without notice:

That this House notes that on 27 April 2025, South Africa commemorated 31 years of freedom and democracy, marking three decades since the historic 1994 elections that ended apartheid and ushered in a new constitutional order based on equality, justice and human dignity for all; further notes that Freedom Day serves not only as a celebration of how far we have come, but as a solemn reminder of how much further we still must travel to achieve true liberation for all our people; recognises that while we have made significant progress in building a non-racial democracy, the promise of freedom remains unfulfilled for many in the Western Cape, as this province's shameful housing backlog of 600 000 units stands as a monument to the DA

Government's failure to prioritise the poor, with their current delivery rate of only just over 3 000 BNG houses in the last financial year, condemning our people to wait 200 years for decent housing; acknowledges that this shocking neglect exposes the DA's empty rhetoric about caring for the poor, while their policies continue to favour the privileged few; condemns in the strongest terms the DA's deliberate slowing of housing delivery and their refusal to work cooperatively with National Government to address this crisis; appreciates that the DA actions perpetuate apartheid's spatial divisions and deny our people their constitutional right to adequate housing; further calls on the Western Cape Government to immediately implement a credible plan to dramatically increase housing delivery, to release all available land for human settlements, and to stop playing politics with people's lives; and as we mark 31 years of freedom, calls on this House to reaffirm the ANC-led National Government's commitment to inclusive economic growth and transformation that will finally deliver the full meaning of liberation where all our people enjoy decent housing, quality services, and the dignity promised by our Constitution. True freedom cannot come while hundreds of thousands in our province remain trapped in poverty and homelessness by a government that serves only the interests of the elite. I so move, hon Speaker.

*[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections

to the motion being moved without notice?

Hon MEMBERS: Objection.

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the urgent court application filed by the Mayoral Committee Member Councillor J P Smith, against the South African Police Service and a magistrate of the Western Cape High Court; further notes that J P Smith's intention to litigate against SAPS following the raid on his office is nothing but a textbook response from someone born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and a blatant ploy to intimidate investigators; further notes that if J P Smith believes his rights were violated, he is free to pursue his claim, but he must answer to all charges like any ...[Interjections.] ordinary South African, and no amount of press statements or legal threats should deter the police's meticulous investigation; further notes that in this application, J P Smith alleges that the search and seizure warrants used during the high-profile raid on his office on 24 January 2025 were unlawfully obtained and based on falsehoods, errors, and critical omissions; notes further that J P Smith's legal action contains serious accusations of procedural

dishonesty, bad faith, and reputational harm, thereby casting aspersions on the integrity and impartiality of SAPS and the judiciary; acknowledges that SAPS is constitutionally mandated to investigate crime and uphold the law, and must be allowed to perform its duties independently, without fear, favour, or political interference; affirms that no public representative regardless of political position or status should attempt to subvert or intimidate law enforcement agencies through litigation or public pressure, especially in matters involving allegations of corruption or misconduct; calls on all elected officials, especially DA members, to respect the authority ...[Interjections.] of independent institutions and to cooperate fully with law enforcement in the spirit of transparency and accountability, like any other citizen. I so move.

*[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]*

An HON MEMBER: We object!

An HON MEMBER: Object!

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

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice.

A week ago, we had a former hon member of this House, hon member Kama, engaged in this particular House. I think no hon member will also object to me welcoming the hon Maseko who served in this particular House for two terms. Welcome. ...[Applause.]

Hon members, we will now deal with the Speaker's Debate as printed on the Order Paper. But before we proceed, I recognise the hon Speaker, Daylin Mitchell.

### **SPEAKER'S DEBATE**

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon members, I have called this debate in terms of Rule 147 of the Standing Rules. An important date on our parliamentary calendar is 1 May, when we commemorate the contributions made by workers in shaping our future and recognise the dedication of frontline workers to serve the people of our province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I now open the floor for discussion of this topic, but it would be remiss of me not to use this opportunity to thank all the wonderful staff of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for their dedication and hard work and commitment to this institution and to the citizens of the Western

Cape. Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Deputy Speaker, it is a privilege to participate in this very important debate today, on a topic that forms the basis of having a meaningful existence. Having a job is not only a way to generate income to support your daily needs, but it creates purpose, it promotes interaction with others, it facilitates personal development and growth. It contributes to a healthy society and most importantly, it enables a more dignified existence.

It is for this reason that we need to make sure that we, as Government, create an environment in which businesses can grow, creating much needed jobs for the citizens of our beautiful province.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Safety plays an integral part in our ability to create a conducive environment for businesses to thrive and the creation of jobs. The Western Cape remains one of the provinces most affected by violent crime. Poverty and inequality remain root causes creating conditions that foster desperation and criminal activity. In turn, criminal activity has a direct impact on the ability of businesses to grow, as it interrupts business operations.



Another growing concern is extortion which has expanded beyond nightclubs and downtown businesses to target small enterprises, public transport operators, construction sites and more recently, even our schools. This illegal practice undermines economic activity, threatens livelihoods and disrupts essential services.

To combat extortion, a specialised task team has been established by the South African Police Service to investigate and dismantle extortion networks. The Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety is a valuable partner to the South African Police Service in this regard. An anonymous extortion hotline has also been established to report incidents of extortion. This coordinated approach has yielded positive results with numerous arrests of these alleged extortionists and closing the taps to their activities.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government will be hosting a multisectoral summit on the Combatting of Extortion in the Western Cape with the aim of developing a comprehensive unified response that leverages the collective expertise and resources of Government, law enforcement, the private sector and civil society organisations and affected communities.

The problem with extortion requires this unified response as it poses a direct threat to the ability of businesses to grow and create jobs. ...[Interjection.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: The business sector ...[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: The business sector also has ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat. I see the hon Benson.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on the basis of relevance because the content of her statement has nothing to do with the commemoration of the International Workers' Day. By instance, the issue, the crisis of crime of which of course, is a concern to all of us.

An HON MEMBER: Maybe you are ...[Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will not dictate, but also, it is a matter of interpretation. I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Ngqentsu is rising on

a frivolous point of order and is trying to break the hon Minister's flow. So perhaps maybe, what you should suggest to him is that he uses his ears to listen to the hon Minister's speech until she has concluded. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Let us proceed. Hon Minister, you have five minutes remaining.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you. The problem with extortion requires this unified response as it poses a direct threat ...[Interjections.] to the ability of businesses to grow and create jobs.

The business sector also has a representative serving on a Provincial Safety Act Advisory Committee which advises and makes recommendations on how to further improve the Western Cape Government's crime fighting, and prevention policies and strategies. On this platform, we are able to better understand the challenges ...[Interjections.] faced by businesses and be advised on what the best approach is in addressing these challenges. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape Government through the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, is continuously working towards creating a safer society ...[Interjections.] in which businesses can operate without interruptions caused by violence or the threat of violence. Our initiatives further help to create safer communities so that our workers are

able to travel to and from their places of work.

And example of our investment in creating safer spaces is our LEAP programme. LEAP officers serve as a force multiplier to the South African Police Service and engage in visible policing. Firearm confiscation and community engagements contribute to increased safety and stability in communities, experienced the highest levels of violent crime. [Interjections.] Hon Deputy Speaker, the increased police visibility created by the presence of our LEAP officers in these communities provide our residents with more confidence to go about their day without fear or harm.

Community-based safety structures, such as Neighbourhood Watches and Community Policing Forums, also play a crucial role ...[Interjections.] in crime prevention through mass visibility patrols. Neighbourhood Watch patrollers often sacrifice their sleep to add that extra layer of protection for workers travelling to and from their places of work during peak hours.

The Western Cape Government will therefore continue to facilitate the establishment of these crucial safety structures, go to accredit and support thousand Neighbourhood Watches by 2030, providing them with training, funding and digital tools to enhance their effectiveness. Community Policing Forums, in their turn, create a platform where the business community can directly engage with the South African Police Service regarding issues of safety affecting their operations in specific policing precincts. We will therefore continue to support CPFs to be the enabling body for the creation of

safer business environments.

