
WEDNESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2021

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 Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER: You may all be seated. Order! Hon members, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, we are back here together to consider the business of the day. I would like to draw your attention to the matters that are necessary especially when we have hybrid sessions and appreciating in the Chamber the hon members who are here. The Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Minister Anton Bredell. †Baie dankie, meneer, dat u hier is. [Thank you, sir, that you are here.]

Because it is nice that I do not sit alone here. It can be very lonely. Also, the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, thank you very much, Minister Maynier, for joining me here. Hon, the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party, thank you very much. Advocate Baartman, thank you very much. Hon Chair of the Standing Committee for Arts and Culture, hon Reagen Allen, thank you for your presence in the House here with me. The Leader of the Opposition, thank you for representing your seats there, sir. It is always nice to have the members in the House with the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. Hon Dugmore, and of course the hon, the Leader of the ACDP, and the Chair and hon Christians, thank you very much for being here with me.

Without further ado I just want to encourage the hon members, as I welcome you all in the virtual platform, that let us please observe the necessary decorum in terms of the instruments approved by us in terms of the Rules, that you do not activate the microphone if you are not speaking; that you also, if you can, please do not activate the camera if you are not speaking, and, of course, the order, if you want to raise a point of order, you just indicate in the chat room or also just raise your hand if you do have the raise-hand button in your instrument.

The members of the media, we always appreciate your presence as the members of the Fourth Estate, but please do not activate your cameras, do not activate your microphone, because you are in the gallery.

Hon members, that is the basic Rules for virtual meetings. At this point I just want to indicate that there is no loadshedding that has been reported, so any member that is not in the House, we expect that you would be able to contribute without challenges of connectivity, failing which that will be for your own responsibility, but not the House as it stands.

Hon members, we now move to Motions without Notice. I would like to inform you, hon members, that in terms of the new Standing Rules 150, the Programming Authority had met on 3 December and agreed on a set of motions, and I have been informed that political parties submitted the names in the desired order of speaking, who would have wished to move a motion without notice in this sitting, and of course I will therefore just for noting and for the purposes of the minutes call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved by the Programming Authority.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows, with the names of hon D America (DA), hon Brinkhuis (Al Jama-ah), hon Van der Westhuizen (DA), hon Lekker (ANC), hon Allen (DA), hon Bakubaku-Vos (ANC), hon Maseko (DA), hon Mvimbi (ANC), hon Wenger (DA), hon Bosman (ANC). It is an interesting one, hon Bosman, ANC? Hon Bosman (DA), unless you are removing him. There is no longer floor-crossing *mos* now. That having ended. Hon Allen (DA), so it is only

hon Bosman (ANC) – there was a typo there – hon Bosman again, (DA), so there are two motions in the order, and then hon Allen (DA). That is the 12th one, hon members.

I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections? No objections? Agreed to.

The Motions will appear in the minutes of proceedings in the Hansard and in each individual's names as if they had read them here in the House.

Mr D AMERICA: moved without notice:

That the House congratulates the newly elected Mayors and councillors in the Western Cape, following the recent Local Government Elections in November this year; notes that despite the socially and economically tumultuous year, as well as the technical issues faced by the IEC on the day of the elections, all 25 local municipalities – including the City of Cape Town – have constituted their Councils; notes that this means that they are now ready to embark on their programme of service delivery for the next five years; notes that, as of now, given the current climate in our country, the stability of Councils and municipalities is of utmost importance; and asks that, no matter what political differences may exist between stakeholders, service delivery is given precedence in order to ensure the jobs, dignity and safety of our residents.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: moved without notice:

That the House notes the achievement of Shadia Akter, a 17-year-old Grade 11 learner at the New Orleans Secondary School in New Orleans, Paarl, who won a silver medal at the Buca International Music Science Engineering Energy Fair; further notes that she was one of two South Africans representing South Africa and the Eskom Expo for Young Scientists who showcased their scientific abilities from 15 to 19 November on a virtual global platform; recognises her silver medal and the role that the youth play in the Fourth Industrial Revolution by taking on difficult projects; further recognises that her project was inspired by challenges with internet data faced by communities and included Mathematics to research software development; commends her for using the “Honeycode” app builder to develop her COVID-19 screening educational app, after she noticed how challenging it was for schools to screen large numbers of learners efficiently; further commends her for conducting an extensive literature review by watching several tutorials and for attending the Eskom Expo Wednesday Workshops on app building to master Honeycode; commends her for citing internet connectivity and her failure to meet certain goals on time as some of the major setbacks she experienced; and extends congratulations to her.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: moved without notice:

That the House congratulates the deciduous fruit farmers on the hard work that they conduct throughout the year and wishes them good fortune in the upcoming harvesting season; notes that Hortgro has predicted that the yield this year is expected to be promising and that both plum and nectarine export levels are predicted to increase by 3% and 10% respectively in comparison with the previous season; notes that agriculture remains an essential sector in both the province and the country, and in Western Cape, we look forward to seeing further growth in the upcoming year as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms P Z LEKKER: moved without notice:

That the House notes with sadness the passing away of the former spokesperson for the ANC in the Legislature, Cobus Grobler; remembers him as a gregarious, caring and helpful person who spent more than a decade working in different communications roles for the ANC in the precinct; and while extending its condolences to our late colleague's wife, Karin, and their son, also wants to remember those associated with the House who died this year.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R I ALLEN: moved without notice:

That the House notes with sadness the passing away of the singer, Theuns Jordaan, after succumbing to cancer; notes that, after working in the industry for 20 years, Jordaan's contributions to the South African music scene were immeasurable as he inspired and mentored young artists to produce their own music; and extends our sincere condolences to his friends, colleagues and family and commends his dedication to giving back to the arts and culture sector.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: moved without notice:

That the House notes the United Nation's campaign, 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, is due to end on 10 December; voices its approval that the South African Government has been a consistent supporter of this drive, having named this year's theme "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to accountability", as well as support for this national fight against a cancer that is causing untold misery, suffering and pain to women and children across the world; also acknowledges that South Africa's 16 Days campaign forms the pivot of Government's

comprehensive 365 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children; therefore calls on all South Africans to free our country of GBV and notes that South Africans will not be truly free if GBV is not eradicated.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms L M MASEKO: moved without notice:

That the House extends its heartfelt congratulations to the members and officials of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for ensuring that the oversight role of this Provincial Parliament was not compromised, despite the myriad of challenges this year; extends our gratitude to officials for their work in bringing the Parliament closer to residents while also supporting members in their work of keeping the Western Cape Government accountable; thanks members for the robust debates and their participation in committees; further appreciates the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker for their guidance and support throughout the year in ensuring the smooth running of this Legislature.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: moved without notice:

That the House notes that South Africa is heading into what is known as

the festive season, but also wants to record that this is a period when thousands of South Africans take to the country's roads in vehicles, and notes that these annual road trips are unfortunately accompanied by accidents, many of them fatal; therefore calls on those who will be on our roads, including pedestrians, to be sober, to obey the rules of the road, to be courteous and to ensure that they arrive at their destinations safely; and thanks all volunteers and essential workers who will be on duty during this time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms M M WENGER: moved without notice:

That the House commends the Honourable James Selfe, MP, and wishes him well in his retirement; notes that after an illustrious 43-year career in politics, guided by the principles of progressive and compassionate liberalism, James has been a true champion in shaping South African politics for the better; notes with deep appreciation his invaluable contributions at the Constitutional Assembly and to the creation of South Africa's progressive and liberal Constitution; notes his role as a fierce advocate for the humane treatment and rehabilitation of offenders in his portfolio on Correctional Services; notes his tireless efforts as a fighter for justice, launching several successful and precedent-setting legal battles to ensure the integrity of the National Prosecuting Authority to ensure that leaders are accountable; notes that James is a

deeply compassionate and kind person, who has always taken time to mentor young people; notes that his wonderful sense of humour has lifted countless spirits and his generosity will always be remembered; and wishes our dear friend and Chief DAWC (DA Walking Club) everything of the best on his retirement.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN: moved without notice:

That the House commends the efforts of the Western Cape Department of Social Development and non-profit organisations who work towards the eradication of gender-based violence in the province; notes that, during the current International 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women and Children period, the interventions put in place by the Provincial Department, such as funding GBV NPOs, establishing the Victim Empowerment Programme and rolling out the Gender-Based Violence Implementation Plan; and notes that GBV remains prevalent in our society and it is imperative that it be addressed for the protection of women, children, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN: moved without notice:

That the House notes with sadness the murder of Shumeez Ismail on 27 November 2021 at the age of 21; condemns the current state of gender-based violence in this province and South Africa as a whole, which results in the tragic losses of innocent lives in our communities; notes that all women deserve protection so that they may live freely and pursue opportunities for a prosperous life; notes that our hearts go out to her mother and younger brother during this time; notes that we appreciate the work of local authorities to bring the perpetrator to justice and hopes that it is delivered swiftly to provide her loved ones with peace of mind; and notes that Ms Ismail will be remembered fondly for her infectious laugh and happy attitude.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R I ALLEN: moved without notice:

That the House congratulates Mr Xolisa Kwinana on winning a Crown Gospel Award in the category of Best Worship Song, representing the Western Cape at a recently held recording ceremony of the SABC; recognises the importance of community upliftment through gospel and the immense achievement of this award; commends Mr Kwinana on combining his passions of music and worship for the benefit of the people in this province; and wishes him luck in his future endeavours and encourage him to continue in this vein.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

I will now afford the opportunity to the members whose Motions without Notice as per Standing Committee Rule 150 Subsection (3)(d). You will notice that there are members that may have submitted motions and they could not be included because there was no agreement in the Rules Committee in the Programming Authority and I have two of those motions, the first one being the hon America. I recognise the hon America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon Speaker, I will withdraw the motion. I will not read the motion in the House. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon America. The motion will accordingly be removed as such.

[Motion withdrawn.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Now we move to hon Windvogel, if you so wish, to read your motion, otherwise it falls away.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with pleasure and admiration the groundbreaking work of the South African scientists who last month identified a new coronavirus variant, the Omicron variant, which has the scientific name,

B.1.1.529. While congratulating them for fearlessly informing the country, the world and scientific community about this new variant, the House wants to express its concern that several countries took punitive measures against Southern African countries, including South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe, whose economies are boosted by tourism, without due consideration of the economic impact of these decisions.

That the House calls on the United Kingdom and other countries that have closed their borders to visitors from South Africa and are also stopping their nationals from flying to South Africa, to drop these harsh measures immediately.

That the House urges the South Africans who have not been vaccinated against the coronavirus, to do so. I so move. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Windvogel. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? Are there any objections to the motion itself? No objections? Agreed to.

Thank you very much for that. Now I will ask the Secretary to read the First Order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration of principle of the *Western Cape*

Adjustments Appropriation Bill, (2021/22 Financial Year) [B6 – 2021]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, in terms of the speakers' list I do have... [Incomplete.] Okay, just bear with me. If everything works you must thank the Speaker. If something does not work you must blame the Secretary! [Laughter]

Alright, in terms of what is before me, the speakers' list, it is the Minister of Finance. Mr Secretary, agreed? [Pause.] Thank you, Mr Secretary. Hon members, in terms of the speakers' list I now recognise the hon Minister of Finance. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. Two days ago we tabled a *Budget to Back You* here in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, which is a budget to back you so that you find a job, a budget to back you so that you feel safe, a budget to back you so that you receive the care you need in the Western Cape.

To back you, we outlined how resources will be allocated to sustain the fight against COVID-19, to support jobs, safety and wellbeing, to protect frontline services like education, health and social development, to rebalance the composition of expenditure, increased spending on infrastructure, to support effective and clean municipal government, to improve significantly spending, the efficiency of spending by driving value for money, to promoting transparency of spending on procurement, to mitigating risks including

droughts, floods and fire, and finally, of course, to ensure the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Western Cape.

We do so of course, as I pointed out, despite significant budget crunches caused by National Government, which has now become the biggest roadblock to economic growth and job creation in the Western Cape.

When the new Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana, delivered his maiden Medium-Term Budget Policy statement on 11 November 2021, he pointed out that this, and I quote: “This was a crisis like no other”, that would leave, and I quote again, “deep and long-lasting scars on the economy in South Africa”, which of course is absolutely true, but the fact is we were in deep economic trouble before the pandemic and we are now even in deeper economic trouble in South Africa.

We have stagnant economic growth. We have lockdowns, looting and load shedding. We have huge budget deficits, staggering national debt and zombie State-owned Enterprises gobbling up massive bailouts in South Africa. National Government’s brand should be “starting delivery, stopping corruption”, but of course, Speaker, it is exactly the reverse. It is starting corruption and stopping delivery in South Africa.

To be specific, Speaker, we have stagnant economic growth, with the economy expected to grow at about 1,8% in 2022, 1,6% in 2023 and about 1,7% in 2024. We have staggering unemployment with about 12,5 million

people who do not have jobs or have given up looking for jobs in South Africa, and we have huge fiscal deficits of R379,3 billion in 2022/23; R353,6 billion in 2023/24 and R348,8 billion in 2024/25.

We have mind-boggling national debt of – wait for this – R4,7 trillion in 2022/23, R5,1 trillion in 2023/24 and R5,5 trillion in 2024/25, and to be clear, Speaker, to be clear, national debt does not include the R883 billion – not million, billion – in debt accumulated by the 10 largest borrowing zombie State-owned Enterprises, including Eskom, which means that we will be paying R303,1 billion in 2022/23, R334,6 billion in 2023/24, and R365,8 billion in 2024/25 in debt-service costs, or over a trillion rand in debt-service costs over the medium term in South Africa. To put this number in perspective, we will spend more on debt-service costs in the next financial year than what we will spend on policing, than we will spend on basic education, and that we will spend on social grants in South Africa.

Let me say that again, Speaker, to put the number in perspective, we will spend more on debt-service costs in the next financial year than we will spend on policing, on basic education and social grants in South Africa, which explains why allocations to provinces over the medium term, about R658,4 billion in 2022/23, R647,2 billion in 2023/24 and R676,1 billion in 2024/25, are increasing at a rate well below inflation across South Africa.

To make matters worse, spending pressures are huge and likely to materialise. Spending on compensation of employees, which over the

medium term will consume an average of R668,8 billion every year. Spending on zombie State-owned Enterprises, which over the medium term will consume an average of R73,4 billion in debt-service costs per year over the medium term and, of course, more social assistance, which over the medium term will cost, I would imagine, an average of about R40 billion every year over the medium term in South Africa, which explains why there is such a significant budget crunch in provinces across South Africa.

Despite that, Speaker, despite that, despite the budget crunch we will of course in the first instance sustain the fight against the pandemic by allocating an additional R211,3 million and positioning a further R800 million to be deployed at any time for any contingency in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape.

Again, Speaker, despite the budget crunch we will also spend about R1,4 billion over the medium term on the ease of doing business, on boosting investment and exports, on enterprise development, on skills development, and of course on energy resilience, so that we can back you to find a job. We will spend about R2,2 billion over the medium term on more law enforcement officers, support to families at risk, providing safe spaces and, of course, on gathering relevant data to back you so that you feel safe.

We will also spend about R160 billion over the medium term on providing strong foundations, improving nutrition, mental wellness and, of course, on after-school programmes to back you so that you get the care that you need in

the Western Cape.

We also make provision for a net additional allocation of R1,49 billion in the 2021 Adjustments Budget and despite the budget crunch, and here National Government deserves credit. Despite the budget crunch we will spend an additional R603 million on employing general teachers and healthcare workers as a result of the additional allocation from the Presidential Youth Initiative, which will go a long way to give people, especially young people, hope in the Western Cape.

Speaker, we tabled a *Budget to Back You*, above all, so that we could back you and so that you had hope in the Western Cape. Of course, what we will do more than anything to restore hope, especially to the tourism and hospitality sector, is for the international community to lift the travel bans which they know are ineffective and which they know are killing jobs in the Western Cape.

To quote a number of eminent scientists in a recent article published in an influential scientific journal, *The Lancet*, which was published on 3 December 2021, and I think it is worth quoting them again. They said that:

“By their nature SARS-CoV-2 variants are several steps ahead of the international travel curve. Once community transmission of an airborne virus is occurring, as it is, travel restrictions have little effect.”

To avoid further lockdowns, Speaker, we must of course ensure that we vaccinate as many people as fast as possible in the Western Cape. We have delivered about 4,2 million vaccinations and about 45% of adults are now fully vaccinated in the Western Cape, which is good, but it is not good enough, and we hope that you go out and get vaccinated and help us to do what we can to save the summer season in the Western Cape.

Speaker, in conclusion, we – as I have said before – have been hit hard and we have been knocked down, but we have not been knocked out. We must now stand up, we must brush ourselves off and we must fight on so that we move forward in the Western Cape. I thank you. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, the next speaker is the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon members, ladies and gentlemen, let us just remind the Minister that the concept of a budget to get you cannot just be a thumb-suck, wishful thinking, but should or must be a scientifically and reliably State-backed by evidence of what, as a claimant, is your performance record, let alone the realities from these assumptions being made where we move from, and therefore as the ANC we express our rejection of this 2021 MTBPS framed on a DA-elitist based development approach that rather keeps this province as a mirror of its old state as a Cape Colony.

I then rise on behalf of the African National Congress to reiterate our position not to support this Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

Firstly, in doing so, we would like to expose the DA hypocrisy for rejecting just the other week the division of revenue on the basis of insufficient time provided for public participation while they themselves have no record to claim any better.

The Minister tabled the quarterly performance which had to be removed from the agenda for another day, made reference to MERO in his speech on MTBPS and all this done as a one-day tournament with no public participation enabled.

Secondly, the MTBPS was tabled during the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, yet the budget speech was silent on GBV and femicide and its economic impact in the province. Let alone the GBV data reporting once again being lamented as the basis to reject the DORA and once again another claim to fame, on this area here in the province, wherein just in February this year Minister Fritz was reporting the Province's accounting for 26,2% of domestic related crimes in the country as per the national crime stats released by SAPS. While the Western Cape is battling the persistent chronic conditions of high unemployment affecting mainly young people, abject poverty mainly affecting black majority and Africans in particular, no economic growth and inequality as well as lack of basic services, especially for those in informal settlements. I have no doubt in

mind that the MEC and his team gave no thought to addressing these conditions when they prepared this budget under the theme *A Budget to Back You* and other Government plans.

We need a rethink of the fiscal policy direction post-COVID, and we ought to move towards pro-poor budgeting to bring in increased Government spending to alleviate poverty and inequality with deliberate projects aimed at inclusive economic growth that drives equitable distribution of economic resources, a total departure from the old. What exactly is the fiscal future that is in the Provincial [Inaudible.] doing. We would be asking that particular question. The so-called *Budget to Back You* tabled by the Minister does not offer hope as it is oblivious to the true state of this glossy province that all of us a few weeks ago, as colleagues in this House, were reminded of as we walked the streets campaigning for votes for our parties. These are not cooked or choreographed realities of many in our townships that are staying with sewers right up to their homes and right up to their gates.

There is extensive evidence on these challenges. The recent PERO in September and the MERO that was tabled on Monday and yesterday debated as guiding documents, are at this Government's disposal with in-depth analysis on these issues. However, Speaker, last year when the MEC tabled both the PERO and MERO we raised very sharply our criticism that these documents do not in any way analyse the ownership items of the provincial, regional and municipal economies in terms of race and gender. This would allow the Legislature to analyse the extent of transformation in key sectors of

our economy such as agriculture, tourism, the ICT renewables and others.

In that meeting the MEC agreed to consider this, yet this week MERO was tabled with no reference at all to the ownership patterns of the local economy. When we questioned this in the Committee the Department's response was that they did ask municipalities, but did not receive many responses.

Here we are not talking simply about procurement patterns by municipalities, we are talking about the ownership of each sector of the economy irrespective of whether these companies procure work from the State or not. The fact that this was ignored concerns our long-held view that the DA refuses to confront the racist ownership patterns of this provincial and local economies. When we talk of prosperity this is nothing else but race denialism by the DA.

We shall be saved as we welcome the report of the Competition Commission that was released yesterday of who owned the economy, and hope that we shall be able to discuss this in this Parliament. The impact of COVID-19 has been felt across all aspects of life, be it in people's health and their livelihoods. Our triple challenges have not disappeared but were compounded further in unimaginable proportions by the COVID-19.

The official unemployment rate in the Western Cape increased from 21,6% in Quarter 3, 2020, to 26,3% in Quarter 3, 2021, a whopping 4,7%. The

expanded unemployment rate of the province is 30,3%, the 2021 PERO highlighted the vulnerability of youth in the labour market as it pointed out that in the first quarter of 2021 the youth contributed almost 60% of all unemployment. This raises the need for targeted interventions for youth employment and development.

The Provincial Government is clueless on how to address the crisis of youth unemployment, let alone youth development in general. It closed down the Youth Commission and abandoned all its policies and plans of youth development without putting in place anything to replace them. This is a self-orchestrated chaos and manmade crisis.

Where unemployment is concerned the MEC turns around and applauds the ANC-led National Government and its Presidential Youth Initiative, which he said would give thousands of people especially young people work opportunities and hope in the Western Cape. We welcome the R603 million investment into the province for the Presidential Youth Initiative to employ general school assistants, healthcare workers and social workers. We also welcome the additional R1,1 billion towards the public sector wage agreement. Whilst as the ANC we further raised the issue of the short-termism approach in particular on the youth interventions, which is an issue that we continuously take up both with National Government and we raise also with the Committees that have received the allocations.

The Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement is very silent on the details of

the Social Support Programme in response to the poverty pandemic that is ravaging many households in the province. Seemingly there is no Government response to the exceedingly high rate of poverty and unemployment. There was no mention of any humanitarian relief programmes. All that we know is that the Government plans to spend 82% of its budget on social wage. This is simply not enough and exposes how uncaring the regime is. It is puzzling why the Provincial Government decided to ring-fence R800 million in the provincial reserve to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic when there is a clear need to expand some of these funds on humanitarian relief. We call on the ANC Government to speed up the process of the finalisation and implementation of the universal basic income grant.

In closing, Speaker, the MEC brags about 67,3 of all Western Cape COVID-19 related expenditure being spent on SMMEs. Whilst this is commendable, we call on the MEC to further disclose how many of these were BEE compliant. The Western Cape refuses to implement the prescripts of the B-BBEE Act as it wants to continue enriching white companies. The need for increased support to the informal traders has also been ignored.

This is a budget to back some, not all, as it will clearly leave the majority living in squalor and languishing in poverty.

A budget to back the majority of people would be the one that does not overlook the stark realities of extreme wealth and income disparities, unequal

access to economic opportunities and spatially rooted poverty in the Western Cape. I thank you, Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Hon members, the next contributor is hon Baartman. She is here in the Chamber. Hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, fellow South Africans, the Western Cape Province in response to the pandemic developed a recovery plan focusing on job, safety and dignity of our people and in order to lay a foundation for long run economic growth and poverty reduction.

Speaker, it is the Western Cape Government's ability to adapt and become more agile in a constantly changing environment that makes the Western Cape Government the best government in our country, and Speaker, I did read the public disclosure report and the B-BBEE percentage was in it. It was actually part of the percentage reporting underneath the SMMEs and it was well above 60% of the procurement in the Western Cape on B-BBEE companies in terms of our COVID procurement.

Speaker, in keeping to our commitment to SMMEs the Western Cape Government support the small, medium and micro businesses through our SMME Booster Fund. Further we supported 17 organisations which in turn supported 397 SMMEs, creating 90 jobs through four organisations that have completed these SMME booster funds and another 300 jobs are envisioned

through the remaining 13 organisations. The Department of Economic Development went further and linked a 122 spaza shops with community kitchens to help both communities and businesses weather the worst of the lockdown regulations.

The Community Economic Recovery Project allowed community kitchens to redeem vouchers to purchase food supplies and helped feed approximately 22 500 beneficiaries in the Western Cape, and the same Department assisted with converting two existing spaza shops within Langa into independently owned mini supermarkets, and another two stores in Delft and Paarl East created 91 jobs.

Speaker, energy is the bedrock of our economy and for this reason the Western Cape do not wait for the respective bid windows to open. We launched a request for information and received 82 submissions. 62 of these were found to be potentially viable and relevant and have the potential to generate nominally more than 4800 megawatts. Of these 12% or 590 megawatts of projects seem capable of reaching commercial operation within 12 months, whilst 75% which is nearly 3600 megawatts of projects, indicated commercialisation within two years from signing a power purchase agreement. Speaker, to put this in context, in terms of South Africa the average household consumption of energy is 30 kilowatts per hour in terms of energy per day.

Now if you use the 3600 megawatts then that is essentially the equivalent of

powering 120 000 households for one day. This is more than the households combined in the Overberg and Central Karoo districts with energy to spare.

In terms of the request for information it is what has informed the establishment of the Municipal Energy Resilience Project with municipalities and in keeping to that commitment to working towards ending load shedding, this project, as part of the six municipalities and the City of Cape Town, in order to support them to procure energy and break the shackles of Eskom, detailed technical work has taken place on these projects in terms of assessing various renewable energy scales, technologies, procurement and contracting modules, finance and regulatory requirements. We thus welcome the announcement of the Minister in the Adjusted Budget, that the funding for this project will not be lost and has already been approved for rollover for the next year to ensure that the respective municipalities are still able to access the funding.

We know that deep technical matters such as this take time, but we welcome the fact that these funds will assist with research intensive documents which are expensive, such as the electricity master plans and cost of supply studies so that when their procurement commences their decision are data-led.

A further four declarations of Green Economy Investment in the Western Cape have been supported by the Western Cape Government, signed and completed in the past 2020/21 financial year amounting to a total investment of R11,6 billion and the Atlantis Special Economic Zone will continue to

prioritise green technology investment, but Speaker, we do not have much time left. We have half a year left in order to get the ASEZ listed as a 3D company. The Western Cape has dotted their I's and crossed their T's but the last step is for the National Minister of Finance to sign off on the documentation. For months our Government has been hounding National Government on the matter but National Government continues to fail our people. Yesterday the news came that all that is left is for this Minister of Finance in the National Government to sign off on the process and we urgently call for the Minister to cut the red tape and sign off on the ASEZ licence.

The Western Cape already has 60% of South Africa's utility scale project developments and 70% of South Africa's renewable energy manufacturing situated in this province, and it is already the leading province when it comes to supportive regulatory environment for rooftop PV solar energy with to date 23 local municipalities in our province as well as the City of Cape Town already enabling private rooftop PV connections to the grid, with 19 of the municipalities already having nationally approved feed-in tariffs, enabling households and businesses to be financially compensated for excess energy fed into the grid and our Government continues to engage businesses to promote the installation of solar PV on their premises. This means that every household in the respective municipalities will have the choice to become an energy generator and an energy entrepreneur and in this regard, Speaker, I would like to call upon the National Minister of Finance to table tax incentives for the capital injection that goes into the original installation of a

PV system on your roof, and we call upon the Banking Association of South Africa to lobby their respective commercial banks in order to allow people to include the original installation of solar PV system into their home– and business–bond applications.

In real terms, R8,4 billion will be cut from our budget over the medium term and what we need is an affordable solution which do not compromise service delivery of our departments, which is why the Western Cape established the fiscal transition support facility, which seeks cost–effective measures while also cushioning departments on large cuts to their budgets.

As part of the 2020/21 budget process the Provincial Treasury allocated R248,57 million within the provincial reserves for this facility in the 2021 MTEF. Because the Western Cape cares about the digital economy transparency and value for money, R2 million has been allocated to the Provincial Treasury in this facility for an e-procurement solution. Because the Western Cape cares about your well-being we have allocated R10 million to the Department of Health in this facility for their Teller Health Programme. Because the Western Cape cares about older persons and their mobility we have allocated R99 million to the Department of Health in this facility for home delivery of chronic medication so that you do not stand day in and day out in long queues.

Because the Western Cape cares about the ending of load-shedding in our province we have allocated R5 million in this facility to the Department of

Agriculture for on-site battery infrastructure for energy storage, and because the Western Cape cares about research, education and preserving historical information for future generations and improving access for all people, we have allocated R1,35 million in this facility to the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport for the digitisation of the Archives website.

Speaker, the Western Cape is committed to jobs and in order to create an environment that creates jobs we are committed to supporting small businesses recovery and ending load-shedding in our province.

The time has come for our people to take back their power. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. Hon members, I now recognise hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: *Enkosi Somlomo.*

Speaker, the 2021 Western Cape allocation of funds and the Appropriation Bill does not inspire confidence to the people of the Western Cape. This is concerning because the budget fails to address some of the deep-rooted problems and challenges that our people continue to experience on a daily basis.

Speaker, the Western Cape Government through the Department of Economic Development is not doing enough to support the SMMEs especially in the

black communities and the townships. The Pick n Pay Spaza Shop Project and other small initiatives initiated by the Department only reached a very small segment of people.

In order to empower of people, Speaker, especially the poor, we then need to come up with the solutions that can be applied at a greater scale so that our people can also sustain themselves.

We are also being told that the Western Cape creates employment, like the previous speaker said, employment opportunities through private sector partnerships, but the truth of the matter is that the bulk of these jobs do not even pay decent salaries. The money is only good enough for an employee to pay transport and rent, then they are broke again.

When it comes to agriculture, Speaker, money should be allocated and used for progressive projects which will empower previously disadvantaged people. The Provincial Government should make more agricultural land available and allocate such parcels of land to small emerging black farmers so that they can also be empowered and compete in an industry where they were previously excluded because the R1,8 additional allocation is not enough for such purpose.

Speaker, when it comes to housing an additional allocation of R57 million is shocking. The need for housing continues to increase whilst efforts to address housing shortages by the Provincial Government remain futile. This

is an ongoing concern and it is worrying. Moreover, this Government is not doing enough in its effort to alleviate poverty. An additional budget of R63,1 million to social development is not enough to make sure that homeless people stop eating from garbage bins and that they are provided with adequate shelters where they will be safe in housing. As a matter of fact, Speaker, this Government does not take homeless people seriously. These people are vulnerable in society and they need care and protection from Government.

Money allocated to the health sector is also not enough to make sure that the province has 24-hour operating clinics which are close to the people, especially in the areas where these services are in demand such as in townships. Clinics in the province do not even have power generators so every time when there is load-shedding everything comes to a standstill with patients being turned back and told that they should come back some other time.

Speaker, moreover I find it shocking that there is a 1,7 / 9,7 million (one point seven nine point seven million) budget cut from the Community Safety Department. What makes matters worse is we all know that the Western Cape is the main hub of crime in the country. We also know by now that the so-called Safety Plan introduced by the Premier is failing. The Law Enforcement Advancement Plan together with the Safety Ambassador Project are nothing but a waste of money as they do not produce any results.

†Enkosi Somlomo [Thank you Speaker].

The SPEAKER: †Siyabulela [We thank you.] Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister Schäfer.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, on Monday and again just now the Provincial Finance Minister spoke of the serious budget crunch our province is facing. Our Provincial Chair has taken a beating, the national economic outlook is dismal. Reflecting in yesterday's publication of the DDP contracting by 1,5% in the third quarter, and just as we seem to see a lull in the pandemic, Omicron and the world's knee-jerk reaction to it has delivered another blow to our economy.

Despite all this the Western Cape Government is continuing to deliver excellent services under enormous pressure. I want to really congratulate all our staff in the province for what they do every day but especially what they have done over the last two years. But the unfortunate reality is that things will not be looking up any time soon on the fiscal front, while we have a budget to back the people of the Western Cape, the ANC National Government is only interested in budgets to line their own pockets. They cannot even manage their own finances properly and there are zero consequences.

In October South Africa was given 18 months by the Financial Action Task Force to get our act together in tracing and prosecuting money laundering and terrorist financing or face being grey-listed with the risk of further credit downgrades if we do not, if that is even possible to do.

The longer the beating continues and the ANC continues with its anti-investment policies we will be faced with ever harsher cuts to our budget share in real terms. It is not really surprising that the frustrated ANC and its allies in the Western Cape need to grasp at straws to try and find something bad about the only provincial or national government in the country that is giving hope to South Africans. Our Department is continually the subject of the strategy.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you could please pause. There is a point of order from hon Sayed. Your time is paused as well. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, is the MEC able to take a question on the coalition with the EFF and GOOD in the province?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: No, sorry, no time.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. The Minister has now just responded. Minister, you may please proceed.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Speaker. My Department is continually the subject of this strategy with the Opposition trying to create the impression with the eager assistance of some media that we have wads of spare cash lying around that we are either misspending or giving away. Yet, if you test each of these claims, they come up far short of the pass-mark, so

here are a few lessons which I am sure will not make it into the media but will at least be on record here where it matters.

Member's Sayed's favourite villain of late is the WCED head office. The previous office buildings we occupied were not suited to access by vulnerable groups. We had pensioners queuing for service benefit assistance in a crowded shopping centre. Our staff too were not safe. One of the existing two buildings the staff were spread across was not compliant with safety standards and constituted an unhealthy and unproductive work environment. It was the subject of union discussions year-in and year-out and rightly so. We urgently needed to move to a safe inviting and fit-for-purpose building and were fortunate to eventually find out large enough to do so, but member Sayed does not seem to think that the learners' parents, teachers and pensioners who visit our head office, not to mention the staff who work there every day, deserve to be safely accommodated. Instead, he has created a false campaign of an alleged R1 billion lease for 10 years. I appreciate that maths can be a bit difficult but an annual rental of R49 million times 10 years does not get to anywhere near R1 billion, and here is the kicker. The amount of rent we are paying is cheaper than the buildings we were in previously, so the ANC is attacking us for providing a safe environment for our stakeholders and our staff and for saving money while doing so.