The training provided to Neighbourhood Watch members and their continuous activism in a safety environment creates opportunities for employment. Our Neighbourhood Watch patrollers often advance through the phases and eventually join the law enforcement agencies that they religiously supported through their safety activities. Our LEAP programme supports approximately 1 000 job opportunities, while enhancing our ability to tackle violent crime. Through our Peace Officer training programme, we aim to create at least 240 employment opportunities annually, as mentioned during my budget speech recently. ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat? I see the hon Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I think there is seriously a mistake because we are debating here today, Workers' Day. Maybe there is a mistake that happened in the speech. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No, that is her portfolio.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I am just trying to check. [Interjections.] Really, we have been patient in saying maybe there is something. Can that quickly be rectified? Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members, before I see the Chief Whip. This is a political debate. I am not going to adjudicate on the content, but we are commemorating Workers' Day. I am currently, as a Deputy Speaker, working. The hon Speaker is watching me to see if I am able to maintain order. So, please help me as we commemorate Workers' Day ...[Interjections.] and as I am currently sitting here and working. Are you covered? You are covered? Are you going to help me to work, hon member Benson?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, no, no, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.] No, thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Indeed, in defence of the hon MEC, the state of the Police Oversight and Community Safety is quite important for the House. So, I mean, I want to join those who are saying hands off to the hon MEC. Hands off. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon member Benson is going to help me to work ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...as I am seated here. [Interjections.] I do note that you are on the Order Paper as well. Hon Minister, two minutes and 12 seconds. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY:

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Through our Chrysalis Academy Programme, we will continue to provide at-risk youth with life skills, occasional training and employment opportunities. [Interjections.] Graduates of the programme are given workplace experiences and opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, while doing our best to improve the fibre of our communities, it is important to provide these opportunities for growth, inspiring hope in our youth to make a meaningful contribution to society and be active agents of change. Our Department will continue to initiate and support programmes aimed at making our Province a safer place and capacitating our citizens in a process ...[Interjections.] to make them more employable and to have a more dignified life. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I see the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of the Western Cape, I greet you. Today, as we gather to commemorate Workers' Day, we do not merely celebrate a date on this calendar. We honour the blood, sweat and tears of the generation of workers who fought for freedom and enjoy today. We remember the sacrifice of those who stood firm against the brutality of apartheid, who organised in secret,

who marched in defiance and who turned the wheels of history towards justice.

Before 1994, the workplace was a battlefield for Black workers. Apartheid laws threatened Black labour as cheap, disposable and subhuman. Black workers were banned from skilled jobs, denied union rights and forced into back-breaking labour for starvation wages. Farm workers and domestic workers, overwhelmingly Black and female, were excluded from basic protection, subjected to abuse and trapped in cycles of poverty. There was no minimum wage, no overtime pay, and no rights to refuse unsafe work.

The apartheid economy was built on the exploitation, but the workers refused to be broken. From the Durban strike of 1973 to the mighty COSATU-led stay-aways of the 1980's, workers organised, resisted and made apartheid ungovernable. They proved that freedom would not come without liberation of the working class.

When democracy dawned in 1994, it actioned in a revolution of workers' rights. For the first time in our nation's history, the Constitution guaranteed every worker the right to dignity, equality and fair labour practice. The ANC-led Government did not stop at promises. We translated these constitutional rights into real life-changing victories for millions of working people across the country.

One of the cornerstones of transformation was the Basic Conditions of



Employment Act. The Legislation put an end to the 16-hour shift without rest, and outlawed child labour on farms and factories. For the first time, all workers included those previously excluded like farmworkers and domestic workers, were guaranteed paid leave, overtime, compensation, regulated working hours and protection against unfair dismissals. This was a direct challenge to centuries of abuse under colonialism and apartheid.

The Labour Relations Act further strengthened worker power by legalising the right to join trade unions, to strike and to engage in collective bargaining. These are rights that apartheid vigorously denied, but which today empower millions to negotiate for better wages and working conditions. Yet, despite the progress, the Democratic Alliance, including its hon members in the House, have consistently shown discomfort, even hostility towards this freedom. [Interjections.] Their vision for labour is one that rolls back the hard-won rights of the working class. [Interjections.]

In 2019, we made history again by introducing the National Minimum Wage Act, setting a national wage floor for R25,42 per hour. This was a crucial step in our battle against poverty wages, especially for the most vulnerable. Domestic workers and farmworkers who for generations were underpaid and compensated with food, alcohol, small amounts of cash. On 1 March 2024, this wage was increased to R27,58 per hour, demonstrating our ongoing commitment towards improving the lives of workers. The DA opposed this too. The alternative, a society where workers and wages are barely above the level of old age grants. This is the vision for labour in South Africa: cheap,

exploitable and voiceless.

Lastly, the Employment Act has allowed us to dismantle the racial barriers that kept Black professionals out of boardrooms and leadership positions. We now celebrate a new generation of Black CEOs, CFOs, doctors and lawyers who are rising because of policies that promote inclusive and fairness. But this law is not just about the boardrooms. It also protects the most vulnerable workers from systematic abuse, exploitation and exclusion. It strikes at the heart of the apartheid legacy by insisting on fair representation and equal opportunities in every workplace.

Why is the DA in court challenging the Employment Act? This is the very same DA that claims to celebrate Workers' Day. Yet, they are actively trying to dismantle one of the key laws that protects workers and advances workplace transformation. This is hypocrisy of the highest order. You cannot claim to honour workers while fighting to reverse the gains they have made.

Yet, comrades, the struggle is far from over. Whilst we celebrate the hard-won victories of our democratic labour laws, we must confront the persistent and shameful reality inequality in the workplace. Women workers continue to earn less than men, face daily harassment and are too often left unprotected by those in power.

In the Western Cape, female Government employees endure routine abuse at

the hands of senior male officials, yet the Provincial Government remains shamefully silent. Farrell Payne walks free. Brian Paulse continues to be protected. These are clear examples of a system that shield perpetrators instead of defending victims. Our laws must not only exist on paper. They must be enforced with urgency and integrity to protect the dignity and safety ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, whilst we celebrate Workers' Day, the DA in the Western Cape continues [Inaudible.] our hard-won progress, opposing the minimum wage, challenging employment equity and ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): In Swellendam, the hospital and the workers in the hospital ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Therefore, as the ANC, ...[Interjections.] we honour this Workers' Day. [Interjections.] It is ours!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Stoffel. ...[Applause.] I

did not want to interrupt hon Stoffel from working ...[Laughter.] because we are definitely maintaining the decorum of the House. I now see the hon Constable. ...[Interjection.]

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): With the correct speech.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon members of this Parliament and fellow South Africans. We stand today under the banner of Workers' Day, 1 May, rooted in resistance, dignity and the struggle of justice. The origin of this international commemoration dates back to 1886 in Chicago, when workers gave their lives demanding the eight-hour working day. In South Africa, Workers' Day was adopted post-apartheid to honour those who fought not just for the labour rights, but for the future of equity and inclusion.

But today, I ask this House and this country: is Workers' Day still relevant to Coloured people in the Western Cape? [Interjections.] How can we ask people to celebrate a day dedicated to employment rights when the life reality is chronic unemployment and systemic exclusion, when the so-called victories of democracy have not translated into access to dignity and opportunities for Coloured workers?

Hon Deputy Speaker, let us confront the brutal truth. Employment equity in South Africa has become the most effective modern instrument of exclusion for Coloured people, especially in the Western Cape where they are the

largest demography.

The Commission for the Employment Equity 2023 Report shows that Coloured people make up 48,8% of the economic activity population in the Western Cape yet, are still grossly under-represented at all levels of employment. Particularly in top management there are only 11,6% and senior management only 14,2%. This is not by accident. It is a result of deliberate application of national demographics in provincial context sidelining the Coloured population in their own backyard. And who is responsible? Provincial, as well as National Government.

So, I ask again, what is the relevance of Workers' Day for a Coloured child from Bonteheuwel and in Bishop Lavis, in Steenberg, in Hanover Park and specifically, in the Central Karoo who wake up daily to no jobs, no hope and no future. What is there to celebrate when the Coloured youth experience 365 days of unemployment, 365 days of rejection, 365 days of being told they do not count? The irony is bitter.

When it is time for elections, all the political parties show up in our communities demanding the votes from our people they refuse to hire, train or develop. They want our vote, but not our participation. They want our compliance, but not our contribution. For Workers' Day to regain a meaningful Coloured ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Let me conclude. We, as the Patriotic Alliance, make it clear that no transformation can take place if it excludes the communities of Coloured people in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Constable. I recognise the hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Workers' Day stems from a struggle to develop and maintain workers' rights in the fight against social injustice and exclusion. It has its roots as a struggle by the working class or as the social class revolting against an unjust system at the hands of those who own the means of production.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the struggle might have started sometime back in the 1800's around the world, but it still continues in modern day South Africa due to the constant struggles workers face against this Government, as well as within the private sector. Our people get retrenched on a daily basis in situations where such a move could have been avoided, as we have seen in this province where teachers' posts were cut only because those in power do not want to pay salaries of those much-needed teachers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF has over the years, been calling for the insourcing of workers rendering services to the public institutions, including,

but not limited to nurses, porters, cleaners and general workers among others. But all these calls have been falling on deaf ears. Most of these workers provide services to these Government institutions directly, whilst employed by agencies who offer them below minimum wage as some workers are even forced to pay money upfront in order to get a job.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in 2022, as the EFF, we yielded to call where hospital service assistants' contracts were being unjustly terminated at Groote Schuur Hospital at the hands of this Provincial Government. It was this DA Government that made sure that these workers not only lose their jobs but get arrested on the day as well.

Farm workers remain without rights in this province, more especially at the hands of abusive White farmers. Hon Deputy Speaker, the plight of farmworkers in this province means they receive little wages or small wages, and some are even remunerated in the form of wine on these farms. Hon Deputy Speaker, the majority of farmworkers do not even know their rights, and this is the reason why White farmers take advantage of them across the province. These farmworkers are constantly evicted from these farms as well for minor mistakes and left without anywhere else to go as some lived most of their lives on these farms and were even born on these farms.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, it is quite ironic that this debate is sponsored by someone from the DA, coming from a party which has no regard for workers' rights in this province, especially Black and Coloured workers.

Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Ah!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I see the hon Kaizer-Philander.

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Baie dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Ek staan vandag op met diepe respek en 'n opregte huldeblyk aan diegene wat noodsaaklike dienste lewer, veral die toegewyde werkers in maatskaplike ontwikkeling, gesondheidsorg en onderwys. Vandag in hierdie Huis staan ons stil om hulde te bring aan die ware ruggraat van ons samelewing. Die mans en vroue wie se onvermoeide pogings dalk nie opslae maak nie, maar wat daaglik lewens verander.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, aan die voorpunt van ons maatskaplike dienste, staan ons maatskaplike diens-werkers. Hulle is dikwels die eerste om te reageer op die krisis waarmee te veel gesinne gekonfronteer word. Armoede, huishoudelike geweld, dwelmmisbruik en gesinsverbokkeling, maar hulle is nie net administrateurs nie.

Hulle is gemeenskapbouers, beskermers van die kwesbare en lewenslyne vir diegene op die rand. Hulle keer dat kinders deur die krake val. Hulle help vroue om uit die kringloop van mishandeling te ontsnap. Hulle ondersteun bejaardes om met waardigheid te leef en tog, ontstellend genoeg word hierdie



werkers toenemend aan geweld onderwerp, spesifiek verval, fisies en in tragiese gevalle, dodelik terwyl hulle eenvoudig hulle pligte probeer uitvoer.

Wanneer 'n maatskaplike werker aangeval word, is dit nie net 'n individu wat seergemaak word nie. Dit is 'n gesin wat sonder ondersteuning gelaat word, 'n gemeenskap wat blootgestel word en die gevolg is uiterste uitbranding en bedankings wat 'n gevaarlike illusie van die stelsel kan veroorsaak wat ontwerp is om ons kwesbaarste te beskerm.

Daarom, agb Adjunkspeaker, is dit belangrik om maatskaplike werkers as noodsaaklike diensverskaffers te klassifiseer om die goeie werk wat hulle tot hierdie sektor bring, te beskerm. Agb Adjunkspeaker, gesondheid en welsyn is nie luukshede nie. Dit is fundamentele menseregte en hierdie regte word daaglik bevestig deur ons verpleegkundiges, ons dokters, terapeute, en gemeenskap-gesondheidswerkers. Hulle is die hoeksteen van welsyn in ons samelewing. Hulle bied nie net behandeling aan nie, maar ook troos, stabiliteit en vertroue in gemeenskappe waar dit dikwels ontbreek.

Geïntegreerde gesondheidsorg waar maatskaplike dienste en geestesgesondheid-ondersteuning deel is van hierdie ekosisteem. Dit is nie 'n droom nie. Dit is 'n noodsaaklikheid. Wanneer ons mense holisties behandel, doen ons meer as om simptome te bestuur, ons skep ware. Gesondheidsorg is nie net 'n middel tot genesing nie, maar ook tot ontwikkeling en waardigheid.

Agb Adjunkspeaker, onderwys bly die grondslag van volhoubare sosio-

ekonomiese vooruitgang. Ons onderwysers is meer as net opvoeders. Hulle is mentors, rolmodelle, beskermers en dikwels die enigste konstante volwassene in 'n kind se lewe. Veral in onderbefondsde skole dra hulle 'n ondenkbare las, maar daag hulle steeds op dag na dag met onwrikbare toewyding. Maar laat ons duidelik wees. Hierdie onderwysers werk in vol klaskamers met beperkte materiaal en met min ondersteuning vir leerlinge se geestelike en emosionele behoeftes.

En ja, agb Adjunkspeaker, daar is dié wat probeer om veral die Wes-Kaap Regering te beskuldig daarvan dat ons geld uit die onderwysstelsel neem. Laat ek dit duidelik stel. Dit is bloot nie waar nie. Moeilike besluite moes geneem word as gevolg van die wanbestuur en korrupsie van 'n mislukte ANC-regering. Tussen 2014 en 2019, het Suid-Afrika sowat R1,5 triljoen verloor aan korrupsie en wanadministrasie wat moontlik gemaak word deur dieselfde mense wat 'n eed afgelê het om hierdie land te dien. Maar eerder, het hulle saamgesweer om hierdie land te beroof. En nou word daar van ons verwag om verantwoording te doen vir die finansiële gemors wat hulle geskep het.

Aan die agb kollegas aan die ander kant van die vloer sê ek: voordat julle vra of praat van geld, vra eerder eers vir julle kollegas op nasionale vlak om die geld terug te betaal. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Today I rise with deep respect and a sincere tribute to those delivering essential services, especially the dedicated workers in social development,

health care and education. Today in this House we stand to honour the true spine of our society. Than men and women whose unrelenting efforts do not make waves, but who would change lives daily.

Hon Deputy Speaker, at the forefront of our social services stand our social workers. They are often the first to react to crises with which too many families are confronted. Poverty, domestic violence, drug abuse and family disintegration, but they are not only administrators.

They are community builders, protectors of the vulnerable and life direction for those on the edge. They prevent that children fall through the cracks. They help women to escape from the cycle of abuse. They support the aged to live with dignity and yet, disturbingly enough these workers are exposed increasingly to violence, specifically disintegration, physically and in tragic cases, deadly while they are simply trying to do their tasks.

When a social worker is attacked, it is not only the individual that is hurt. It is a family left without support, a community exposed and the result is the extreme exhaustion and resignations that can cause a dangerous illusion of the system that was designed to protect our most vulnerable.

Therefore, hon Deputy Speaker, it is an important to classify social workers as essential service providers to protect the good work that they bring to this sector. Hon Deputy Speaker, health and wellness are not luxuries. It is fundamental human rights and these rights are daily confirmed by our nursing

professionals, our doctors, therapists and community health workers. They are the cornerstone of wellness in our society. They not only offer treatment, but also consolation, stability and trust in communities where it is often lacking.

Integrated healthcare where social services and mental health support are part of this ecosystem. It is not a dream. It is a necessity. When we treat people holistically, we do more than just manage symptoms, we create real well being. Healthcare is not just a means to recovery but also to development and dignity.