Speaker, I must wonder about the motives behind this narrative. I also must wonder where exactly that... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, we are on a point of order, Chair.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you could please take your seat. Hon members, we do not do it like that. Hon Sayed, remember we have been doing this now for the longest time. You raise your hand or indicate in the chat room but you do not go ahead and speak, because it creates a bit of a challenge. I have, hon Minister, paused the watch, I have two hands here. Hon Sayed, you go first on a point of order and then followed by hon Nkondlo.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, on a point of order, the hon MEC is casting aspersions on a member in the House for merely raising issues. She is also misleading the House because the question I raised was about her own office, not the Department's office, but that is fine. Thank you, Chair.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. I am going to look at that. What is the point, let us deal with this point of order and dispense with it. Hon Minister, did you refer to the member in the House?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Speaker, I referred to something that he has been saying in the public, in the public media, and I do find this rather an unusual process where members can interrupt our speeches like this.

The SPEAKER: Alright, hon Minister, in terms of our Standing Rules I am going to refer you to Rule 60... I am going to refer you to the particular Rule

that guides that because the hon member reads the Rule but he did not mention the specific Rule, but it is okay. In terms of the Minister and what you have said, I am sure you have acknowledged that, but what you may not do, in terms of Rule – okay, just give me a minute, Minister. We are running a House here following Standing Rules and I want to mention this specific one, unless member Sayed was aware which Rule he was raising, but the matter is substantiated.

I also see the Hon Minister was referring to it without necessarily indicating whether you think it is orderly or disorderly, but what I would like to help us is that as we have always maintained we would rather make sure that the decorum of the House does not get compromised by casting aspersions on members if the hon Minister has indeed done so and we follow the process of a substantive motion, if you were to mention the member. You do have that prerogative and the provision in terms of the Rules. I also see other members raising hands but if it is on a different matter, we will have to deal with this matter first, unless it is on the same matter. Hon member Nkondlo and hon Wenger.

Ms N D NKONDLO: No, thank you, Speaker, I am covered by your ruling, because I think I was going to raise the same issue, so I am covered by your ruling. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. Hon the Chief Whip, hon Wenger.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Mr Speaker, the Minister is responding to criticisms from the hon Sayed so I do not know how they can be construed as imputing improper motives or improperly reflecting on the member when she is merely responding to his very own criticisms, which is something that one would expect in a debate of this nature which is political in nature, as we know second reading debates are. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. Ja, I think it is going to be a challenging one if we were to allow that because we have never allowed that in the past where, if a member is in the House as part of the, really as part of this Parliament, he may not be subjected to some form of criticism which may impugn on his person without following a particular Rule. I think, Chief Whip, you must help me. Also, the Deputy Chief Whip is in the House and the Chief Whip or the Deputy Chief Whip of the DA is here and the Deputy Chief Whip of the ANC, you must help me run this House properly, otherwise I will have to leave this matter for the next foreseeable opportunity to deal with it and allow the Minister to proceed for now. So the Minister will proceed. I will deal with this matter before we adjourn this session. Hon Minister, please proceed, and there is no further point of order on the matter.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, Chairperson, if it would assist you, I would say the ANC is attacking us. I also must wonder where exactly they would prefer our staff to work, in the street perhaps, just because the ANC cannot pay its own cost and their staff maybe they will have to work on the street but that does not mean that the DA Government will do that to our

staff, because we care for our staff. This inability to calculate is continuous when it comes to their response to our annual report.

The ANC has claimed that we returned the bulk of underspending to Treasury. The truth is that we returned only R44 million, as a result largely of COVID-19 disrupting some departmental programmes, as it has around the world, by the way, which is 0,18% of last year's budget. Other money that was underspent in the last financial year has been rolled over. In fact, the slightly delayed infrastructure projects because of delays in the construction industry and process had already been completed when the annual report was discussed. The narrative of huge amounts of funding being given back is just false. So is the claim that under-expenditure that we did incur could have been spent on building schools. In terms of conditional grants, the clue is in the name, "conditional". For the ANC to suggest that we irregularly divert this to other spending is concerning, to say the least, and would have been a real ground to criticise us.

The same false narrative of losing funds has reared its head during the current budget cycle with the ANC aligned GOOD party saying we have lost vast sums of infrastructure money. We have not, and I would urge the member from the party to do his homework before making such claims. Faced with extreme pressure from increasing learner numbers, budget uncertainty and problems within the construction industry, we have had to change our approach to infrastructure development and maintenance. We are targeting new school buildings and smaller capital projects, school repair

work and preventative maintenance over the next two years.

Despite this reprioritisation we still will be providing the new schools and hundreds of additional classrooms we need to place the additional learners joining our school system next year.

Our schools, along with officials in head office and the district are working long, hard hours, to find a space for every child. As I have mentioned many times before schools will only finalise their placement lists once progression and promotion are finalised in the coming week or so, at which point I will make an announcement about unplaced learner numbers, which are already considerably lower than the reported 29 000, not to mention the reported 121 000 unplaced in Gauteng.

The last lesson I need to school the members of the Opposition about, is the Schools Evaluation Authority. Again, the ANC claims that it is a duplicate and unnecessary function when there is no other independent evaluation authority in our country. Surely they cannot be referring to NEEDU which has not released an evaluation report since 2014 and never one on individual school performance.

In stark contrast, despite the COVID-19 pandemic the SEA has completed 111 evaluations in less than two years and published the school-specific reports for public access. These evaluations and reports provide valuable feedback to our schools, Department, parents and the wider school

community and revealed some amazing best practices for other schools to learn from, which we could all do well to look at.

Now that we have sent the Opposition back to school, Speaker, let us get back to the reality our province faces. The outlook is bleak but the Western Cape is providing the hope that our country so desperately needs and we will continue the fight where it is needed so that we move forward in the Western Cape. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, as I indicated, I will provide a ruling on the other matter in the foreseeable opportunity, the earliest opportunity, hopefully before we adjourn, but otherwise it will be as soon as possible. May I then – thank you, the hon Minister, and I now request the hon Herron to address the House.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, over the past year the Western Cape Government has unveiled a *Budget to Bounce Back*, the *Western Cape Recovery Plan to Bounce Up*, and now a *Budget to Back You*. Someone should tell the MEC that you cannot put lipstick on a pig. He should take the residents into his confidence and explain some of the fine print.

For example, was it due to incompetence that the Province failed to spend nearly R1 billion set aside for infrastructure development in this period, in which it claimed to be prioritising infrastructure development. It makes no

sense. Surely spending this money creating jobs in the construction sector instead of returning it to the fiscus would have had far greater bounce-back ability.

The Western Cape Government is not a PR agency. The people of this province cannot eat catchy phrases and breathless announcements. This is why they are hungry and unemployed. They rely on the actual nuts and bolts on actual implementation. A coherent 2021 Adjustment Budget underpinned by truth and transparency would reveal where the 2020 Bounce Back Budget and the 2021 Bounce Up Recovery Plan are having real impact, and seek to build on that momentum, but these plans are incoherent. The Recovery Plan commits Government to fast-tracked infrastructure projects and address some of the fundamentals constraining economic growth and job creation. It promises to stimulate the economy by boosting infrastructure investment and job creation in the public sector, but this Adjustments Budget surrenders R650 million intended to be spent on infrastructure before March 2022.

The Transport and Public Works Department has abandoned about R360 million for large roads and other building projects and despite what the MEC says the Education Department has surrendered R290 million originally allocated for infrastructure development.

On top of these R650 million losses the 2020 Adjustments Budget saw the Transport and Public Works Department surrender R200 million from infrastructure projects and transferred R90 million from infrastructure

projects due to slow spending to non-infrastructure items. Speaker, that is almost a billion rand that this Government has failed to spend on its infrastructure driven growth plan in just one calendar year. The MEC must explain the points of fancy budget speeches if he and his co-cheerleaders do not have the skills to actually spend the money. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister Fritz. [Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Speaker, I rise to announce the Department of Community Safety's 13th clean audit. What an achievement, because, you know, all your enemies do not want you to deliver and they are looking for you to get a qualification, so just that point, I just want to start off by making that point.

Speaker, with due regard to the many challenges we still face in making the province safer for all our citizens, especially the poorest of the poor, I rise to say that we have made massive progress in implementing the architecture of the Provincial Safety Plan, notwithstanding whatever all these other misfits are saying.

Under the leadership of our HOD and the management team we have revised the APPs and realigned our departmental programmes to show that we can deliver. Mr Speaker, I am also... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, will you please take your seat. I have paused the timer. There is a point of order by hon Sayed. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Speaker, is it parliamentary for the hon respected MEC to refer to members of the House as misfits? I do not think that is parliamentary. Thank you. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: He is rude.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order hon members! Do you want to restate what you have just said, hon Sayed, referring to hon members as what?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): As “misfits”, the word he used now was “misfits”. I think he must rather just focus on the content of his input. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright, let me make a ruling on this one immediately. We are in a political debate and if you do not refer to a particular member it may not necessarily apply in that sense. Whatever the connotation is, I do not think it is offensive. Do you want to define what that is, for the House?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Are you asking me, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Let us proceed. I wanted to understand how offensive is

that, hon Sayed, do you want to explain yourself?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, Speaker, thank you. A misfit in the social context particularly given that we are having members of the public listening, a misfit is somebody who just does not fit in. He does not fit in, in society, does not fit in somewhere. It has got a deeply negative connotation. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): But it is fine, I mean if you have ruled, we – *ja*, it is, *ja*... [Incomplete.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Sayed. *Ja*. We will check where the Oxford gives that – I am learning. [Laughter] Thank you for educating all of us. Before I go back to the hon Minister Fritz, I see there is a couple of other hands.

Hon Wenger, hon Chief Whip Wenger, hon Bosman, are you on the same matter? Hon Herron is also here, hon Nkondlo, are you all rising on the same matter?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Mine is slightly different, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Oh, a slightly different one, alright. [Interjection.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): May I proceed, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: We need to deal with this one and dispense with it.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): It is related, but I will take your direction.

The SPEAKER: Alright. I have made a ruling on this one that there is nothing untoward about that. I think, I do not want to – I want to be as strict in terms of the Rules as possible, without really being prescriptive and trying to circumscribe the political ability for members to express themselves. I think it is one way to talk about the Rules and members breaking them, but it is one way of trying to limit their freedom of speech in a debate like this one, so I am trying to listen as best as possible, and you must help me. I like the Chief Whips and the Deputy Chief Whips helping me, but let us also allow free speech, as long as it does not infringe on Rule 59. Let us guard that. I think it is one thing that we need to make sure as well as Rule 62 in this case.

May I then allow the next point of order. I have dispensed with this one that was raised by hon Sayed and he understands that. May I then move to hon Chief Whip Wenger, what is the point of order that you are rising on?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Mr Speaker. While some of the comments were made generally about members without being specific about which member they were referring to, one of the members from the

Opposition benches called the Minister “rude” directly. She said, “He is rude” and I would like you to determine whether that could be construed as reflecting improperly on the integrity of the Minister. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Laughter.] Sjoel! Is this how you want to end the year. [Laughter.] Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I wonder who said that. Do you know who said that?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I could not say for certain, hon Speaker, but perhaps you could consult the Hansard.

The SPEAKER: We will consult, we will look at the transcript and see who may have said that. I think the best thing is to really – whatever the frustration or whatever the views you may hold on a member to ensure that we do so, within the conduct, code of conduct, and of course to ensure that we do so following the Standing Rules and that we are respectful as hon members towards one another. So that is a subject for another day because I have understood over time that sometimes members do take these Rules for granted, but it must not be allowed.

May I say on that matter, Chief Whip, I have ruled in that order that we will come back based on the Hansard and then make a ruling at the time. I am going to request the hon Bosman, he seems to have raised his hand. Will you please come forward, hon Bosman?

Mr G BOSMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I think member Sayed needs to be called to order for misleading the House, because he gives us incorrect definitions, but I do want you to rule on member Sayed abusing Rule 40 by constantly interrupting members and in that regard I do think he does fit the definition of a misfit as it is in the dictionary because he does not seem to be fitting in with your rulings to preserve the decorum of the House, Chair. Perhaps he must listen to the lessons that the Minister of Education is giving him.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Bosman. That matter I have already ruled on and I dismissed that rule of order on the basis of what I had already articulated, so I am not going to belabour that point, but thanks for raising that. We will proceed. We will proceed. I am going to call on the ANC Chief Whip, whose hand is up, and see if it is any matter related to this or it is a new matter.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I think, hon Speaker, what we are doing today is really an exercise that is not necessary. As the Speaker of the House you are tasked with a responsibility of ensuring that we all abide by the Rules and it is important therefore as well of the ruling that you have made that you were going to consult the Hansard and come back. Because now we will reduce this House into a complaining session where we will misrepresent and misinterpret the Rules of the House. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. I think it will be very much helpful if the Chief Whip and other Chief Whips and the other Whips you can help me so that we do not have that. We do not want this House to descend into chaos so I appreciate what you have just said but I think all the rulings now have been subjected to a process and that is what we will follow so that we have a House that is orderly in order to ensure that we proceed with the business of the day. So thank you very much for assisting in that regard. I appreciate that.

May I then go back to the time, the Table staff, the Minister had 40 seconds that he had used, is it how many? According to my time here is it seven minutes three seconds left, correct? Okay.

Hon Minister, that is the time and let us please allow the Minister to read, deliver his speech. Hon Minister Fritz.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, let me remind the House and especially the members of the Opposition that the Safety Plan consists of three integrated components, namely: law enforcement, one, violence prevention, the second one and urban design is our third component of our Safety Plan. And in terms of the violence prevention component, I am very happy to report on the progress we have made on the appointment of more than 1 000 young people as Youth Safety Ambassadors and everyone can say what they want to about them, we will continue to give young people opportunities throughout the province. These

young people are placed within schools, municipalities and other partnering organisations. All of these partnership organisations have proven to be invaluable in the project and we are creating impact in the lives of our communities and our young people.

Mr Speaker, I want to make special mention of the way in which the Overberg Municipality has taken the Youth Safety Ambassadors to the next level. A total of 168 Safety Ambassadors were recruited in the Overberg and they underwent training to become Overberg patrol officers. This includes training and drilling, fitness, radio communication procedures, approaching suspects and arresting procedures in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act.

When I visited the Overberg on 24 September, where they had a Community Safety Competition, Mr Speaker, I was in awe of what I saw. Our young people are bursting at the seams with potential. All they need is a real opportunity and we are determined to give them that opportunity and that hope. And we do not apologise to anyone for it.

Mr Speaker, we believe in our youth; we are proud of our youth. Our youth are not all drug addicts like some of our members want to believe they are. I have said before and I will say it again, if we had resources, we would establish more Chrysalis campuses cross the province. In addition to the long running three-month residency programme, Mr Speaker, we are also now using the Chrysalis Academy campus for other programmes. We are currently training our Youth Safety Ambassadors at Chrysalis and we are able to

provide a safe space on campus for Grade 12s from Malview High, Groenvlei High and Crystal High School, all from Hanover Park to study and prepare in a safe environment for the final exam and we are proud of giving that opportunity to them.

We are determined to find a way to scale this project to give your young people who need it, the best possible chance in life of getting and beating all the obstacles in their life, so they can get the best possible results in their exams. Our Neighbourhood Watch training, also, all of them received training at Chrysalis Academy on trauma informed approach to Community Safety.

I want to thank Doctor Lucille Meyer and the Chrysalis Academy for partnering with us in these violent prevention initiatives. That and so much more is happening Mr Speaker, specifically in the violence prevention component of the Safety Plan. I am also very proud to say in terms of the Law Enforcement component of the Safety Plan, we have now established 15 law enforcement technical area teams, which I will refer to as the LETAT. A LETAT brings together all law enforcement agencies at the area level to work together including Leap, Metro Police, Neighbourhood Watches and CPFs, under the leadership of SAPS. LETAT can be thought of as a local law enforcement team convened by the local SAP station commander.

I also want to pay tribute to the leadership of the Provincial Commissioner, General Patekile. For the first time in a long time, we have stability in this

province within the SAPS management. It goes without saying that the †samewerking [cooperation] between SAPS and us, from the highest level of provincial management, right down to the station commander level, is because of the leadership of General Patekile.

Mr Speaker, we are succeeding and working together in ways never seen before in the province, despite the best efforts of a negative Opposition to show us strawman policies and then as we all will no doubt see today and hear today, argue passionately against the very strawman policies that they conjure themselves.