Hon Deputy Speaker, education remains the basis of sustainable socio-economic progress. Our are more than just educators. They are mentors, role models, protectors and often the only constant adult in a child's life. Especially in underfunded schools they carry an unbelievable burden, but they still show up day after day with firm commitment. But let us be clear. These teachers work in full classrooms with limited materiaal and with little support for learners' spiritual and emotional needs.

And yes, hon Deputy Speaker, there are those who try to accuse especially the Western Cape Government, of taking money from the education system. Let me state it clearly. It is simply untrue. Difficult decisions had to be taken as a result of mismanagement and corruption of a failed ANC government. Between 2014 and 2019, South Africa has lost about sowat R1,5 trillion to corruption and maladministration that are made possible by the

same people would took an oath to serve this country. But rather, they conspired to rob this country. And now we are expected to account for the financial mess that they have created.

To the hon colleagues on the other side of the floor I say: before you ask all talk about money, rather ask your colleagues at national level first to pay back the money. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

†Me W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Geagte Adjunkspeaker, die pad vorentoe moet waardig en samewerkend wees. Maatskaplike ontwikkeling, gesondheid en onderwys kan nie in silo's funksioneer nie. Hulle moet saamwerk, hand aan hand, om gemeenskappe op te hef en ons nasie te herbou. Aan elke maatskaplike werker, elke onderwyser, verpleegkundige en versorger, julle werk is nie net waardevol nie. Dit is van kardinale belang. Julle is die bewaarders van waardigheid, die beskermers van moontlikheid en die argitekte van 'n beter more. Ons dank julle nie net vir wat julle doen nie, maar vir wie julle is. Ek dank u, agb Adjunkspeaker. ...[Applous.]

[Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the road ahead must be dignified and cooperative. Social development, health and education cannot function in silos. They must work together, hand in hand, to uplift communities and rebuild our nation. To every social worker, every teacher, nursing professional and carer, your work is not only valuable. It is of cardinal importance. You are the protectors of dignity, the protectors of

possibility and architects of a better tomorrow. We not only thank you for what you do, but for who you are. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. ...[Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. I see the hon Jacobs.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Speaking in vernacular – 3:17:57] Hon Deputy Speaker, on 1 May we celebrate May Day, a day we commemorate the victories claimed by workers and unions around the globe. Now, hon Deputy Speaker, in South Africa, we think of issues that were addressed and one such as the eight-hour work shift, minimum wage, workplace safety, paid leave and anti-discrimination laws.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, if we must critically look at the workplace, we will find ourselves making a mockery of the blood of those who died to cement these gains for us in the workplace. We must admit, we are losing the battle.

Hon Deputy Speaker, capitalism, the disregard for labour practices and discrimination are alive. The daily news agencies will tell us yet another violent protest, mass retrenchment and the casualisation of the workplace. †Ons praat nou van een maand, twee, drie, vier, vyf maande kontrakkies. [We are now speaking of one month, two, three, four, five months' little

contracts.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, May Day has become just another public holiday and, in some cases, a long weekend. Meanwhile, we forget the pain and suffering that moved this Government to honour the fight of the working class. Hon Deputy Speaker, in our province, we see farmworkers being illegally evicted, call centre staff being abused mentally, physically, workers are being dismissed unfairly, and many Coloured workers are being replaced. Race-based!

Hon Deputy Speaker, how can we celebrate Workers' Day in the Coloured community when 80% of our community is unemployed. Now, there is a saying that goes: we have no right to believe that freedom can be won without the struggle. Never! The Coloured struggle is real. Apartheid-style housing, unemployment, gang violence, crime, and the inability of the Western Cape Government to stop the uncontrolled entry of illegal foreign businesses and illegal informal settlements.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me remind this House that we will never, ever forget why May Day was announced. *Amase*.

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

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

Speaker, Workers' Day no longer holds the meaning in South Africa because so many thousands are unemployed. Today, despite the plethora of legislation protecting the rights of workers, we have one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. For the past 30 years, we have had a National Government more obsessed with racial quotas, now called 'targets', rather than focusing on achieving higher levels of employment, especially among our youth.

Economic growth will potentially solve our employment equity crisis and inequality crisis. Employment equity laws will not solve our economic crisis and labour unions continue demanding unreasonable wage increases but do very little to improve workers' productivity.

The Freedom Front Plus calls for a new approach and realigned economic policies that will allow for conditions conducive to higher levels of investments underpinned by business confidence. Reduce business tax to allow them to expand and create more job opportunities. Hon Deputy Speaker, we need to support entrepreneurs. Workers' Day should be Entrepreneurs' Day because that should be the focus going forward. They create the jobs.

In conclusion, Workers' Day is a sad day. There is nothing to celebrate because men and women are rather forced to subject themselves to generate income illegally because there is no other way and that must be solved by this Government. I thank you.



The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I see the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, today Al Jama-ah rises in honour of the workers, the men and women whose hands built this country and whose struggles continue to shape its future. Workers' Day is not just a calendar event. It is a political statement. A remembrance of the past and a rallying call for justice in the present.

Our movement recognises the role of workers not just as economic participants, but as vanguards in the liberation struggle. From the mines to the factories, from farms to public offices, it was the organised strength of workers that helped crack the spine of apartheid. Yet, the painful truth is economic liberation still eludes the majority. Workers face precarious jobs, exploitation contracts and a system that rewards capital, while disregarding human dignity.

Today, unemployment remains a crisis, particularly among the youth. Trade union membership is declining with over 70% of workers outside of organised labour. Victimisation of unionised workers persists, while union leadership is at times consumed by internal divisions. We say today: enough is enough. We must revitalise the labour movement as a force for dignity and justice. We demand that the Provincial Legislator protects the right to organise and to act decisively against employers who undermine it. I thank

you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Brinkhuis. I see the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, today we commemorate Workers' Day following an inciteful engagement at the G20 Global Parliamentary Network where hon members of this Parliament and from around the world, deliberated on the critical need to invest in women's health.

I wish to thank my hon colleagues here in this House for their commitment and valuable contributions to this important dialogue. It is through such discussions that we begin to create a healthier women workforce. On behalf of the Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape, I express our deepest appreciation to all workers across the province. Thank you for choosing the path of dignity, resilience and economic contribution, rather than the road of destruction and despair.

This message is shared against the backdrop of a national unemployment crisis. Yet here in the Western Cape, we continue to demonstrate that what is possible when Government workers and the private sector partner for progress.

Workers, your decision to partner with the Western Cape Government, private sector and civil society is not just an act of personal responsibility. It is an

act of patriotism. You have rejected the populous rhetoric of union bosses who call for shutdowns and economic sabotage. You have refused to allow your future to be defined by outdated ideologies rooted in failed Marxist dogma. To the affiliates of NEHAWU, COSATU, ANC and PA, Government and business are not your enemies. They are your partners in development. Together, we must build and not burn.

Let us learn from history as noted by American historian Lee Edwards when Mikhail Gorbachev took power in the Soviet Union in 1985, he inherited a crumbling empire. After 70 years of Marxism, the farms could not feed the people, the factories could not meet basic quotas and citizens stood in bread lines ...[Interjections.] while their soldiers returned from Afghanistan in body bags. This is the legacy of Marxism: poverty, hunger, failure and despair. [Interjections.]

We do not need to look as far as Russia. Closer to home, ANC-run Johannesburg, Germiston, Vereeniging, East London, Gqeberha, ...[Interjections.] once proud cities have been reduced to rubble under ANC misrule, cheered on by their ideological partners ...[Interjections.] in COSATU and SACP. These ANC municipalities are on the brink of collapse ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...and when they fall, the Democratic Alliance will be

called upon to clean up ...[Interjections.] yet, another disaster left behind by ideological obsession and policy neglect. By contrast, in the Western Cape, workers are ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...the heartbeat of an economy that works.

We see it in Cape Town's worldclass infrastructure. We see it in our efficient road networks, in the booming tourism sector and in the rising investor confidence that brings conferences, global events and economic opportunities to our doorstep. Cape Town has once again been named 'Africa's leading City destination' and it is because of the workers who get up every day and do their part to make our province work.