The reality, Mr Speaker, is that we are building a template for the rest of the country, and I want to say that this DA Government gets things done and they are so nasty and so jealous about that, that is why they lose elections. The negative Opposition is saying nothing original and profound when they say that crime and violence will not be resolved through policing alone. This point is so obvious and if they read the Safety Plan, they will know that we agree. Even though the establishment of the LETAT is an important component of the Safety Plan, it is by no means the only component of the Safety Plan and this negative Opposition have managed to convince themselves of that.

As the Provincial Government we encourage constructive engagement and debate with our critics. I would like to ask that a debate on the Provincial Safety Plan be taken to the next level. Unfortunately for the negative

Opposition that means that they will have to go and read the actual Safety Plan because they argue many times without reading anything. The Safety Plan and the Recovery Plan have always been about integrating law enforcement, violence prevention and urban design into a single process underpinned by a whole of government and a whole of society approach.

This is why the LETAT, which the law enforcement component forms part of, is part of the area-based teams. An ABT is not another forum that meets and eats, and they meet once a month in a hall to talk. That is the lesson we have learnt from the disasters that the official negative Opposition caused in this province when they were in government, and they all know it. They spent precious resources on imbizos which are an excuse to meet, eat and treat because they are not interested ... [Interjection.] in addressing the real issues. Each ABT has a coordinator appointed by DoCS. I want to say that ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Your time is ...

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... the key performance indicators for these officials will not be how many meetings they have done a month.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, Meneer, [The SPEAKER: Thank you, sir,] the Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: My time can never be up.

The SPEAKER: Yes.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: My time says two minutes still, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: No, you had eight minutes and that is what you were allocated, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: This is the problem with these points of order, Mr Speaker. I must say with respect ... [Interjection.] They create debates and we lose time.

The SPEAKER: I have made a ruling. You were given an opportunity and the watch was paused during that period, so the time was paused. There was no malfeasance towards you in any way, in terms of the time, so let us now proceed.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: †Enkosi. [Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. †Baie dankie, meneer. [Thank you, sir.] Hon members I now recognise the hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, the medium-term budget

tabled by hon Minister Maynier on Monday 6 December, according to the Minister, is to move us forward. Now Speaker, the Minister also further said that it is a budget to back us, to find a job, to be safe. But Speaker, I need to ask the question, is this really what the budget tells us? Is this really what it says? Because R1,4 billion over the medium term, on the ease of business, skilled development, investment, export and energy resilience, but then we have R2,2 billion on law enforcement officers, support families at risk and also safe spaces.

Now I have got a problem with this because you are putting so much into law enforcement and not skilling, not putting enough in skilling our young people. That is a major, major problem. The problem is and this is where the rubber hits the road. I want to make a practical example, Speaker. Just the other day I was in Hanover Park, 7de Laan and 8ste Laan and people there are moving backwards in the Western Cape. They are not moving forward; they are moving backwards. There are more than 200 people in this one informal settlement and just to get an ID document is a challenge. Engaging with Home Affairs and people do not have R140 to get an ID document. I want to ask the Minister if we can at least look at making money available for people. There are hundreds and thousands of them that cannot even afford an ID document; it is lost or stolen, and they cannot find employment. It is a major, major problem and that is why I say the people that are disadvantaged, the people that are poor are moving backwards. You cannot even walk in those informal settlements. Poverty, poverty, poverty and after so many years under the DA Government, people are not moving forward and that is a major,

major concern.

Speaker, of course we support the Nutrition Programme and of course we support when money goes to the Aftercare Programmes. The major problem that I have, and I have mentioned it before when Helen Zille was Premier: if you go to the former Model C schools, they have got afterschool programmes because teachers, that is part of their job description, being out there with our children. But when you go to the disadvantaged schools, we must pay for Aftercare Programmes. Why can teachers not invest an hour or two and educate our children, skill our children and we will save money and put it somewhere else. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members I now recognise hon America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the newly elected Mayors and councillors in the Western Cape, following the recent Local Government elections in November. All 25 local municipalities and district municipalities, including the City of Cape Town, have constituted their councils. This means that our councils are now ready to embark on the programme of service delivery for the next five years. This year the continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the country's economic recession, means that the Province's role in assisting municipalities has become essential to local government stability.

The Western Cape is committed to help facilitate good governance and growth in local government and we clearly see this in the Minister's Adjustment Budget. So much so, that the Province has allocated a further R30 million in this regard which will contribute to its capacity building and support initiatives as well as legal and forensic services. These will go a long way to build on the DA's investment into developing capable governance.

The evidence: our proactive DA governance is once again seen to be in a league of its own, despite a sea of corruption and maladministration in the ANC controlled municipalities. A total of 18 municipalities received clean audits. This is a 38% improvement from the previous financial year. Whilst municipalities run by the DA have gone from strength to strength, those run by the ANC tell a different story.

Beaufort West was given the worst rating of a disclaimed audit outcome with findings, to the extent that the Province has identified them to be in a financial crisis. All municipalities under DA governance in the province are in good financial standing with Eskom. This is a reflection of our commitment to be able to manage public finances. In comparison those that find themselves in arrears are unsurprisingly controlled by the ANC.

Speaker, another indication which shows that our DA municipalities are remarkably financially resilient and agile, is the study initiated by the Provincial Department of Local Government, in collaboration with the Hans Seidel Foundation. The outcome of this study demonstrates that local

governments in the care of the DA embody good governance which ensures stability and service delivery. It concluded that local governments which ensured long term financial planning and investment in innovative, administrative mechanisms are able to adapt to the changing circumstances in which they find themselves.

For example, Stellenbosch was able to maintain a budget service surplus between an increased revenue collection within the first three quarters of the pandemic. This means our governance could continue serving residents with integrity and with dignity. Comparatively, municipalities controlled by the ANC had the already deteriorating financial and governance conditions amplified. This has reached the point that even the National Government of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs labelled Kannaland as dysfunctional and in its state of local governance barometer. The study also raised critical questions of the role National Government should be playing in support of provinces and municipalities. For example, the unreliability of equitable shares and conditional grants from Pretoria jeopardises the long-term sustainability of municipal finances.

Speaker, this is why our Government's foresight and proactiveness in this regard has culminated in the proposed Sustainable Infrastructure Development and Finance Facility Programme. The programme would empower the Department to match possible funding, including funds from international partners to each municipality's needs and potential for infrastructure development. In doing so, local municipalities will not have to

be subject to unreliable National Grant funding, therefore creating infrastructure development for further economic and developmental growth.

The Province has already identified various catalytic municipal infrastructure projects amounting to R1,8 billion in Mossel Bay, Overstrand, Saldanha Bay, Swartland and George. These projects will be broken up in investment into energy and waste management programmes. The ancient National Government's answer to the declining local government's ability, is in part due to their own creation and that is the District Development Model.

In this model it seeks to realign the country's resources such that there would be no discrepancies in the approaches taken at district level. Whilst we agree that increased collaboration in terms of a more coordinated budget approach and policies would help resolve the failures of many municipalities, the DDM will achieve the opposite effect. In essence, the ANC National Government would be allowed to further their control over our country's resources.

This is why the Western Cape developed the JMDA approach. This programme has an emphasis placed on cooperation and bringing Government closer to the people, through greater collaboration between all spheres of government, civil society and the private sector. The JDMA is a beacon of hope, and it allows for the planning, budgeting and implementation of policies to be more consolidated.

As the ANC continues to plunder our country's resources and push us further

into crises, the more we will have to rely on the proactiveness and creativity of the Provincial Government to safeguard our municipalities.

So, Speaker, despite the tumultuous year that our country and our economy has endured, the Western Cape Government has continued to fulfil its mandate in capacitating municipalities, through the Joint District and Metro Approach, as well as sustainable infrastructure development and finance facility mechanisms. Municipalities will continue to be safeguarded in our province against future risk. In this budget we see that.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Your time is up. Thank you very much hon America. Hon members I now recognise hon Marais, FF Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, thank you. The Minister of Finance has used the Adjustment Appropriation Budget to give a wheelchair to a crippled province. Do not blame him for the cripple's lost leg. Put blame where it should be. COVID-19 has crippled us, budget cuts have crippled us, and a weaker Rand has crippled us. This is a wheelchair to a crippled province. Now one can only solve problems if you are prepared to ask the right questions. The questions we should ask are, not who owns the economy, that is the wrong question; ask who is busy destroying the economy?

Who destroyed Eskom, SAA, Denel, SASSA, UIF payments, the value of the Rand? Those are the right questions we should ask here. We should stop asking who owned the land? Ask rather who develops the land? Who developed it and it made it possible for us to have such a great agricultural economic sector in this country? Ask ourselves what are the real issues we should address? Why are our municipalities in such a financial mess? Nobody asks that question. Who ordered lockdowns that crippled most of our small businesses? Those are the questions I want to hear in this House, and we can answer them ourselves.

The Western Cape is a province trying to play soccer and score good goals with a deflated soccer ball. The budget is not perfect, but it is the best in the face of these budget cuts, it is the best in the face of Covid, unexpected and economic uncertainty. There is no future for the middle class if we do not address the problems and the now of the poor, the many. Let us address the now and not just look at the future because the poor have no future, the hungry have no future. We cannot hope for a better future if we do not look at the now. Let us find each other across party political lines. Let us come up with solutions instead of using this platform for grandstanding. This province if it goes down, it does not matter what sweater you wear, you are going down with it because we are in the same boat. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. You were exactly at three minutes so thank you very much for that. Hon members I now recognise hon member Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Speaker, Al Jama-ah feels strongly that it is disingenuous that the Medium-Term Budget Statement and 20/21 Municipal Review and Outlook is only being presented now, when it should have taken place before the Local Government elections. This we view as a deliberate ploy by the DA to deceive the poor and withholding the true reflection of poor economic performance at local level from voters.

Al Jama-ah says it is unacceptable that money is always returned to the fiscus. The Legislature is failing the province, especially the poor, by withholding from spending on much needed services. There are more than 6 000 learners in the province who could not be placed at schools due to a lack of classrooms. Where do these learners go? Or what happened to them in 2018, 2019 and 2020? How many more have joined the number of 6 000 unplaced learners? The South African Constitution guarantees that everyone has the right to a basic education. Measures should be taken to improve education here in the Western Cape.

The apartheid system left our country with an unequal and dysfunctional education system. We do not see that this Legislature is putting measures in place to level the playing fields in education. Instead of spending on education the Legislature prefers to return the money to the fiscus. The haste to finalise the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement and Mero is a calculated move to prevent critical perusal of the budget thereby deceiving citizens. The budget is by far not pro-poor and fails to allocate funds for much needed schools. Thank you very much, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Brinkhuis. Hon members I now recognise the hon member Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you very much, Speaker. Hon Speaker, just yesterday we reached a milestone in fighting back COVID-19 as we reached 50% of our adult population being vaccinated. There is a long way to go but we take courage in being the first province to reach this mark.

And so, the hon Minister of Finance was quite right when he said vaccines are winning. Thus, I first and foremost want to address the residents of the Western Cape. I say thank you to all who have already joined our vaccination drive and partnered with us to reach this milestone in our Recovery Plan. We have also reached over 60 000 children between the ages of 12 and 17 years.

Through you Speaker, I wish to send this clear message to residents, vaccines work and are our best defence in beating COVID-19. We know this because they are saving lives, they are taking pressure off our nurses and doctors, and they offer us the best chance for a free future.

Speaker, we needed a budget that prioritises the health and the well-being of every citizen regardless of their financial circumstances and that is what we have got from this Government. We have got a budget that backs you. This budget makes way for more innovation, even better healthcare and provides the foundation we need to see to beat COVID-19 and so I extend my appreciation to every doctor, every nurse, vaccinator, data capturer,

administrator and site manager because they are the heroes who enabled this budget to save lives.

Speaker, we are not yet done as these successes coincide with the onset of a fourth wave and a new variant. But when National Government was caught on the back foot in managing the announcement of the new variant, we stood ready to back our citizens. The ANC in the Western Cape is on an impossible mission, a fault-finding mission, not a constructive one and they are trying to do this in the province with the best COVID-19 response, one that saves jobs and provides services whilst upholding the value of dignity and it has done so holistically.

Speaker, the Opposition criticises good budget practice when they point out our R800 million in provincial reserves. They conveniently forget that funds were ringfenced to manage infections and the ever-changing landscape of risks brought about by this pandemic. It is precisely because of these good budget practices that we were able to plan ahead and make provision for the extension of staff contracts, oxygen requirements and bed availability to manage subsequent waves and variants of COVID-19.

The reprioritisation of an additional R211 million to fight to COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Cape will ensure that citizens receive the care when and where needed. We will back hope. The agility in the Provincial Government's COVID-19 response means that it will be able to redirect funds where care is needed, by transfers to regional and district hospitals. This will

make sure we do not run out of capacity.

Speaker, in the Western Cape, we have tabled an Adjustment Budget that is balanced to manage COVID-19 effectively until the end of this financial year and over the next three financial years. It also speaks to the core value of accountability of this DA-led Government, a principle unfamiliar to those in the Opposition benches, as its colleagues at National oversaw the irregular expenditure of almost R150 million and to make matters worse, the National Health DG suspension following these allegations were lifted.

At this stage I think the ANC stands for “accountability, not a chance”. In addition, hon Speaker, and in stark contrast, this Western Cape Department of Health received a third consecutive clean audit during a pandemic, the very first in the country to do so. Speaker, this gives confidence to every resident in the province that taxes collected from their hard-earned money are used responsibly for their service and through you Speaker, the next time the EFF comes to claim that clinics do not have generators, they must be bold enough to say exactly where because it is a blatant lie.

Speaker, I note here with pride and appreciation, on behalf of local businesses, that a total of R1,5 billion of all COVID-19 related expenditure by provincial departments and public entities was spent on Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises in the Western Cape for the current financial year.

I also wish to welcome the additional R35 million non-COVID-19 care for

the re-escalation of HIV, TB and malaria in the form of Community Outreach Grants. Speaker, no budget debate is complete without considering other sectoral implications.

The African National Congress remains in pursuit of realising a pipe dream in the form of the National Health Insurance Bill. Meanwhile, the Western Cape already moves to providing universal healthcare in the province, despite a difficult fiscal environment and pandemic demands. The ANC is gravely mistaken. As the DA we do not oppose universal healthcare. In fact, by all relevant metrics, we lead South Africa in the provision of quality healthcare for all our citizens. But what we will not stand by and provide any support for is the NHI because we all know that this will ultimately become another ANC sponsored bottomless pit for cadres and comrades. We will not let healthcare become another SAA, another Eskom or another SABC.

In conclusion, Speaker, I want to commend the Provincial Treasury and our finance team for tabling yet another balanced and responsible budget and I want to welcome, in particular, the protection of front-line services including education, health and social development in the Western Cape.

It is the beneficiaries of these departments that have to be backed the most. I extend my accolades to every official and medical practitioner for their resilience and the efforts to help reimagine the system in the Western Cape. Their tireless efforts have exceeded all expectations and provide us with the confidence that our systems and budget truly do back the people of the

Western Cape. I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Philander. Hon members I now recognise the hon, the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, Speaker. Greetings also to the MEC for Finance and all honourable members. Speaker, it is very interesting that when member Philander uses her speech to discredit the National Health Insurance system, it begins to remind one of exactly what the Democratic Alliance is, and that is a party that fundamentally stands against the majority of South Africans who are poor.

I want to use one example before getting back to the NHI. It was our President, President Ramaphosa, in the interests of over six million workers in this country, who initiated a process at Nedlac to arrive at what we call a minimum wage and after a very detailed process of consultation it was agreed that that minimum wage should average out at about R3 500. Clearly not a living wage, but a minimum wage which has benefited six and a half million farmworkers and domestic workers.

Yet it was the DA just like in their opposition to the National Health Insurance system that did not agree with R3 500 and in fact said that R1 800 should be the minimum wage. Yet MEC Maynier, in this medium-term budget policy statement, wants to come and talk about a social wage. Now every aspect of the social wage which the MEC has referred to, in fact amounts to

allocations from the National Government in regard to the indigent grant at local government level, issues around child support grants, various pensions and other grants.

I would advise this DA to actually look at the issue of the minimum wage. The social wage is being accommodated by the National Government, that is where it is coming from but you as the DA have proposed that R3 500 is too much for a minimum wage. That is DA policy and I think the MEC needs to tell us in this House today whether he, as the MEC for Finance, supports the DA policy that a minimum wage in this country should be R1 800. Can he tell this House, Speaker, that he can survive on R1 800. Yet he wants to come to this House and in his speech talk about a social wage of which the DA has got absolutely nothing to do with because all of those allocations come via the National Treasury, via the Equitable Share, via Conditional Grants to this budget and yet the DA itself cannot agree to a basic minimum wage. Similarly, the National Health Insurance system, the reality is you either believe in equality or you do not believe in equality and the reality is when the DA, through the hon member who just spoke before me, comes to this House and talks about Universal Healthcare as opposed to the National Insurance system, she is basically arguing for differentiated healthcare, not equal healthcare, where everyone irrespective of their income has the ability to receive quality healthcare.