And that is why we honour them today. We, in the Democratic Alliance, believe in empowering our workers. Not pacifying them with false promises. That is why the Western Cape Government continues to priorities policies that attract investment, reduce red tape and expand access to job opportunities, especially for young people. [Interjections.] We also extend our gratitude to unions and workers organisations that understand the difference between protecting workers' rights and sabotaging economic recovery. We thank those who chose dialogue over destruction and pragmatism over populism.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when over 43% of our youth are unemployed, it is not just an economic crisis. It is a moral failure, and that failure lies squarely at the feet of the ANC Government whose inflexible labour laws and race-based regulatory frameworks have made it even harder to grow the economy. They have made it even harder for hope.

While the DA remains firmly committed to transformation, we reject the notion that we must shrink the pie in order to share it. Real empowerment comes from growing the economy. Not choking it with quotas and BEE regulation, cadre deployment and union interference. [Interjections.] We believe that dignity comes from work, not welfare. It comes from enterprise, not entitlement. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): It comes from opportunity, not ideology, ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): ...hon members. To the workers of the Western Cape, we just want to say, 'thank you'. Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for keeping the lights on. Thank you for the roads that are open that we can drive without potholes. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you for the economy that is growing. Thank you that are hopes are alive. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Masipa. I see the hon Christians. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. [Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As the ACDP we recognise the dedication and contributions of all our workers. Hon Deputy Speaker, we want to honour and celebrate those workers ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Your turn ...[Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...who rise up early in the morning ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Let us listen to ...[Interjections.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...and arrive at home when it is dark. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: ...is speaking.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): We honour those hardworking men and women ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: ...is speaking.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): ...who want to make sure that their children complete their education, that their children graduate to make sure that they end the curse of poverty. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have a long way to go to ensure that the Government creates an environment for economic growth. [Interjections.]

Too many of our young people who matriculated, too many of our young people who graduated are still sitting at home. Too many of our fathers and mothers cannot provide for their families because they cannot find employment. Hon Deputy Speaker, as the ACDP, we want to salute the hardworking frontline workers who are sacrificing their lives, who are sacrificing their family time so that we can enjoy these services.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Workers' Day is a celebration for those who work hard to make sure that we live in safety. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I see the hon Herron. Before hon Herron, I see the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, just a point of curiosity, hon Deputy Speaker. For the second Sitting in the row now, the hon Dr Meyer is not in the House. I am quite concerned. ...[Laughter.] It is rather unlike him not to be in the House. [Interjections.] Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members ...[Interjections.] Hon members, we are nearing the end of our Sitting. I see the hon Herron. [Interjections.]

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, before we begin, we should pause to acknowledge the deep irony of having this debate here in the Western Cape, a province where the political leadership is actively campaigning against progressive changes to employment equity laws. To honour the sacrifices of workers while simultaneously fighting to entrench historical work privilege is not just contradictory, it is outrageous. [Interjections.]

Workers' Day represents the profound sacrifices made by those who fought tirelessly for the rights we now hold dear. Workers' Day is rooted in the struggles against apartheid-era labour exploitation where workers demanded fair wages, safe working conditions and the right to unionise. However, while we honour these historic victories, we must confront the pressing challenges that persist.

Nationally, South Africa grapples with a staggering unemployment rate with



over 40% of our population unemployed. In the Western Cape, although the official unemployment rate stands at 19,6%, this figure still represents a significant portion of our population. Moreover, job creation efforts have predominantly been concentrated in major urban areas, particularly Cape Town which accounts for approximately 73% of the province's GDP.

This urban centric development has marginalised our rural communities. For instance, regions like the Central Karoo face unemployment rates of as high as 25,6%, highlighting the stark disparities within our province. Young people in rural towns, small towns and farming communities are being left behind, often forced to migrate or face a future without an opportunity.

The dignity of work is not a privilege; it is a right. If we are to truly honour the legacy of Workers' Day, we must renew our fight for that right. We must strive for inclusive economic policies that address these regional disparities ensuring that every worker, regardless of their postal code, has access to dignified employment opportunities. The Western Cape Government must step up. Workers' Day must be more than a commemoration. It must be a commitment to action. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Herron. [Interjections.] I

see the hon Benson Ngqentsu. [Interjections.] Hon Benson, the podium will be brought to you now. Yes. A man of the people.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

An HON MEMBER: Amen!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member, you may proceed.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much, former Deputy Provincial Chairperson of poor in the province, Beauty Stoffel, for opening the reality bid.

On behalf of our movement, it is both a privilege and a profound honour to represent the workers of this province in today's debate commemorating International Workers' Day. The debate is sponsored at a time when right winged forces and representatives of capitalism are on the offensive, attacking the workers of this country.

I must express my deep concern in sharing this platform with political parties and the remnants of apartheid whose hands are stained with the exploitation of workers. Maybe that is why the hon MEC for Police could not be able to focus on the core issue on the basis that workers in this province, in

particular in the City of Cape Town, were facing dismissal under her own word. [Interjections.] And also, maybe that is why the apartheid apologist, Masipa, launches an attack on Marxism and distorting and lying about failures and failed to apply the successes of capitalism.

I do not mince my words when I say, many of these very same individuals and political parties have no moral authority to commemorate this day. They have consistently opposed the policies of fundamental transformation aimed at redressing centuries of national oppression and capitalist exploitation.

To exemplify, on Tuesday, 6 May 2025, those who either benefited directly from racial exclusion ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, are you able to take your seat?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...or were complicit in sustaining the legacy ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Benson, there is a point of order. I see the hon Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon member Masipa was referred to as an apartheid apologist, ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: So?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...which I do not believe is parliamentary. [Interjections.] In fact, it is utterly untrue, in fact is part of the pro-poor party in this House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I will consult Hansard in that regard ...[Interjections.] and return to the House if need be. Hon Benson, please continue.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): On Tuesday, 6 May 2025, those who either benefited directly from racial exclusion ...[Interjections.] or were complicit in sustaining the legacy of colonialism ...[Indistinct.] and apartheid approached the High Court to challenge the Employment Equity Amendment Act. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: And they lost it.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yes, even Masipa himself, he is in the DA and a beneficiary of affirmative action. ...[Applause.] It is no secret that those opposed to policies ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...of fundamental transformation are led by the DA ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, are you able to take your seat? I see the hon Masipa.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon speaker on the floor referred to me directly. He must speak through you, hon Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Masipa. Hon Benson, please speak through the Chair.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): It is no secret that those opposed to policies of fundamental transformation, including apologists such as hon Masipa, are from the DA, the Freedom Front Plus and their Afri-Forum.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when we speak of policies of fundamental transformation in South Africa's labour market, and policies we today celebrate, we refer to the progressive legal frameworks and reforms that have reshaped the labour dispensation in our country and they include key amongst others: the Employment Equity Act. Here, in South Africa, whilst Whites constitute a mere 8%, they are 68% in top positions and that must come to an end, and employment equity seeks to address that question.

These labour frameworks include labour relations, basic conditions of employment, national minimum wage, including the right to collective

bargaining and joining a union. These are not just laws and rights, they are the embodiment of hard-won victories by workers and their representatives. Yet, we now face a resurgence of right-wing forces, particularly the DA, who represent the interests of capitalists.

In this context, as we commemorate the International Workers' Day and given how representatives of capitalist market forces are emboldened here at home, we call on all workers across this province and the economy of these sectors of our economy, Black and White, to isolate these elements. We must resist the rollback of our hard-earned rights by those who serve corporate and capitalist interests.

Hon Deputy Speaker, despite the current right-wing capitalist offensive on the workers, International Workers' Day is rooted in the global history of worker resistance and sacrifice. We remember the Australian workers of 1856 who demanded the end to the 18-hour workday. We honour the over 350 000 American workers who took to the streets on 1 May 1886, demanding 8 hours for work, 8 hours for rest, and 8 hours for what we will.

In South Africa, we celebrate the courage of White workers who gathered in Market Square in 1904, the railway workers of Cape Town in 1906, and those in Durban in 1909 all of whom stood up against exploitation.