This is the basic difference between the African National Congress and the DA but it is also significant, Speaker, that it was just yesterday where right-

wing parties such as the Democratic Alliance and also backed by the Freedom Front Plus and I think what is now become known as the EFF Plus, the Freedom Front Plus and now you have got the EFF Plus, who stood together to oppose a fundamental issue which would assist in terms of land redistribution in this province. That was when they rejected the proposed amendment to the Constitution which would allow and clarify in what circumstances there would be expropriation without compensation and like the EFF has jumped into bed with the DA in Knysna and like the EFF has jumped into bed with the DA in Johannesburg and Tshwane, the reality is that the EFF itself, by doing that and by voting with the DA and the Freedom Front Plus yesterday, are actually voting against one of the important mechanisms to achieve an equal society and that is to practically move in regard to the issue of land. Now the reality is, if one looks at urban ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order, order hon members. Hon, the Leader of the Opposition, please take your seat. Hon Baartman is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Chair, I would like to know whether member Dugmore will take a question?

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Baartman. Hon, the Leader of the Opposition will you take a question?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I will not take a

question, thanks. So the reality is ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: The hon member will not take the question, so hon Dugmore you may proceed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So when we look at what happened ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Just for information, the timer was muted ... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: It was halted.

The SPEAKER: ... so you may not blame us if the time runs out.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, I am not blaming you Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: So if you look at the reality of what the EFF, the DA, the Freedom Front Plus and others and hon Marais ask, you know why do we ask questions about land ownership and the issue of the economy in an adjustment, in a budget debate like this?

The SPEAKER: Hon, the Leader of the Opposition, there is another hand

online. Will you please mute, switch off your microphone there? Thank you.
Hon Makamba-Botya, is that a point of order?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: †Somlomo [Speaker], thank you very much. I am seeking your guidance if it is parliamentary for the hon member to mislead the House and accuse parties of voting with other parties without having facts?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. In terms of this debate there is nothing wrong with what the hon member says, it is a political debate, and he has broken no Rule. Please proceed hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you. No, the record will show that the EFF voted with the DA in Knysna; the record will show that the EFF voted with the DA in Johannesburg; the record will show that the EFF voted with the DA against land redistribution. That is what the record and the history books will show but why do we need to look at these issues? If we look at our province and we look specifically at urban land ownership in the Western Cape: 70% of urban land in our province by South Africans who have been classified white and that population amounts to 15% of the Western Cape population. 10% of urban land ownership is held by coloured South Africans, so classified, and the coloured community constitutes almost 50% of the Western Cape, yet only own 10% of urban land. 8% of urban land is owned by Indian South Africans, so classified, who constitute 1% and then 3,5% of urban land in the Western Cape is owned by

African South Africans so classified and African people amount to 32,8%.

Now when you look at that actual stark inequality and then we go and look at the issue of agricultural land, agricultural land in this province and the MEC of Agriculture refuses to even provide us statistics because the reality is only 1% of private agricultural land is in black hands: African, Coloured and Indian.

Now these are the issues that one would expect the DA in this Medium-Term Budget process would actually address but they do not. Even in the Municipal Economic Review, they outline the sectors of the economy in the Eden district, they outline the sectors but nowhere in that analysis do they indicate in transport or tourism or this business. What is the percentage of black ownership and by black, I mean Coloured, African and Indian and the issue of women ownership of this economy?

So the reality is, for the DA, they are race denialists. They actually deny the existence of race and how that has impacted on the inequalities which exist in our country today and I think what is particularly important is that we note that all those parties that have voted against the need to clarify under which circumstances expropriation without compensation can take place, must bear responsibility for not reversing the patterns of colonialism and apartheid but actually deepening and strengthening them.

If you can spend, Deputy Speaker, in this medium term, you allocate over

R2 billion to safety, that is a choice that you are making. Why not allocate some of those provincial reserves to specifically empower African, Coloured and Indian farmers to access agricultural land in this province? That is a choice that you are making. The choice that you are making is not to turn back the legacy of colonialism and apartheid because the reality is that the governing party, in this particular province, has made that policy choice of not being interested in dismantling the impact of apartheid and colonialism.

That is the reality and I think it is also important, you know, the MEC comes to this House and he wants to talk a lot about transparency in procurement. Now I want to say that I have in front of me the suppliers spend by this Province from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. Through the Speaker, I wonder if the MEC is aware that R258 million and some more was paid out to Tusk Construction Support Services.

Now what I think is important when the MEC stands up and talks about transparency in regard to procurement; is he aware of a management report by the Auditor-General which states very clearly that in terms of non-compliance, not only with the Constitution but also with 16 (a) 62 of the National Treasury Regulations, that you have a situation that the Department of Transport, with the approval of Treasury, appoints this construction management agency, pays them in this one financial year alone, R256 million. How many schools could that R256 million actually have purchased; how many clinics could it have ... and this is in a department that has over 59 employees in the Supply Chain Management in the Department of

Public Works, yet R256 million.

In the Management Report it basically says here that the system requires, in terms of supply chain management, that the Head of Department must establish and appoint a Bid Adjudication Committee that will serve for a maximum period of three years. Do you know hon Speaker, that the non-compliance identified by the Auditor-General was that the Auditor-General noted on inspection that the BAC that is the Bid Adjudication Committee minutes prepared by Tusk dated 4 February 2019, that none, not a single member of the Bid Adjudication Committee came from or were one of the officials of the Department.

So here you appoint a private company to do this and the Bid Adjudication Committee, which is absolutely essential in terms of Treasury regulations, there is not a single official serving on that Bid Adjudication Committee and here we are dealing with an amount of R256 million in one financial year. That is, actually Speaker, one quarter of the Education Infrastructure Budget in a year, going to consultants and I think the MEC needs to, when he talks about a medium term, is Tusk going to be paid the same amount next year? Are they going to be paid more in the following financial year?

I would also, Speaker, like to draw the attention of the MEC to a document dated 2014, when the initial motivation was made to the then MEC to enter into a transaction that binds the Western Cape Government to a future commitment beyond 2014 that is in regard to broadband. He then needs to tell

us in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework because you do not see it, you do not see it in this particular document, the amounts that they sought approval for. If you actually look at this document which was tabled to the Treasury in 2014, they say that the key costs associated with broadband over a ten year period which brings us, that ten year period comes to an end in 23/24, the service provider fee of R2,8 billion; a SITA charge of R825 million; SITA once off 16,3; internet service for schools, R214 million and internet service for Western Cape, R68 million. Now the reality is that in the medium term it is here projected that this service provider will get R391 million and in the outer year of R412 million.

Now what I want to know in terms of this Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement which has been tabled and this document that was accepted by the Provincial Cabinet in regard to what the broadband is going to cost us, where is the correlation of these amounts which supposedly are going to the service provider and the amounts provided in this?

There is a complete mismatch and I want the MEC to explain the differences in the document that was approved by the Provincial Cabinet in 2014, actually on 8 April 2014, while the current Premier was the then MEC and then what appears in this Medium-Term Budget expenditure. That is what we need to look at because this document projects what we are going to spend, and this document does not correlate in regard to those particular figures.

This is the so-called accountability and transparency in procurement that we

are talking about. So the Minister needs to tell this House: is he happy with the Tusk procurement and what is being paid to them in terms of value for money? Does he approve of that, and can he tell us whether the document that was developed as a motivation for bringing broadband into this province has been adhered to and the costs contained in the document ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ... that Cabinet approved too, whether that was actually the case or not?

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon, the Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: That is what this House wants to know.

The SPEAKER: Your time is up. Hon members the time now is for the hon Allen to address the House.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I am delighted to be participating in this debate here today. I want to thank the Minister of Finance, Minister Maynier, for tabling his speech as well as his contribution here today, together with those members that participated in this debate.

Speaker, with the timeframes allocated to political parties, Opposition parties

spoke for 40 minutes today, with the ANC allocated 24 minutes. Now Speaker, studies have indicated that the average person speaks approximately between 100 to 140 words per minute. Taking an average of 120 words per minute and multiplied by 40 gives us an amount of 4 800 words spoken by the Opposition here today. Speaker, 4 800 words filled with misplaced facts, 4,800 words filled with disinformation and hypocrisy, 4 800 words filled with falsehoods and hallucinations from members of the Opposition.

Speaker, where others see only decline and spend their days complaining, I see the excellent work done by the Western Cape Government as outlined by many of the speakers here today. Just yesterday, Speaker, we witnessed a victory for South Africa's constitutional order when the ANC failed to muster the mandatory support required to amend the Constitution of South Africa to allow for expropriation of land without compensation.

If anything, Speaker, the ANC and the EFF wasted time on a process that was never going to address the land question for landless South Africans. For all the years the Committee in the National Assembly has spent on trying to take away the property rights of South Africans and nationalise all land, it could have been better spent opening access to State land, improving tenure of security and providing support to emerging farmers. It is as if the hon Dugmore is forgetting that the Department of Land Reform is situated and is run by the ANC National Government. Also, Speaker, as far as I know, Minister Meyer's request for ANC members in this House to put up their own property; I believe that none of those members were open to giving their own

property to be expropriated in that regard.

But, Speaker, if I can get into it: 4,800 words of hypocrisy and hallucinations is a lot. Let me deal with it one by one. The ANC stated, together with Al Jama-ah, that they want to expose DA hypocrisy for rejecting the DORA on the basis of insufficient time for public participation. Let me be clear, that is a non argument as there were delays in the National Adjustment Budget and that Provinces could only proceed, once National had finalised their process.

This is a direct impact of COVID-19 and sectoral closure and that is a result of the ANC. Furthermore, the budget was described here today as offering no opportunities. I find that mind-boggling when we look at the National Minister in his maiden speech, as outlined by the Provincial Minister, and if we compare the National MTBS to the Western Cape one, our budget is a budget of hope. The ANC has no clear recovery path, no response of energy problems, no ease of business following the devastating impact of COVID-19, which poses serious challenges, Speaker, for the country and provincial growth.

Who has a plan to get away from load shedding? The Western Cape. Who has a plan to keep bailing out State-Owned Enterprises? Only the ANC and their counterpart GOOD, together in Pretoria. Under the Western Cape Recovery Plan, Wesgro saved jobs and support programmes will continue. It was also mind-boggling to listen to the hon Dugmore based on his comments on the

NHI. I would want to remind the hon Dugmore that it was in fact the former Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, who actually called the ANC's bluff by stating that the NHI is not feasible in its current form, but we know that we have made strides here in the Western Cape; that Ministers and ANC members even complain if hospitals are doing too well.

Speaker, the criticism of Government for surrendering unspent funds – let me be clear about this and take the ANC a step back. What do all the indicators say? They say the quality of life, life expectancy, quality of schools and hospitals, audit outcomes, management of the Covid pandemic, provision of housing, they all point that the Western Cape is indeed the best run province in the entire country and only the Western Cape is one of two provinces where the unemployment rate regressed as seen in the last quarterly stats.

The ANC speaks about unemployment rates and the first speaker said that a 4,7 increase is mind-boggling. She forgets that the North-West indicated a 7,2% increase while Limpopo a 6,2% increase. Furthermore, I would want to state, on the underspending, it is as if the Opposition has forgotten that we have experienced various levels of lockdown restrictions and that the unspent funds are a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But, Speaker, as I was listening to those members, I am happy that the Opposition actually expects the DA-led Government of the Western Cape to actually spend money, even if it is virtually impossible, which actually speaks to how good we are doing here in the Western Cape, that even under

impossible circumstances, under circumstances imposed by a National Government with irrational regulations, the ANC still expects the DA to perform miracles. But we will say that we will continue with the good work that we are doing here in the Western Cape.

Furthermore, we heard, Speaker, the accusations levelled regarding the Safety Plan, but had it not been for the lack of leadership from the National Minister, his denial of the DNA backlog ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: ... under-resourcing in the Western Cape ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Allen ... [Interjection.]

Mr R I ALLEN: ... failure to use ring fence ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Allen, will you please take your seat.

Mr R I ALLEN: Is my time up?

The SPEAKER: It is a point of order. We have paused your time so there will not be a risk to you losing time. Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker?

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): There is nothing. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Alright, your hand was up.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Oh, sorry [Inaudible.].

The SPEAKER: Alright.

Mr R I ALLEN: Speaker, are you able to confirm the time left?

The SPEAKER: Yes, thank you hon Sayed. The time hon Allen, you have used seven minutes, 23 seconds.

Mr R I ALLEN: Seven minutes left?

The SPEAKER: You have used up seven minutes, 23 seconds so out of your ten minutes you are left with two and a half minutes.

Mr R I ALLEN: Two and a half minutes?

The SPEAKER: Yes. You may proceed sir.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you so much. Thank you to member Sayed for

stopping the flow but we will continue because regardless of attempts from the ANC we will strive ahead. Also, Speaker, law enforcement and what we are doing in terms of the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan: employing additional law enforcement officers requires training which has been impaired by the lockdowns resulting in underspending and the surrendering of funds. Regardless of those scenarios that were created by the ANC, we have seen a reduction in the murder rate, in priority areas which is proof of the success here in the Western Cape.

Speaker, in the last quarterly crime stats, we have seen a reduction in the province in terms of violent crime, together with the murder rate. I would be more than happy to forward that information to member Dugmore. I know that he is extremely busy, but I would be able to share that with you as well.

Speaker, those 4,800 words it is clear †dat baie mense die pot mis sit [that many people have it wrong,] so allow me to navigate further with my additional minute and a half and also address that member Nkondlo spoke about GBV. For once, I actually agree with her that she is right that GBV is a serious issue and that we need to tackle it. But I hope that the ANC and member Nkondlo will join the DA in calling her National Minister to ensure that GBV is more than a social construct and that member Nkondlo will actually join the DA in our fight to drive this issue of having GBV become an official crime category for reporting, because the ANC does not take it seriously, member Nkondlo. This is the only province with a comprehensive GBV implementation plan.

For once I actually agree with her, that she is right, that GBV is a serious issue and that we need to tackle it, but I hope that the ANC and hon member Nkondlo will join the DA in calling her national Minister to ensure that GBV is more than a social construct, and that hon member Nkondlo will actually join the DA in our fight to drive this issue of having GBV become an official crime category for reporting, because the ANC does not take it seriously, hon member Nkondlo. This is the only province with a comprehensive GBV implementation plan.

As I end off, hon Speaker, the ANC's stance on the Adjustment Budget refers to many aspects of the budget as unclear and confusing. This is more a reflection of the ANC's own ability to understand simple government documents. It is not a valid critique of the work done by the departments here in the Western Cape.

This is supported by the fact that they could not even interpret the parliamentary schedule correctly, as the Second Reading happens on Wednesday, today, and not Thursday as they claimed in their press release.

Hon Speaker, part of why this Government needed to table a budget to back up the residents is due to the mismanagement of the ANC and Good Party National government alliance. The ANC had for years failed to empower citizens in South Africa and to develop the infrastructure needed in order to build a strong economy, along with building a strong healthcare system ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr R I ALLEN: ... but that it also ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... hon member Allen. †*Baie dankie, meneer.* [Thank you, sir.]

Mr R I ALLEN: So we need this budget back ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You have now concluded your time.

Mr R I ALLEN: ... for the citizens. Thank you, hon Speaker. [Applause.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Interjections.] Thank you, hon members. Order. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. May I now give the opportunity to the hon Minister Maynier to address the House.

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:
Thank you, hon Speaker.

I must say the hon Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore, I think looks a lot like we all feel, exhausted, and he was certainly as a result of that more rambling than usual. He claims to be a big supporter of the minimum wage. He stands for the poor, he supports the minimum wage, but of course there is one category of worker in this country who does not get

the minimum wage, and that is none other than people who work for his party, the ANC [Interjections.] and yet he claims to support the minimum wage. [Interjections.]

Now, hon Speaker, I want to begin by thanking all the members who participated in this debate on the principle of the Adjustments Appropriation Bill here in our Parliament, and I would like to begin with a special thank you to the hon member Reagan Allen for his demolition of most points raised by most members of the Opposition in the debate.

Minister Anton Bredell might need to help me here, but in Afrikaans I think they say that the hon member †“gooi kole” [throw coals.] [Interjections.]

†'n AGB LID: Ja, hulle gooi kole.

[An HON MEMBER: Yes, they throw coals.]

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: And he did it extremely well and I would like to thank him for his effort, but I do want to pick up on a few themes that were raised by members of the Opposition.