We pay tribute to the International Socialist League, the forerunner of the Communist Party ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu. I see there is a point of order. I see the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I do want to commend him because they are really honouring the eight-eight-eight principle by only getting eight members elected to Parliament. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that is not a point of order. Hon members, we are drawing to the end. I will not entertain any further points of orders in this regard. [Interjections.] I will not entertain any points of order further in this regard and I will caution hon members that frivolous points of orders that are raised should ultimately be kept to yourself. So, hon member Benson, you may proceed. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): We honour the resolution passed by the ANC, the SACP, ...[Interjection.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Point of order, hon Deputy Speaker.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...and the South African Indian Congress in 1950 to organise mass action in Orlando West ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...against pass laws and discriminatory legislation ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Ngqentsu, please take your seat.

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, you recognised my hand. Can I?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I want to ask the hon member if he is prepared to take a question. Is the hon member prepared to take a question? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you prepared to take a question, hon member Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No. No! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): We remember with pride ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Proceed.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ... OR Tambo, who on May Day 1985, called on



workers to render the country ungovernable as part of the broader liberation struggle.

Over the years, May Day has come to symbolise the struggles waged by South African workers under the leadership of SACTU, FOSATU, COSATU, the SACP, and the ANC struggles against the two interrelated contradictions, the national oppression as a dominant contradiction on the one hand, and capitalist exploitation as a fundamental contradiction on the other hand.

Finally, let us not allow the sacrifices of our forebears to be reversed. Let us stand firm, united, and vigilant in defence of our rights. Let us honour the past by fighting for the future. In recognition of the sacrifices of the trade union movement, both locally and internationally, we will not succumb to the right-wing agenda bent to challenge the Employment Equity Amendment Act, specifically Section 15(A) even if they use our courts.

Against this background, we call on the courts to refuse to be used as instruments to undermine the policies of fundamental transformation in this province and country and the remnants of colonialism of a special type and apartheid. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Ngqentsu. ...[Applause.]  
I see the hon Minister Simmers.

Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die Premier

aanlyn, agb medelede van die Kabinet ook hier teenwoordig en aanlyn, agb lede van die Provinsiale Parlement, inwoners van die Wes-Kaap. Vandag by hierdie debat ter herdenking aan Werkersdag, bring ons hulde aan die mense wat werklik ons provinsie dra en ons ekonomie dryf: ons werkers.

Dit is die ambagsmanne, die vakleerlinge, die padwerkers, die kontrakteurs en ja, die EPWP werkers. Dit is hulle wat die fundamente lê vir die Wes-Kaap van môre en dit is hierdie Regering, die Wes-Kaapse Regering onder die leiding van hierdie regerende Demokratiese Alliansie ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, the Premier online, hon members of the Cabinet and online, hon members of the Provincial Parliament, citizens of the Western Cape. Today at this debate to commemorate Workers Day we pay tribute to the people who really carry our province and drive our economy: our workers.]

It is the artisans, the apprentices, the road workers, the contractors and yes, the EPWP workers. It is they who lay the foundation for the Western Cape of tomorrow and it is this Government, the Western Cape Government under the leadership of this governing Democratic Alliance ...[Inerjection.]

† 'n AGBARE LID: Die ...[Onhoorbaar.]

[An HON MEMBER: The ...[Inaudible.]]

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: ...wat hulle ondersteun met meer as net mooi woorde wat van daardie kant van die Huis af kom. Ons

skep 'n provinsie waar werkers as't ware kan floreer.

Maar, agb *Deputy Speaker*, ek wil graag begin met 'n kwessie wat ons almal geskok het en ons almal steeds diep raak. Dit is die George-gebou ineenstorting gegewe dat 34 werkers gesterf het en 28 werkers se lewe radikaal verander het binne vyf sekondes op 'n bouterrein. Ons onthou die tragedie steeds elke dag. Die pyn is steeds vars en die onsekerheid wat heers en die talle vrae wat ons almal steeds het, is geregverdig.

En ja, ons almal binne in hierdie Huis en buite, wil die waarheid hê. Maar daardie waarheid moet deur wettige en regverdige prosesse gevind word, sonder om die integriteit van moontlike strafregtelike vervolging te ondermyn. Geregtigheid vir die slagoffers, en ek moet weereens benadruk wat werkers was en steeds is, vereis geduld en deeglikheid van elkeen van ons. Ons sal nie daardie proses op enige wyse belemmer of benadeel nie.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ons bou voort as 'n provinsie van hoop op die fondament van hoop deur ons werkers. Om menswaardigheid en inklusiwiteit te bevorder, en ons ekonomie te laat groei, sodat meer werkseleenthede geskep kan word vir almal in ons provinsie. Ja, selfs vir dié in die Sentraal-Karoo.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, sedert 2019 het my Departement in die Wes-Kaap, meer as 64 000 werkseleenthede geskep deur die Uitgebreide Openbare Werkersprogram. Weereens dit dek alle areas in die Wes-Kaap. In 2023 alleen, is meer as 15 000 mense in diens geneem. Van hierdie mense, 67% is

vroue en 49% is jonger as die ouderdom van 35 jaar. Hierdie program bereik alle gemeenskappe in die provinsie waar dit nie gepolitiseer word, soos in die Sentraal-Karoo nie.

Maar werkskepping, agb *Deputy Speaker*, gaan hand aan hand met die ontwikkeling van vaardigheid. Sedert 2020, belê hierdie Provinsiale Regering deur my Departement, meer as R125 miljoen in beurse en opleiding aan meer as 2 000 jongmense wat reeds voordeel hieruit getrek het, en byna 850 studente wat alreeds tans studeer in velde soos siviele ingenieurswese, argitektuur en landmeting. Maar wat help die skepping van talle werkgeleenthede sonder regverdigheid? 'n Woord wat ons baie vandag hier gehoor het.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die DA as die regerende party in die Wes-Kaap, ondersteun die geveg tans in die Hof teen die Wysigingswet op Gelyke Indiensneming. Hierdie wetgewing wil nasionale rasse-aanstellingsdiktate op die privaatsektor-ondernemings afdwing in alle provinsies. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ... who supports them with more than just nice words coming from that side of the House. We create a province where workers can actually flourish.

But, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to begin with an issue that shocked all of us still touches as deeply. It is the George building collapse given the fact that 34 workers died and 28 workers lives had radically changed within 5 seconds

on a building site. We still recall that tragedy every day. The pain is still fresh and the uncertainty and many questions we all still have is justified. And yes, all of us in this House and outside want the truth. But that truth must be found through legal and just processes, without undermining the integrity of possible legal prosecution. Justice for the victims, and I must again emphasize, that were workers and still are, require patience and thoroughness from each of us. We will not hamper or impair that process.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we continue to build as a province of hope on the foundation of hope through our workers. To promote human dignity and inclusivity and to grow our economy so that more job opportunities can be created for everyone in our province. Yes, even for those in the Central Karoo.

Hon Deputy Speaker, since 2019 my Department in the Western Cape has created more than 64 000 job opportunities through the Extended Public Works Programme. Again it covers all areas in the Western Cape. In 2023 alone, more than 15 000 people were employed. Of these people, 67% are women and 49% are younger than the age of 35 years. This program reaches all communities in the province where it is not politicized as in the Central Karoo.

But job creation, hon Deputy Speaker, goes hand in hand with the development of skills. Since 2020, this Provincial Government through my Department invests more than R125 million in bursaries and training to more

than 2 000 youths who have already benefited from this, and almost 850 students who are already studying in fields such as civil engineering, architecture and land surveying. But what does the creation of numerous job opportunities mean without fairness. A word we have heard often here today.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA as the governing party in the Western Cape supports the fight currently in the court against the Employment Equity Amendment Act. This legislation wants to force national racial appointment dictates upon the private sector enterprises in all provinces ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Dit sê, byvoorbeeld aan 'n klein onderneming in George of 'n kontrakteur in Malmesbury, dat jy nie mense in diens mag neem van daardie area volgens meriete nie. Hulle wil ons mense forseer dat werkers moet aangestel word volgens die nasionale raskwota. Hierdie is nie transformasie nie, ANC, en agb *Deputy Speaker*, hierdie is die bevordering van werkloosheid deur rassekriteria wat die ANC wil dryf deur hierdie stukkie wetgewing, en ons sê nee as die regerende party in die Wes-Kaap. [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: It says, for example to a small enterprise in George or a contractor in Malmesbury, that you may not employ people from that area based on merit. They want to force our people that workers must be appointed according to the national race quota. This is not transformation, ANC, and hon Deputy Speaker, this is the promotion of

unemployment through racial criteria that the ANC wants to drive through this piece of legislation, and we say no as the governing party in the Western Cape [Interjection.]]

† ‘n AGBARE LID: Ons sê nee! New

[An HON MEMBER: We say no!]

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: In die Wes-Kaap, glo ons in ware gelykheid deur geleenthede, nie gedwonge aanstellings nie, ...[Tussenwerpsel.] en ons dade wys dit in hierdie provinsie. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Sedert 2020, het die Departement van Infrastruktuur meer as R1,2 miljard aan plaaslike klein-, medium- en mikro-ondernemings toegewys. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Ja, julle kan maar raas. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Leë blikke maak in elk geval baie geraas.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, kom ek gee vir die leë blikke 'n praktiese voorbeeld ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: In the Western Cape we believe in true equality through opportunities, not enforced appointments. ...[Interjection.] and our deeds show that in this province. ...[Interjection.] Since 2020, the Department of Infrastructure allocated more than R1,2 billion to local small, medium, and micro enterprises...[Interjection.] Yes, you can make a noise ...[Interjection.] Empty vessels make the most noise in any case.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let me give the empty vessels a practical example...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members, order. This is the final speaker on the Speaker's List, and I will request that the hon Minister speaks through the Chair. Thank you. [Interjections.]

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Baie dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*. Weereens, leë blikke maak die meeste geraas, deur u aan die leë blikke. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Agb *Deputy Speaker*, laat ek prakties wees. In ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Again, empty vessels make the most noise, through you to the empty vessels. ...[Interjection.] Hon Deputy Speaker, let me be practical. In ...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat? [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Nkosi. [Speaking in vernacular – 3:48:35].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you prepared to take a question?

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Nee, agb *Deputy Speaker*. Deur



u aan julle. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: No, hon Deputy Speaker. Through you to you ...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Weereens om te herhaal, agb *Deputy Speaker*, wat is die praktikaliteit van R1,2 miljard waarvan ek tans gepraat het en ek wil ook graag hê ons agb lede, veral van die platteland, moet baie mooi luister.

Die TR33 Ceres projek: 339 werksgeleenthede is tot op datum geskep vir daardie gemeenskappe. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Ons het ses opkomende kontrakteurs alreeds daar aangestel en bemagtig, en ons gaan 'n verdere 12 aanstel. Dit is die verskil wat hierdie Regering maak. Die prima: ...[Tussenwerpsel.] dit is almal plaaslike kontrakteurs wat daar aangestel is. Iets wat nie onder die ANC wysigingswetgewing sou moontlik gewees het nie. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

Onder die Vissershok N7-projek op die N7, alreeds meer as 170 werksgeleenthede is tot op datum geskep. Twee opkomende kontrakteurs van die omliggende area is reeds in diens geneem. Vier plaaslike kontrakteurs is aangestel. Ons sal nog 20 aanstel, maar weereens, was dit vir hierdie wysigingswet kon dit nie moontlik gewees het nie.

Die R43 tussen Stanford en Gansbaai. Hierdie is die projek wat ons in hierdie maand gaan voltooi. Ons het 369 werksgeleenthede geskep. Ons het 16 plaaslike ondernemers wat betrokke was by die projek. Maar weereens, met hierdie wysigingswet sou dit nie moontlik gewees het nie! ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: To again repeat, hon Deputy Speaker, what is the practicality of 1,2 billion that I spoke of and I also want our hon members, especially from the rural areas, to listen carefully.

The TR33 Ceres project: 339 work opportunities have been created to date for those communities ...[Interjection.] We have already appointed and empowered six emerging contractors there and we are going to appoint a further 12. That is the difference that this Government makes. The prima: ...[Interjection.] They are all local contractors that have been appointed there. Something that would not have been possible under the ANC amendment legislation. ...[Interjection.]

Under the Vissershok N7-project on the N7, already more than 170 work opportunities have been created to date. Two emerging contractors of the surrounding area have already been employed. For local contractors were appointed. We will still appoint another 20 but again, with this amendment act it would not have been possible.

The R43 between Stanford and Gansbaai. This is the project that we are going to complete this month. We have created 369 job opportunities. We

have 16 local undertakers who have been involved with the project. But again, with this amendment act it would not have been possible! ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Dit is volhoubare ekonomiese inklusiwiteit, agb *Deputy Speaker*, sonder dwang, sonder rasseskreed of sonder enige rassekategorisering. Werklik mense wat ons 'n geleentheid wou gegee het as die regerende party in hierdie provinsie. [Tussenwerpsel.]

Waarom belê ons so ernstig in infrastruktuur? [Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: It is sustainable economic inclusivity, hon Deputy Speaker, without force, without racial screed or without any racial categorizing. Truly people that we wanted to give an opportunity as the governing party in this province. [Interjection.]

Why do we invest so seriously in infrastructure? [Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I see the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon MEC promised the people of Murraysburg houses. There now, he is speaking about the vulnerable that he has taken care of. [Interjections.] Can he start there?

[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Bans, that is not a point of order.

[Interjections.] Please proceed. [Interjections.]

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: En waarom belê ons so ernstig in infrastruktuur? Dit is omdat ons besef infrastruktuur is 'n ekonomiese dryfkrag van 'n suksesvolle provinsie en 'n suksesvolle munisipaliteit. In hierdie provinsie dra die konstruksiesektor 5,3% aan die Wes-Kaapse BBP by, maar die afgeleide effek is veel groter as vanaf 5,3%. Daar word bereken, en dankie aan die Provinsiale Tesourie vir dit, vir elke R1 wat ons belê in infrastruktuur as 'n provinsiale regering, genereer dit tussen R1,80 tot R3,30 elders stroomaf in die ekonomie. [Tussenwerpsel.] So, ons sien goeie infrastruktuur as 'n ware werkersreg.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, op hierdie Werkersdag-herdenking, die ironie dat ons iets herdenk ...[Tussenwerpsel.] wat die ANC oor 30 jaar so afgebreek het. Stuur die Wes-Kaap as 'n provinsiale regering 'n duidelike boodskap uit na almal daar buite wat na ons provinsie toe kom vir geleenthede. In hierdie provinsie skep ons die omgewing waar ons saam met die privaatsektor werk skep. Ons praat nie daaroor jaar na jaar soos die regerende party op nasionale vlak was voor 2024 nie. In hierdie provinsie ontwikkel ons vaardigheid. Ons skep nie net hol strukture vir kamerade nie. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Ons beskerm vryheid. Ja, ons gaan self tot in die hof vir die werkersvryhede en ons bou 'n provinsie waar elke werker ongeag hul ras

of hul seksuele oriëntering, plek of partykeer kan floreer in die Wes-Kaap want hierdie is 'n regering en 'n provinsie vir alle mense wat na hom toe kom vir geleenthede. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Want dit is die ware ondersteuning wat werkers benodig.

Maar ek luister na die insette deur u, agb *Deputy Speaker*, ...[Tussenwerpsel.] na ons Opposisie en ek moet benadruk in baie mooi Afrikaans die kwynende Opposisie want hulle wil nie die realiteit besef ...[Tussenwerpsel.] vir hulle swak regering vir 30 jaar toe hulle die land alleen regeer het nie. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] En die kiesers het gedink wat hulle dink van die laaste regering. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Dit is hoekom julle op 40% party op nasionale vlak is. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: And why do we invest so seriously in infrastructure? It is because we realize infrastructure [Interjection.] is an economic driving force of a successful province and a successful municipality. In this province with the construction sector contributes 5,3% to the Western Cape GDP, but the eventual effect is much greater as from 5,3%. It is estimated, and thanks to the Provincial Treasury for this, for every R1 that we invest in infrastructure as a provincial government, it generates between R1,80 to R3,30 somewhere else downstream in the economy. [Interjection.] So, we see good infrastructure as a real worker's right.