First the Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore's very loyal lieutenant, the hon member Nomi Nkondlo, claimed that there was insufficient time to deal with the budget. Only one day to consider the

budget.

The hon member Brinkhuis had a similar complaint. He said that the budget was rushed, and I did see in some public statements that there was wording that the budget was rushed, it was pushed. The hon member Nomi Nkondlo said that this resulted in a frenetic period where there was now not enough time to read, and all of this was conjured up as a conspiracy to evade scrutiny and circumvent accountability.

Well, the fact is, hon Speaker, that the National Government, the National Government postponed the National Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, which was supposed to take place on 4 November 2021, which of course pushed out the whole budget process, and which is why we find ourselves here today with a compressed budget process in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

Of course the official reason, hon Speaker, for the postponement was that the postponement was necessary because of the Local Government elections, but of course we all know that the real reason for the postponement was that National Government and the National Executive are a bit like a bunch of wasps in a jar, and could not agree to the budget, and so it was postponed and the evidence for that of course is the R73.2 billion in the allocated reserve, which was revealed in the National Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

Now, hon Speaker, several members referred to the question of poverty and social support. Hon member Nomi Nkondlo claims that we are silent on the details of social support.

The hon member Makamba-Botya claims that we are not doing enough on poverty, that we are not doing enough on inequality.

The hon Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore, says that we do not stand and do enough for the poor in the Western Cape, but of course what all the hon members appear, perhaps with the rare exception of the hon Leader of the Opposition, to have missed is the section on the social wage in the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement, and it does not come as a surprise.

Now the one hon member, as I have said before, Nomi Nkondlo, said that there is not enough time to read and so I thought, hon Speaker, that this is, given the pressures that members are under, exactly the time for me to read the section on the Provincial Social Wage to hon members.

I would refer hon members to page 66 of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement and it begins by saying that the social wage is a cornerstone of the Western Cape Government's effort to improve the lives of the most vulnerable families and communities in the province.

There is a commitment to free primary healthcare; no fee schools; social

protection; housing and the provision [Interjections.] of community amenities in vulnerable households. You can see why this section of the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement so unsettles the Leader of the Opposition.

It gives effect to our key budget objective, we go on to protecting key frontline services and accounts for 82%. I want to repeat that, 82% of the total expenditure over the medium term in the Western Cape. It demonstrates very clearly in Table 4.1 and I would like to help the Leader of the Opposition, I think he might have the wrong book. Oh no, he has the right one, excellent. He is with me. If I refer him to Table 4.1 it demonstrates that we will be spending R60.5 billion, R59.6 billion and R60.69 billion on the social wage; protecting those frontline services. On education, on health and social protection, and contrary what the hon Leader of the Opposition tries to infer, supporting the poor in the Western Cape.

Now I know, I know, hon Speaker, that this is painful for the hon Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore, but I think that we need to pursue the point.

We go on in the book to say the Western Cape Government is committed, committed to interventions such as the nutrition programme; the National School Nutrition - learner transport; fee exemptions, and of course the no fee policy, which will benefit about 708,000 students.

We set out our commitment to delivering primary healthcare. We go on to the Province's delivery in social protection; in housing and we refer to the after-school programmes; the MOD Centres in 181 schools, and of course our public libraries.

We go on to refer to our efforts to support the poor and marginalised in the Local Government space, but at the end of the day I know that this is painful for the Leader of the Opposition, but this section demonstrates that the Provincial Government stands with and supports the poor in the Western Cape, and not all, it is not all ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker? Hon Speaker?

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... not all the allocations are from National Government.

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

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:
Thank you.

The SPEAKER: ... will you please take your seat. Hon the Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, thank you, hon

Speaker. I would like to ask whether the MEC is prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Dugmore. Hon Minister, are you prepared to take a question?

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: I am not prepared to take a question, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The request has been rejected, hon Leader of the Opposition. You may proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker.

There were then a number of hon members, including again the hon member Nomi Nkondlo, who said remarkably that there is no provision in this budget for small and medium-term enterprises. Another member said that we were not doing enough for small business. Well, we are evidently not looking at the same budget.

If we dig into the Adjustments Budget, what do we see?

- R857,000 to the Langeberg Municipality to support SMME development;

- R2.7 million to the Hessequa Municipality to support SMME development;
- R2 million to the Oudtshoorn Municipality to support SMME development;
- R2.3 million to the Mossel Bay Municipality to support SMME development;
- R2.2 million to the Swellendam Municipality to support SMME development;
- R2.9 million to [Inaudible.] a business incubator to support SMME development;
- R2 million to the South African Agri Academy to support SMME development;
- R2.1 million to the Reconstructive Living Lab to support SMME development;
- R3.9 million to the Innovator Trust to support SMME development;
- R3.8 million to ACESA to support SMME development;
- R302,000 to the False Bay College to support SMME development;
[Interjections.]
- R136,000 to the Cape IT Initiative to support SMME development, etcetera.

Hon Speaker, there are also a number of members who raised the question of BEE, saying that we refuse to implement prescripts of BEE. Only, of course, to refer the member to our Annual Procurement Disclosure Report, which is discussed at length in the Medium-Term

Budget Policy Statement and what does that reveal? It reveals that we spent in the last financial year R1.23 billion of all COVID-19 expenditure on BEE suppliers.

Hon Speaker, the hon member Brett Herron is concerned about spending on infrastructure. I think the topic was dealt with very eloquently and in detail by the Minister of Education, for a person like the hon member Brett Herron who prides himself in mastering the details, he seems to have got the details wrong.

First, only about 0.2% of the total budget has been surrendered, and second, the funds to which he refers and to which he is concerned about, are not being, as he claims, abandoned, or indeed returned to the fiscus, but have been reallocated to the votes and will be spent on, as the case may be, managing schools and building roads over the medium term.

Hon Speaker, the hon member Ferlon Christians is deeply concerned about poverty, and I think I and all the members of the Executive and indeed all the members of this House share that concern. I would point out to him that we do make a massive investment in public employment programmes and we estimate that we support about 86,000 work opportunities in the Western Cape, and of course as I mentioned in my earlier remarks, that will be complimented by the additional R600 million which will be allocated as a result of the Presidential

Youth Programme, and will support about 20,000 young people in our province.

Hon Speaker, the hon member Peter Marais I think asks exactly the right question. He asks, well, what is destroying the economy, and I think in my opening remarks I had a very clear answer to his question, and that is the National Government. [Interjections.] The National Government, which, as I said, delivers a stagnant economic growth, lockdowns, looting, loadshedding, budget deficits, staggering national debt ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yôh!

The MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: ... zombie State-owned Enterprises [Interjections.] and general hopelessness in South Africa.

Finally, the hon Leader of the Opposition, Cameron Dugmore, raised some specific questions. Well, the very purpose of the procurement disclosure report is to disclose information about COVID-related expenditure, and that information often results, I think, in some hard questions, which are exactly the kind of questions that the hon Leader of the Opposition is asking, and I would suggest that he raises those questions with the Minister of Transport and Public Works. [Interjections.]

On the question of broadband. I was not, as the hon Leader of the Opposition knows, I was not present or a member of Government in 2014, but it seems to me obvious that this programme which has been implemented over a number of years, has been revised and adapted, and precisely for that reason that, as I mentioned in the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, we are conducting an expenditure review on that programme in order to assess its efficiency.

Finally, hon Speaker, there were again a number of members who raised the question of humanitarian relief and poverty, and claim that there was nothing in this budget in relation to humanitarian relief, and again that we were doing nothing about poverty, but what a number of hon members, in fact all hon members appear to have missed is of course the Local Government Public Employment Support Grant, which I have to confess is buried in the 2021 draft notice of additional and amended allocations to municipalities, but was tabled.

Now that grant will allocate R50 million to municipalities across this province for short-term work opportunities. If we look at the document, the grant's purpose, and I quote:

“Is to coordinate and ensure the implementation of targeted, short-term public employment programmes in communities identified as being in distress through conditional transfers or local and district municipalities in the Western Cape.”

What are the overall outcomes which Government seeks to achieve? Well, they are set out in the documents and I quote:

“Poverty alleviation through short term job creation; increased employment and employment equity amongst the marginalised and poor communities; skills development and of course improved service delivery through targeted social, environmental and infrastructure initiatives.”

We will be allocating R50 million to that programme, and of course despite that there are members that claim that the budget makes no mention of humanitarian relief, which it does.

Finally, hon Speaker, I did notice that the hon member Brett Herron in his public statements used my refrain and then twisted it to say, “Well, the Provincial Government, it was the Provincial Government that were,” in his words, “knocked down and out,” but the truth is that the only person who has been knocked down and knocked out, is the hon Brett Herron himself who was knocked out and knocked down by Geordin Hill-Lewis, who is now, I am proud to say, the Mayor of Cape Town.

Hon Speaker, I began by thanking all members for their contribution to this debate. Of course, I think what is most disappointing is that the contributions from most Opposition members do not contain one new idea to move us forward; does not look for new solutions, to which the hon

member Peter Marais referred, and reminds me of the “all fire and fury signifying nothing”.

In the end, hon Speaker, we have been hit hard and we may have been knocked out, but we have not been knocked out in the Western Cape. We are going to stand up, we are going to brush ourselves off and we are going to fight on so that we move forward in the Western Cape. I thank you.
[Applause.]

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Thank you, the hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the consideration of the Principle of the Bill.

Are there any objections to the approval of the Principle of the Bill? No objections? Agreed to.

An HON MEMBER: No, no.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. [Interjections.] No objections, agreed.

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The SPEAKER: Who is objecting?

An HON MEMBER: It is the ANC.

The SPEAKER: The ANC is objecting.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: The objection of the ANC will be noted. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Adjustments Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. The House, having dealt with this matter, will now deal with the separate votes going forward. Now I request the Secretary to read the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration and finalisation of the *Western Cape Biodiversity Bill* [B 2B –2021]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is a speakers' list and I wish to request the hon Minister of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, hon Minister Bredell, to address the House.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker and hon members. It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Western Cape

Biodiversity Bill for our debate and consideration.

Today marks the culmination of significant milestone in our law reform process, driving our transition towards ecological sustainability. The people in the Western Cape are gifted with world-renowned biodiversity and natural resources. Together with this comes international responsibility as well as significant opportunities for our people and the biodiversity economy.

The Province is home to the Cape Floristic Region, the smallest and most diverse of the six global floral kingdoms, and one of the 34 globally recognised biodiversity hotspots.

About 34% of the succulent Karoo global biodiversity hotspots occurs within the province, legally recognised protected areas cover approximately 13% of the province, with an additional 34% of the land area identified as critical for biodiversity conservation.

Ecosystem goods and services are the foundation of our economy in the Western Cape and are necessary for inclusive economic growth and a sustainable delivery of basic services. The province's dependence on ecosystem services, including but not limited to water resources, highlights the needs which people have to ensure long-term ecological resilience which underpins ecosystem services.

Hon Speaker, these life support systems are the lifeblood of our economy, our catchment and water are the basis of many industries. Our ecosystem biodiversity and natural landscapes are the basis of our tourism economy and the drawcard of the local and location of many industries.

In responding to these imperatives and in our context, we have taken the journey to modernise, rationalise and to align provincial legislation underpinning the concurrent mandate of nature conservation.

The Western Cape Biodiversity Bill is valued-based and enables ecosystem services and infrastructure to be resilient. The Cape, One Cape 2040 challenge is also that of creating a resilient, inclusive and competitive Western Cape with higher rates of employment, producing growing incomes, greater quality and an improved quality of life. Providing for the framework and institutions for nature conservation and the protection, management and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems in this province is fundamental to attaining Focus area 5, creating an enabling environment for economic growth through resource resilience within the Western Cape inspired priority VIP 2, Growth and Jobs and contributes directly to VIP 4 mobility and spatial transformation of the Western Cape Government's Provincial Strategic Plan 2019 to 2024, and is essential to driving the economic and ecological transitions envisaged in One Cape 2040.

Hon Speaker, the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the dependence of

human wellbeing and a sustainable economy on natural systems that provide for critical resources and basic human needs. In providing for a long-term resilience of the ecosystems on which society and the economy depends; the Bill and its implementation contributes directly to the three pillars of the Western Cape Economic Recovery Plan: safety, jobs and dignity.

The Western Cape Government seeks to ensure that it puts into effect the rights found in Section 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures.

Firstly, to promote conservation and secondly to secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development.

Biodiversity and protected areas in this province are currently regulated in terms of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004; the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003; the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Act, 1998; and the Nature Conservation Ordinance, 1974. The current protection afforded by this legislation is insufficient to conserve biodiversity within this province.

Hon Speaker, the ordinance was enacted prior to the coming into effect of the Constitution. Furthermore, it does not take account of the respective

legislative changes and mandates that have subsequently been introduced and the change in biodiversity management and nature conservation.

There is now a shift away from a regulatory body policing biodiversity by issuing permits in favour of a move towards the protection of habitats of species which is a shared responsibility of the State, landowners and beneficiaries.

The Bill also gives effect to the cooperative governance provisions of the Constitution by enabling and ensuring the proactive management of the impact of activities on biodiversity in a holistic manner. The Bill identifies the roles and responsibilities on the respective organs of State in light of their constitutional mandates and clarifies the relationship between the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and the provincial public entity, CapeNature.

The Bill is aligned with the new set of planning and environmental legislation in the country and province, and has been drafted with this new legislation in mind. The Bill also introduces crosscutting and proactive mechanisms, including the requirement to publish the frequently reviewed Provincial Biodiversity Spatial Plan which ensures that biodiversity is included in planning on local and provincial level. Biodiversity priority areas are not only identified, but their protection and management are also included in planning and decision-making tools.

Rather than providing for new administrative processes to enable this integration, the Bill provides for mainstreaming and integration into these existing planning and decision-making processes. This introduces a holistic approach to biodiversity management within the province.

Hon Speaker, the Bill also requires the compilation, publication and regular review of a provincial protected area expansion strategy, specifically to enable proactive mechanisms to meet our international obligation for the conservation and priority biodiversity and ecological infrastructure.

It further provides for innovative approaches to conservation stewardship for which CapeNature is recognised as a world leader. These mechanisms recognise the essential role of partnerships with communities and other owners of land. Stewardship partnerships, hon Speaker and members, must be our focus to ensure long-term resilience and productive landscapes. Biodiversity is not just something that is kept behind a fence. These are the life-support systems that are at the very heart of our health and wellbeing.

Protection of biodiversity conservation is the responsibility of each one of us. Mobilisation of stakeholder partnerships is thus central to our collective success.

Hon Speaker, the Bill provides an enabling framework for the green and

blue economies in this province, encouraging mainstreaming and rationalised regulations in key dependent sectors; communities, partners and beneficiaries, to manage biodiversity in productive and urban landscapes.

The Bill allows for the promotion and development of ecotourism in protected areas under the control of CapeNature. CapeNature's tourism function has been escalated and included as one of the objectives of the Bill.

Can I continue, hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Please proceed, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, if the tools incorporated in the Bill are used to their full extent, the Province will be en route to achieving the goals expressed in the Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, namely ecological resilience and the ability to support a sustainable living environment within this province.

This will also enable our contribution to the achievement of the global biodiversity framework targets currently being developed through the conference of parties to the convention of biological diversity.

The Bill, with its alignment to international obligations, targets and the mechanisms contained therein, will allow South Africa to meet its international biodiversity targets. The Bill has made the paradigm shift from nature conservation in the limited sense, to biodiversity management in a wide sense, aligned to the Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and this shift thinking is now translated into the legislative domain which comes at a critical time when the province faces challenges presented by climate change.

Hon Speaker and hon members, the Bill enables a range of enforcement mechanisms which will allow for administrative as well as criminal penalties to be imposed on those who fail to comply with the provisions, which will allow flexible and appropriate enforcement of biodiversity-related crimes.

At the same time the Bill provides for significant rationalisation of administrative burdens and allows for streamlined regulations and nature-based industries, which in turn enable the growth of biodiversity economy.

To briefly summarise the process leading up to today. In April 2014 the Provincial Cabinet gave approval to amalgamate the draft Western Cape Nature Conservation Board Amendment Bill 2012, and the draft Western Cape Environmental Conservation Bill 2013, into one consolidated Bill.

A first draft of this amalgamated Bill was produced by March 2015. The Department and CapeNature identified the need to allow for modernisation alignment in the Strategic Framework and Provincial Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and to incorporate the Western Cape Biodiversity Reserve Act, 2011, and its proposed amendments, which will also allow the Bill to repeal this legislation.

Hon Speaker, the Bill will also repeal the assigned provisions of the Mountain Catchment Areas Act, 1970, and thereby modernise the protection of mountain catchment areas which themselves house important ecosystems and which deliver essential water provisioning services to the province.