Hon Deputy Speaker, on this Workers' Day commemoration, the irony that we are commemorating something ...[Interjection.] by the ANC has broken down

over 30 years. The Western Cape as a provincial government sends out a clear message to all out there who are coming to our province for opportunities. In this province we create an environment where we along with the private sector create work. We don't talk about it ...[Interjection.] year after year like the governing party at national level before 2024. In this province we develop skills. We do not just create hollow structures for comrades ...[Interjection.] We protect freedom. He is the even go to the court for the workers rights and we build a province where every worker irrespective of race or sexual orientation, place or party can flourish in the Western Cape, because this is a government and a province for all people who come for opportunities ...[Interjection.] Because that is the real support that worker need.

But I listen to the input through you hon Deputy Speaker, ...[Interjection.] to our Opposition and I must emphasize in very nice Afrikaans the withering Opposition because they do not want to realize the reality ...[Interjection.] for their poor government for 30 years when they governed the country alone ...[Interjection.] And the voters had thought what they thought of the last government ...[Interjection.] That is why you are at 40% at national level. ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members!

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Dit is hoekom julle net agt ...[Tussenwerpsel.] lede in hierdie Wetgewer is. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

...[Applause.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: That is why you have only eight...[Interjection.] members in this Legislature ...[Interjection.] ...[Applause.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members! Hon Minister, I was ...[Interjections.] Hon members, order! [Interjections.] The running commentary ...[Interjections.] Hon member Windvogel, hon member Nkondlo! The running commentary is getting to a point where it is drowning out the speaker. I see the hon Minister. ...[Applause.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I was going to rise on Rule 39 and 40 for the exact same reason that I actually cannot hear the hon Minister on this side because the hon members are drowning out the hon member. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I almost wanted to say it is nonsense that this particular Sitting is almost coming to an end because I am enjoying the energy, and that we are discussing vital matters here. [Interjections.] But let us see the hon Minister. I have already spoken directly to it. Hon members, ...[Interjections.] there are less than two minutes. Hon member Nkondlo, there are less than two minutes remaining. I see the hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Agb *Deputy Speaker*, deur u. Wat die Opposisie in hierdie Huis nie besef nie is hulle haak vas in die

verlede. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Hulle gaan vashaak in die verlede dat die land agteruit gegaan het onder hulle as regerende party en dit is hoekom hulle vandag in die Opposisiebanke in hierdie ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, through you. What the opposition in this house does not realize is that they get stuck in the past. ...[Interjection.] They are going to get stuck in the past, that the country has gone backward under them as governing party and that is why today in the Opposition benches in this ...[Interjections.]]

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

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: ...jaar sit. ...[Tussenwerpsel.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: ...year sit. ...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. [Interjections.] Hon members, I had the benefit of having the hon Minister closer than what hon Minister Baartman has and even now, I could not hear him. Please. There is one minute and 22 seconds remaining. There are still people watching us online. Hon member Masipa?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I think it is very unfair. You know, we could not even hear half of the speech of the hon Minister. [Interjections.] Can the hon Minister be given more time just so that we can



hear him. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: What will happen, any hon member that is wanting to look at the speech can look at Hansard and the hon Minister, thank you also hon Minister that you have been vocal and that the mics are working. So, hon members, we will look at the one minute and 22 seconds. I will not entertain any further hands in this regard. ...[Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, do not suppress me. It is the second time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me hear you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): It is the second time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let me hear you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You are not going to suppress me. Hon Deputy Speaker, I have noticed with you, there is a tendency to suppress this side in terms of raising hands. Hon member Masipa and that hon member next to him, constantly raise and you recognise them, and they started this noise. They started it. So, we are giving back what they give us, and you never ruled on it. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me rule. I have seen hon member Walters'

hand. I am not going to take your hand, hon member Walters. Hon Minister, please conclude.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Agb *Deputy* Speaker, maar ek verstaan hoekom ons Opposisie in hierdie provinsie reageer soos hulle reageer, want hulle staan beskaamd vir die huidige waarin hulle hierdie werkers in hierdie land gedompel het. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Hulle val die werkers as't ware in elke stukkie wetgewing aan wat hulle bring ...[Tussenwerpsel.] spreek nie van neutraliteit van die werkers op die grond nie. Maar twee ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, but I understand why our opposition in this province reacts as they react, because they are ashamed of the present in which they have dumped these workers in this country ...[Interjection.] They actually attack the workers in every piece of legislation that they bring ...[Interjection.] do not speak of neutrality of the workers on the ground. But two ...[Interjections.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Please take your seat. [Interjections.] Please take your seat. [Interjections.] Hon members, what is ...[Interjections.] Hon members, what is ultimately happening here, you are affording the hon Minister each and every time, an opportunity to state himself as clearly as possible and then, you are interrupting him. Then, he is then preparing his remarks in his mind even more clearly and then you are giving him that opportunity the whole time. Let us afford the hon Minister the one minute before we conclude this Sitting.

Hon member Booysen, I am not going to recognise you, hon member Booysen. There is one minute. Let me suppress the people on this side. Hon member Stoffel, are you okay with that? So, thank you, hon member Booysen. There is one minute remaining. Please let us see the hon Minister.

†Die MINISTER VAN INFRASTRUKTUUR: Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ter afsluiting en ek wil graag aan hierdie werkers nie net van die Wes-Kaap nie, maar baie volgens en buite ons grense sê. Daar is 'n gedig deur C Louis Leipoldt wat presies die gedrag en die karaktereienskappe van ons Opposisie in hierdie provinsie uitbeeld. Hierdie gedig se naam is 'Die Miskruier' en ek gaan 'n spesifieke seksie aanhaal uit hierdie klassieke gedig, wat hy sê:

“Dis tog so swaar om in die hete sand  
 So voort te spartel  
 Ek wed sy kloutjies is al seer verbrand,  
 Al twee sy ogies met souttraantjies vol.”

En dit is wat die Opposisie van hierdie provinsie vir die werkers beteken. Hulle kan niks vir hulle doen nie want hulle het 'n geleentheid gehad, toe val hulle. Op nasionale vlak het die kiesers vir hulle gewys in 2024, julle is besig om te kwyn en binnekort gaan julle as 'n party sterf. ...[Tussenwerpsel.] Baie dankie en sterkte vir die werkers van die Wes-Kaap. Dankie. ...[Applous.]

[The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Deputy Speaker, to conclude

and I would like to say to these workers not only of the Western Cape but many along and outside our borders. There is a poem by C Louis Leipoldt that illustrates the behavior and characteristics of our opposition in this province precisely. This poem's name is '*Die Miskruier*' (The Dung Beetle) and I am going to quote a specific section from this classic poem, where he says:

*“Dis tog so swaar om in die hete sand  
So voort te spartel  
Ek wed sy kloutjies is al seer verbrand,  
Al twee sy ogies met souttraantjies vol.”*

And that is what the Opposition in this province means to the workers. They can do nothing for them because they had an opportunity, but then they fell. At national level the voters showed them in 2024, you are busy deteriorating and soon you are going to die as a party ...[Interjection.] Thank you and all the best for the workers of the Western Cape. Thank you. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes the list. I will now recognise the hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to quote Rule 147(1). Hon Deputy Speaker:

“The Speaker may from time to time, but limited to once a month, identify topics of provincial interest and of a non-party political nature for debate in the House.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, I was listening to this debate today and I must say that in the interest of the citizens of this province, I failed for this debate. The intention was never for it to end up or have the House end up in the situation that we ended up today.

Hon Deputy Speaker, my plea and call to the hon members of the House is that for speakers' debates, that a plea does not end up in a party-political debate and for that reason, the Speaker and thank goodness I did not partake in this debate today. It is for that reason that the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker should not be on the floor and on the Speakers' List, so that we do not have to engage in a party-political spat between different ideologies.

And whether it is right or wrong, because we are all elected, and we all have constituents that we represent. But for future, hon members, please, in terms of the Rules this debate or the Speakers' debate is not intended for a party-political contestation.

Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much to all the hon members for participating in the debate. Hon Deputy Speaker, being a politician or being in politics is more than just a job or just working. It is a calling to serve with purpose and conviction. It is about standing up for those without a

voice, carrying the weight of others' hopes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, true leadership is not found in the titles, but in the courage to make a real difference. May we always stay grounded and faithful because all of us that are in service, matter. I thank you. ...[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The House is now adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:15.