Hon Speaker, the process of drafting, vetting and refinement has been an intensive process within the Department and CapeNature expertly supported by the Department of the Premier and Legal Services, and we can just thank all the experts for their hours and hours of work.

The draft Bill was published for comment on 7 May 2019 with 8 July 2019 set as the closing date for submissions and comments. The closing date was extended to 7 August 2019. Comments were received from 186 commentators. These comments were considered by the Department and CapeNature and the Department of the Premier: Legal Services, and where appropriate amendments were made to the draft Bill. The Bill was then finalised for introduction in the Provincial Parliament.

I submitted the Bill to the Speaker's Office on 22 December 2020. Thereafter the Bill was published by the Western Cape Parliament on 10 May 2021, with a commenting period of one month.

A third advertising and commenting period commenced in July 2021, with the closing date 10 August 2021. Over the past six months the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning has undertaken their due diligence in the detailed discussion and consideration of comments on the Bill.

Hon Speaker, the Standing Committee unanimously supported the proposed amendments resulting from the comment period and the deliberation. Thus, hon Speaker and hon members, the Western Cape Biodiversity Bill is presented to this House with the confidence that it not only provides for the framework and institutions of nature conservation and the protection, management and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems in the province, but that these provide the robust legal basis for our long-term ecological sustainability and climate resilience in the province.

Thus, I move for the finalisation of this Bill. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Thanks, hon Speaker, and good afternoon to everyone

present.

Hon Speaker, Premier, Leader of the Official Opposition and other members present; climate change and protecting the environment remains one of the most principal tasks of our generation.

At a recently held COP26 energy session in Scotland, President Ramaphosa said, and I quote:

“There is no longer any doubt that climate change presents a critical and urgent threat to humanity. This is so because it will have devastating consequences for our economies and societies if we don’t take action now.”

Our province in particular, both in respect of wildfires as well as the drought, knows too well the integral importance that addressing issues of climate change and the environment play.

Climate change and the protection of the environment do not only affect sectors such as agriculture and tourism, but certainly must also be understood in the context of security and human development. As the biodiversity and coastal management directive was quoted as saying recently:

“The Bill we debate here today is to ensure human well-being and the

long-term resilience of society and the economy through the conservation and protected areas.”

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for a framework and institution for nature conservation, and the protection management and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems in the province and for that matters related to these.

The Bill seeks to repeal in excess of eight pieces of legislation and most importantly it will be regulating the Western CapeNature Conservation Board.

Hon Speaker, the ANC wishes to take this opportunity to encourage those organisations such as CapeNature, to promote and educate the public of the Western Cape about the importance of protecting the environment. It is important that while our communities are educated about the environment, biodiversity and nature conversation, our communities must be also given the opportunity to visit such nature reserves in particular.

We welcome the initiatives taken by CapeNature during December, Tourism Month, to grant free access to its nature reserves for a week. Indeed, our nature reserves are our heritage and we must promote and educate our communities and children about the importance of preserving our nature reserves and environment.

Only recently did we hear of the 1,138 stakeholder learning activities conducted by CapeNature. We must commend CapeNature for their attempt to influence behavioural change towards understanding biodiversity in the Western Cape through environmental awareness and education and capacity building activities.

We also commend CapeNature of exceeding their target of number of hectares in the conservation estate, adding an extra 7,000 hectares in the last financial year. Added to this were the seven biodiversity stewardship sites declared. While the Bill may be welcome, it is the ANC's considered view that the Constitution of the Western Cape provides for an Environmental Commissioner. The ANC is empathetic that such competencies as addressed in this Bill must be within the purview and competency of the Environmental Commissioner.

Section 71 of the Provincial Constitution reads:

“In the exercise of his or her powers and functions the Commissioner must ensure the conservation of the environment in the Western Cape, and must give attention to the need to balance the goals of environmental conservation as a [Inaudible.] development.”

Hon Speaker, the ANC calls on the DA Provincial-led Government to establish the office for the Commissioner for the Environment. Only a year ago the DA was opposing the Commissioner for Children, and today it

claims the Commissioner as their victory. Yet it took the ANC and many civil society organisations to fight the DA on matters of the Children's Commissioner.

We shall do so for the Environmental Commissioner as well. We are made to believe that there were adequate legislation and regulations in place to satisfy the constitutional provisions of the Environmental Commissioner.

Today we are passing this Bill as response to the requirement for legislation to protect the environment in the Western Cape. In other words, we could simply be implementing the Environmental Commissioner. The reality of course is that the DA has lost populous support for ditching the constitutional clause making provision for the establishment of an Environmental Commissioner.

I wish to reiterate the words of our Leader of the Opposition, the hon member Dugmore, when he said:

“All the public hearings have overwhelming come out in support of the retention of the post of Environmental Commissioner, while the submission made by the former DA Chief Whip in the Provincial Legislature, Mark Wiley, coming out against the amendment, shows just how out of touch this DA caucus is with its membership.”

Hon Speaker, the ANC hopes that this piece of legislation considered here

today is not an attempt to cover up or shelf the constitutional provision for the establishment of the Environmental Commissioner. Even more so we patiently await the report of the fire-engulfed Table Mountain earlier this year, and which was partly due to the alleged negligence of the City of Cape Town in not responding fast enough. However, we still await the report from the City to determine whether the emergency services responded to the fire was adequate.

Hon Speaker, although the ANC is not against this Bill, we will continue calling on this DA-led administration to abandon its attempts to amend the Provincial Constitution and to establish the Environmental Commissioner without any delay. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Did you say “Marais”, Premier? I mean hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The hon member Marais, FF Plus, †*meneer* [sir.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Thanks [Laughs]. Yes, first of all I think this Bill is overdue and we should welcome it. I just hope it went far enough to protect our underground water reserves. We normally just look at the rural areas and protected areas, but in the cities itself you have huge expanses of land where people have informal settlements without ablution facilities,

so they are left to do their, what comes naturally, in the open fields and when it rains the seepage, the seepage of whatever lies on top of the land, into our underground water reserves, polluting it, and I would like to see that the Environmental Commissioner, we should stay, and I support the previous speaker. It is a mad idea of the ruling party in the Western Cape to want to do away with an Environmental Commissioner, and as far as my party is concerned, we will fight it all the way.

That ...[Interjections.]

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

Mr P J MARAIS: ... instead of ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... hon member Marais, you were at a minute so I have given you grace, but it is taking beyond my ability, so I want to thank you, hon member Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker, I would have been in time if I did not touch on the DA, but thank you.

The SPEAKER: Next time, next time, thank you, hon member Marais. I now recognise hon member Brinkhuis, hon members.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, the Al Jama-ah Party is concerned about the delay tactics by the Western Cape Legislature to implement the objectives of the Bill.

These deliberate delays affect the protection and conservation of the province environment, and failure to take action to stop sewerage spills into the sea. These delays are not safeguarding the well-being of people, the long-term resilience of society and the economy through the conservation of protected areas.

There are areas in Macassar and in Strand where residents still face problems with sewerage infested canals and rivers. We call on the Legislature to take more stringent action against those municipalities who are polluting the waterways and harming the environment. We are the law enforcement agencies and why has no action been taken against these municipalities?

The appointment of an Environmental Commissioner is of utmost important if we want to succeed in protecting our waterways and conservation of protected areas. Al Jama-ah supports the Bill but calls for the swift action against those guilty of contravening the Biodiversity and NEMA Act.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Brinkhuis, your time is up. Thank you very much.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, sir. Hon members, I now recognise the chairperson of the Standing Committee, hon member Van der Westhuizen.

†Mnr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Agb Speaker, agb lede, beide in die Huis en diegene wat aanlyn inskakel, dit is vir my besonder aangenaam om vandag as voorsitter van die Staande Komitee op Landbou, Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning, ter ondersteuning van die Wes-Kaapse eie Wetsontwerp op Biodiversiteit, Wetsontwerp B2B van 2021, te praat.

Ek is ook dankbaar dat die Wetsontwerp in die komiteestadium en ook vandag hier in die Huis eenparig deur al die partye aanvaar is. Dit is vir my 'n riem onder die hart dat ons almal die omgewing en natuurbewaring as sulke belangrike sake beskou, en dat ons oor politieke party-grense heen kan saamstem oor so 'n belangrike onderwerp.

Minister Bredell het in sy openingsrede aangedui hoe uniek die Wes-Kaap in terme van biodiversiteit is; hoe ryklik ons geseënd is met 'n verskeidenheid van plantspesies in 'n relatief klein omgewing. Hy het ook verwys na die verantwoordelikheid wat hierdie rykdom aan verskeidenheid op ons as verteenwoordigers van die Wes-Kaapse inwoners plaas.

Ongelukkig is dit ook so dat die name van talle van ons plant- en dierspesies ook op die internasionale sogenaamde rooi data-lys verskyn en om redes wat ek nie altyd verstaan nie, is daar dan juis diegene wat hulle daarop toespits om hierdie skaars plante en diere op onwettige maniere uit

die natuur te verwyder, en daarmee te smokkel.

Daar rus dus 'n groot verantwoordelikheid op ons as Provinsiale Regering om hierdie unieke bates te beskerm, maar hierdie verantwoordelikheid is nie net 'n las op ons skouers nie. Die verantwoordelikheid om te sorg vir hierdie besondere unieke blommaryk bied ook baie geleenthede. Daar is maniere om op volhoubare wyse die plante te benut.

Ons plante wat aangepas is vir die uiterstes van ons klimaat, bied skaduwee in die warm somermaande en skuiling teen snerpende koue in die winters. Sommige plante is gesog vir hulle medisinale eienskappe en moet daarom op volhoubare wyse benut word. Ander plante speel 'n belangrike rol om grond te stabiliseer om in ons bergopvanggebiede water terug te hou vir die droë tye, en lewer 'n bedrae tot die voorsiening van skoon water vir mens en dier.

Die besondere biodiversiteit van die Wes-Kaap hang ook nou saam met ons unieke geografie en die geologie van ons provinsie. Ons provinsie word gekenmerk deur 'n hoofsaaklik ruwe kuslyn, die pragtige Bolandse en Suid-Kaapse berge, maar ook die Sandveld en die Karoo met hulle unieke bekorings, en deels danksy ons topografie is daar nog heelwat natuurgebiede wat relatief onversteur is.

Dit, tesame met ons wonderlike dog soms uitdagende klimaat, skep 'n groot aantrekkingskrag vir besoekers aan die Wes-Kaap, en gelukkig is

verantwoordelike toerisme 'n volhoubare bedryf. Dit is belangrik dat beide inwoners en toeriste toenemend meer sal leer watter waarde ons biodiversiteit het.

Soos die kennis lui, “Kennis maak mag, maar ook onbekend maak onbeminde.” Ons het dus 'n groot verantwoordelikheid om kennis oor te dra en om respek vir ons biodiversiteit te kweek. Hierdie verantwoordelikheid is egter nie net die taak van die verskillende regeringsfere nie, en gelukkig is daar 'n toenemende besef ook tot by privaat grondeienaars, dat ons almal 'n verantwoordelikheid teenoor die natuur het.

Die toenemende besef van die belangrike rolle wat bewaring, biodiversiteit en volhoubaarheid speel, het die afgelope jare gelei tot verskillende, verskeie ontwikkelings. Dit sluit in dat daar ook verskeie wette op nasionale vlak aanvaar is. Alle aanduidings is daar dat die Nasionale Departement verantwoordelikheid vir die omgewing ook verdere wetswysigings binne die afsienbare toekoms beoog.

Die Wetsontwerp wat vandag voor u dien, erken die belangrikheid en die rol van nasionale wetgewing, en probeer om in simbiose met nasionale wetgewing te funksioneer.

Ek deel graag met u 'n aantal aspekte wat deur hierdie Wetsontwerp vandag voor die Huis gedek word. Klousule 5 van hierdie Wetsontwerp verplig alle Staatsdepartemente, Staatsentiteite wat aksies wil neem wat biodiversiteit

of die omgewing kan skaad, om 'n langtermyn perspektief te handhaaf, en om ekologiese volhoubaarheid na te streef.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Hon Speaker, hon members both in the House and those logged in online, it is very pleasant for me to today as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, to speak in support of the Western Cape's own Bill on Biodiversity, Bill B2B of 2021/22.

I am also grateful that the Bill in the Committee stage and also today here in the House has unanimously been accepted by all the parties. It is very encouraging for me that we all see the environment and nature conservation as such important issues and that we can agree across party boundaries on such an important subject.

Minister Bredell indicated in his opening speech how unique the Western Cape is in terms of biodiversity, how richly we are blessed with a variety of plant species in a relatively small environment. He also referred to the responsibility that this wealth in variety places on us as representatives of the residents of the Western Cape.

Unfortunately, it is also so that the names of many of our plant and animal species also appear on the international so-called red data list. And for

reasons that I do not always understand, it is especially those who focus on removing these scarce plants and animals in illegal ways from nature and smuggle with it.

There is therefore a big responsibility on us as Provincial Government to protect these unique assets. But this responsibility it is not just a burden on our shoulders. The responsibility to look after this special, unique floral kingdom also has many opportunities. There are ways to utilize the plants in a sustainable manner. Our plants that have been adapted for the extremes of our climate offer shade in the summer months and shelter against the biting cold in winter. Some plants are sought after for their medicinal qualities and should therefore be utilized in a sustainable manner. Other plants play an important role in stabilizing the soil to retain water in our mountain catchment areas for times of drought and contributes to the supply of clean water for man and animal.

The special biodiversity of the Western Cape is also closely connected to the unique geography and the geology of our province. Our province is characterised by mainly a rough coastline, the beautiful Boland and Southern Cape mountains, but also the Sandveld and the Karoo with its unique enchantment, and partially because of our geography there are still many nature areas that are relatively undisturbed. This, along with our wonderful, though at times challenging, climate create a great attraction to visitors to the Western Cape and fortunately responsible tourism and a sustainable industry. It is important that both residents and tourists

increasingly learn about the value of our biodiversity. As the saying goes, knowledge is power, but also, unknown, unloved. We therefore have a great responsibility to transfer knowledge and cultivate respect for our biodiversity. This responsibility, however, is not just the task of the various Government spheres, and fortunately there is an increasing awareness, even with private property owners, that we all have a responsibility towards nature. The increasing awareness of the important roles that conservation, biodiversity and sustainability play, in recent years led to various developments. It includes the adoption of several Acts at national level. All indications are that the National Department responsible for the environment envisages further amendments to the Acts within the foreseeable future. The Bill submitted to you today acknowledges the importance and the role of national legislation and is trying to function in symbiosis with national legislation.

I would like to share with you a number of aspects covered by this Bill in front of the House today. Clause 5 of this Bill obliges all State entities that want to introduce actions that can harm biodiversity or the environment to maintain a long-term perspective and to strive for ecological sustainability.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Van der Westhuizen, the noise comes from your side, so whatever it is, if you could help us. It is not anywhere other than from your device that side. So, I just thought I must draw your attention and the attention of the hon members. You may proceed, hon

member Van der Westhuizen.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, Chair.

†Klousule 6 bepaal die beginsels waarvolgens dit moet geskied. Klousule 7 en 8 spel die verpligtinge van die verantwoordelike Provinsiale Minister en die Hoof van die Departement uit. Klousule 9 tot 33 bevat die wetsbepalinge wat in die toekoms van toepassing sal wees op die Wes-Kaapse Natuurbewaringsraad, of te wel CapeNature.

In hierdie klousules vind u die pligte en magte van die organisasie, insluitende die bepalinge wat die raad se samestelling, termyn en funksionering rig. Ervaring op nasionale vlak het geleer dat sommige vakatures op rade baie lank neem om gevul te word. Waarskynlik omdat ons via die Zondo Kommissie geleer het dat sommige Ministers eers met hul party se sogenaamde Ontplooingskomitee moet skakel voordat hulle mense vir rade mag benoem.

Ons het dus voorsiening gemaak dat die raad sy eie waarnemende voorsitter kan aanwys sou 'n Minister in die toekoms sloer met die aanwysing van 'n voorsitter of ondervoorsitter vir die raad, maar mag die Wes-Kaap tog gespaar word dat so 'n politieke party weer in beheer kom.

Die voorgestelde wet vereis ook dat daar binne 12 maande 'n konsep ruimtelike biodiversiteit plan vir die provinsie opgestel sal word, en dat hierdie plan elke vyf jaar hersien moet word. Die Wetsontwerp bepaal ook

die doel, inhoud en gebruik van hierdie plan.

CapeNature moet ook binne twee jaar na die inwerkingtreding van hierdie wet 'n konsep uitbreidingstrategie vir provinsiale beskermende gebiede opstel. Daar word dus gehoop om dat ons in die toekoms 'n uitbreiding van bewaringsgebiede sal sien. Die Wetsontwerp maak ook voorsiening vir die verklaring en wysiging van bergopvanggebiede ook ten opsigte van grond in privaatbesit en dat die Minister kan bepaal watter aktiwiteite binne hierdie belangrike areas toegelaat of verbied sal word.

'n Wonderlike ontwikkeling wat ons oor die afgelope aantal jare gesien het is die uitbreiding van vennootskappe tussen die Staat en private grondgebruikers wanneer dit by bewaring kom. Hierdie Wetsontwerp maak daarvoor voorsiening dat hierdie vennootskappe genoem "Biodiversiteit opsigterskap gebiede" verskillende vorme kan aanneem.

Hierdie wetsontwerp maak ook voorsiening vir die verklaring en wysiging van UNESCO biosfeer-reservate in die Wes-Kaap. Die Wes-Kaap is in Suid-Afrika die leier in terme van die UNESCO mens- en die biosfeerprogram. Hierdie program dra by tot die belangrike internasionale erkenning vir ons unieke bewaringsgebiede.

Die Wetsontwerp bepaal ook dat die Minister met die instemming van die Nasionale Minister, sekere sensitiewe ekostelsels as sulks kan verklaar. Die Minister kan ook lyste publiseer van sensitiewe, bedreigde en kritiek

bedreigde spesies en beperkinge plaas op aktiwiteite met eksemplare van hierdie spesies. Om te verseker dat hierdie regulasies nagekom word, word daar bepaalde bevoegdhede en pligte aan natuurbewaringsbeamptes verleen en opgedra. Hierdie bevoegdhede sluit in die beslaglegging op eksemplare en voertuie van persone wat daarvan verdink word dat hulle regulasies oortree het.

Die Wetsontwerp stel dan ook vereistes daar waaraan sulke wetstoepassers moet voldoen ten einde misbruik van hierdie magte te beperk. Lede van die publiek met 'n besondere passie vir natuurbewaring sal geïnteresseerd wees in die bepalings ten opsigte van ere-natuurbewaringsamptenare.

Die Wetsontwerp maak ook voorsiening vir strawwe wat opgelê kan word sou regulasies oortree word. Persone wat te na gekom voel kan onder bepaalde omstandighede, soos in die Wetsontwerp uitgespel, hulle appèlle rig tot die hoof uitvoerende beampte van CapeNature en die Provinsiale Minister.

Dit dan in kort waaroor hierdie Wetsontwerp handel. Agb Speaker, laat ek net vinnig verwys na die brande teen Tafelberg. Ek dink dat die agb lid Marran is daarvan bewus dat Tafelberg onder SANParke val. SANParke is 'n entiteit van die Nasionale Regering, en die beveiliging van Tafelberg en die Tafelberg Natuurreservaat, teen brande, is dus die verantwoordelikheid van 'n grondeienaar, oftewel in hierdie geval die Nasionale Regering.

Die is duidelik dat SANParke sy verantwoordelikhede ten opsigte van brande en die veiligheid van besoekers verbeur en versaak, en dit is daarom dat die agb lid Marran uiteindelik na die Stad Kaapstad kyk en kyk wat se hulp Stad Kaapstad gelewer het tydens die brande wat Tafelberg verlede seisoen geteister het.

Agb lid Brinkhuis, in terme van die besoedeling wat veroorsaak word deur mense wat ons rioolstelsels misbruik. Ek wil hoop dat u ook wanneer u met die publiek skakel, 'n opvoedingstaak sal uitvoer en mense sal leer en sal help om net dit wat wel in stormwaterstelsels en in rioolstelsels hanteer kan word, in daardie stelsels te stort. Ons het inderdaad 'n ernstige probleem in daardie opsig en daar is 'n groot opvoedingstaak, en ek glo dat ons almal as gemeenskapsleiers daardie taak te alle tye moet nakom.

Ter afsluiting wil ek graag 'n aantal persone bedank sonder wie se entoesiasme en harde werk ons nie vandag hierdie Wetsontwerp ter tafel sou kon neem nie. Soos wat Minister Bredell aangedui het word die ontstaan van hierdie Wetsontwerp teruggevoer na selfs vyf jaar voordat hierdie Parlement in 2019 verkies is.

Ek wil graag hulde bring aan hulle wat die fundamente gelê het en hulle van harte bedank. Baie dankie aan die lede van die publiek en ander Staatsinstansies, insluitende die Nasionale Departement van Omgewingsake wat waardevolle insette gelewer het. Al het die Nasionale Departement eers lank na die sluitingsdatum gereageer, was die vertraging

wat dit veroorsaak het deur die Komitee hanteer, soveel so dat ons tog vandag in die doel wat ons vir onself gestel het om hierdie Wet voor die einde van die jaar te finaliseer, kon voldoen.

U het verneem hoe ver terug daar aan hierdie dokument begin is, en dat omgewingswetgewing 'n baie dinamiese onderwerp is. Ek het daarom groot waardering vir lede van die Komitee en amptenare wat aangedui het dat hulle almal bereid sou wees om hulle programme aan te pas en selfs na ure te vergader in 'n poging om hierdie voorgestelde Wetsontwerp se prosessering te versnel en voor die einde van die parlementêre jaar vir finale oorweging gereed te kry.

Baie dankie aan die Departement van Omgewingsake en Ontwikkelingsbeplanning onder leiding van mnr Piet van Zyl. Mnr Van Zyl tree binnekort af en ek glo dat hierdie Wetsontwerp sal uitstaan as een van die mylpale wat in sy termyn bereik is.

Ek vermeld ook graag die rol van CapeNature en sy uitvoerende hoof, doktor Razeena Omar. 'n Besondere woord van dank aan me Karen Shippey, maar veral aan Marlene Laros en andere wat die wye verskeidenheid van insette wat ontvang is noukeurig opgesom en aangebied het.

Waardevolle ondersteuning is ook verleen deur mnr Lionel van der Schyff van die Departement van die Premier.

Ek wil ook graag hulde bring en alle eer gee aan ons Minister, Minister

Anton Bredell wat so 'n passie vir die omgewing het en sonder wie se dryf hierdie Wetsontwerp ook nooit na hierdie Parlement toe verwys sou gewees het nie, en laastens vermeld ek graag die onmisbare rol van ons parlementêre ondersteuningspersoneel en veral die rol van me Shareen Niekerk, ons prosedurele amptenaar en ondersteuner van die Komitee. Sy het agter die skerms hard gewerk om te verseker dat ons vandag 'n produk voor ons kan hê waarop ons as Parlement met reg trots kan wees.

Agb Speaker, lede, ek het dus groot vrymoedigheid om u ondersteuning vir hierdie belangrike wetsontwerp te vra, ek dank u.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Clause 6 determines the principles in accordance with which it has to take place. Clauses 7 and 8 set out the obligations of the responsible provincial Minister and the Head of the Department. Clauses 9 to 33 contain the legal provisions that will be applicable in future on the Western CapeNature conservation board or known as CapeNature.

In these clauses one finds the duties and powers of the organization, including the provisions informing the Board's composition, term and functioning. Experience at national level showed that many vacancies on boards take a long time to be filled. Probably because we have learnt via the Zondo Commission that some Ministers first have to consult with their party's so-called Deployment Committee before they can nominate people

for boards.

We have therefore made provision that the Board can appoint its own acting Chairman should a Minister in future drag his feet in appointing a Chairman or Deputy Chairman for the Board. But hopefully the Western Cape would be spared such a political party again becoming in charge.

The proposed Act also requires that within 12 months a concept spatial biodiversity plan be drawn up for the province and that this plan be revised every five years. The Bill also determines the goal, content and use of this plan.

CapeNature also has to, within two years of the commencement of this Act, draw up a concept expansion strategy for provincial protected areas. It is hoped that in future we will see an expansion of conservation areas. The Bill also makes provision for the proclamation and amendment of mountain catchment areas, also with regard to private property ownership, and that the Minister can determine which activities can be permitted or prohibited within these important areas.

A wonderful development that we have seen over the past number of years is the extension of partnerships between the State and private land users when it comes to conservation. This Bill makes provision that these partnerships named biodiversity custodianship areas can take on various forms.

This Bill makes provision for the proclamation and amendment of UNESCO biosphere reserves in the Western Cape. The Western Cape is the leader in South Africa in terms of the UNESCO man and biosphere programme. This programme contributes to important international recognition for our unique conservation areas.

The Bill also determines that the Minister, with the concurrence of the national Minister, can proclaim certain sensitive eco-systems as such. The Minister can also publish lists of sensitive threatened and critically threatened species and place restrictions on activities with the proclamation of this species. To ensure that these regulations are adhered to, specific powers and duties are bestowed and entrusted to nature conservation officials. These powers include the confiscation of specimens and vehicles of persons suspected of having contravened regulations.

The Bill then also sets requirements that such law enforcement officers had to adhere to in order to limit abuse of these powers. Members of the public with a special passion for nature conservation will be interested in the provision with regard to honorary nature conservation officials.

The Bill also makes provision for penalties that can be imposed should regulations be transgressed. Persons who feel aggrieved can under specific circumstances as set out in the Bill, appeal to the CEO of CapeNature and the Provincial Minister.

This then, in short, what this Bill deals with. Hon Speaker, let me just quickly refer to the fires on Table Mountain. I think that the honorable Marran is aware that Table Mountain falls under SANParks. SANParks is an entity of the National Government, and the security of Table Mountain and Table Mountain Nature Reserve against fires are thus the responsibility of a property owner, or in this instance, the National Government.

It is clear that SANParks forfeits and neglects its responsibility with regard to fires and the safety of visitors, and that is why the hon Marran is in the end looking at the City of Cape Town, and see what assistance the City of Cape Town could have delivered during the fires that ravaged Table Mountain last season.

Hon member Brinkhuis, in terms of the pollution caused by people abusing our sewerage systems, I hope that you, when you liaise with the public, will exercise an educational task and will teach people and assist them to dump only that which can be handled in storm water and sewerage systems, into those systems. We have indeed a serious problem in that respect, and there is a big educational task, and I believe that all of us as community leaders will adhere to that task at all times.

In conclusion, I would like to thank a number of persons without whose enthusiasm and hard work we would not today have been able to table this Bill. As Minister Bredell has indicated, the origin of this Bill can be

traced back to even five years before this Parliament was elected in 2019. I would like to honour those who had laid the foundations and thank them from the bottom of my heart. Thank you to the members of the public and other State entities, including the national Department of Environmental Affairs that gave valuable input. Even though the national Department only reacted a long time after the closing date, the delays it have caused were handled by this Committee to the extent that we still today have succeeded in the goal we have set ourselves, to finalise this Act before the end of the year.

You have heard how far back work on this document had commenced, and that environmental legislation is a very dynamic subject, and I have therefore great admiration for the members of the Committee and officials who have indicated that they would all be prepared to adapt their programmes and meet even after hours in order to process and speed up this proposed Bill and get it ready for final consideration before the end of the parliamentary year.

Thank you to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning under the leadership of Mr Piet van Zyl. Mr van Zyl will be retiring shortly, and I believe that this Bill will stand out as one of the milestones that have been reached during his term of office.

I would also like to mention the role of CapeNature and its Executive Head, Dr Razeena Omar. A special word of thanks to Ms Karen Shippey,

but especially to Marlene Laros and others who summed up and presented the wide variety of input that was received.

Valuable support was also offered by Mr Lionel van der Schyff of the Department of the Premier.

I would also like to honour our hon Minister, Minister Anton Bredell, who has such a passion for the environment, and without whose drive this Bill would never have been referred to this Parliament. And finally, I gladly mention the indispensable role of our parliamentary support staff, and especially the role of Ms Shareen Niekerk, our procedural officer and supporter of the Committee. She worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that we today have a product before us which we as Parliament can rightfully be proud of.

Hon Speaker, hon members, I thus have much candour to ask for your support in this important Bill. I thank you.]

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the debate on the consideration of the principle and finalisation of the Bill. Are there any objections to the approval of the principle and finalisation of the Bill? No Objections. Thank you very much hon members. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Consideration and Finalisation of the *Western Cape Biodiversity Bill*.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, this Bill has been agreed to unanimously which marks a very good spirit for this day. Thank you very much to all the hon members. The Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent. I now ask the Secretary to read the tThird Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on Local Governement on the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill [B 2D-2019] – ratification of final mandate.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Right, the House has received the report of the Standing Committee on Local Governement on the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much Deputy Speaker, we rise in support of the amendment to the Municipal Systems Bill. We believe that the Bill is a clear indication of the strengthening of accountability in local government, the insistence that in

regard to processes of appointment, both of municipal managers as well as those managers that report to the municipal managers, is being improved and tightened and strengthened and this at the end of the day can only result in more effective local government and the delivery of services.

So from the ANC's side we want to support this. We also think that it is particularly important that we need to avoid situations that we are currently experiencing, where for instance the Hessequa Municipality has resolved to appoint a former MM that resigned under a cloud of allegations of sexual misconduct at the Mossel Bay Municipality and that the Hessequa Municipality has now resolved to appoint that particular individual. We think that this amendment also seeks to avoid situations like that and we trust that the MEC himself will make sure that he applies both the letter and the spirit of the law when considering that particular appointment, but from the ANC's side we believe this is a step in the right direction and we support it fully. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. Hon members, I see that my microphone was off when I read the Order. I just want to, for Hansard, just read it again for the record so that we are covered. This was the Report from the Standing Committee Standing Committee on Local Government on the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. So this mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker. The EFF holds the view that the Bill in its current state does not create job security for workers working in municipalities such as security guards, cleaners, garden workers and all the way up to managers reporting to the municipal manager.

The employment regime envisaged by the Bill will destabilise municipalities and also have a negative impact on service delivery as there will always be uncertainty when it comes to the security of tenure. The EFF therefore rejects the Bill. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise GOOD. I take it that GOOD is not actually participating. I recognise the ACDP.

An HON MEMBER: No declaration, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus. I take it no. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Al Jama-ah is in support of the Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The report tabled here today is purely academic. This process started way back in 2011. It was finally agreed to by the Committee on 7 September but due to inordinate delays within the NCOP and amongst the ANC colleagues in the National Assembly, the intention of the Bill and the impact it could have had in combatting corruption and maladministration could have been avoided many years ago.

Having said that, I think we owe a great deal of indebtedness to our Department for making a number of recommendations that seek to improve the content of the Bill and many of those were accepted by the NCOP. However, there are shortcomings that need to be tightened up in future but we believe that the context in which we find ourselves that it is a step in the right direction and certainly will improve the calibre and the quality of people that we appoint in senior management positions in municipalities.

The Bill was finally agreed to yesterday in the NCOP and has been sent to the President for assent.

I want to deal with one particular clause that is important in the sense where people have been charged with misconduct and found guilty for financial misconduct within municipalities, that a blacklist will be compiled by the Minister and that there is a provision on the reappointment of such people.

Where a person is alleged to have committed misconduct and the disciplinary process has not run its course then certainly that person is considered as not guilty of the particular misconduct, but that particular person's name will also be registered on a list of people who have absconded from misconduct hearings.

In the case of the Hessequa incident that the Leader of the Opposition referred to, to my knowledge the individual referred to had not been charged with any misconduct of any sort and therefore we must respect the process of natural justice and equality before the law. [Interjection.] Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. We support the report and the mandate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Stemele, I have to announce there are how many members present here today for the record?

The SECRETARY: 36.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to announce that there are currently 36 hon members present and entitled to vote and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House that the report of the Standing Committee on Local Government on the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill be ratified and adopted. We note the objections of those parties and the abstentions of parties for the record. Therefore the report Standing Committee on Local Government on

the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted. I thank you.

The Secretary will ready the Fourth Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the National Forests Amendment Bill [B 11D-2016] – ratification of final mandate.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The House received the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the National Forests Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I recognise the ANC.

Mr P MARRAN: Hon Deputy Speaker, I rise on behalf of the ANC to support the National Forests Amendment Bill. Amongst others, the Bill seeks to advance the sustainable management and development of forests; guarantees the protection of certain forests and trees; provides clearer definitions, for example, of national forests and woodlands; makes provision for public trusteeship of donations for forestry resources; advocates the promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest

management and puts measures in place to control and remedy deforestation.

Again, as I mentioned, earlier with the Provincial Biodiversity Bill, the ANC views this Bill as another cog in the wheel of ensuring that the environment, and in particular, our forests are protected. Yet even more so the need for an Environmental Commissioner. Our country is said to have nearly 10 million hectares of forest. The forest industry on the other hand is said to be a major contributor to the economy. Commercial plantations in the Western Cape are reported to be in the region of over 43 000 hectares. It is therefore important for a balancing act to be done in this regard with ensuring the protection of the environment on the one hand and the promotion of the sustainable livelihoods of our people dependant on the forest industry on the other.

Another important aspect that was highlighted by the ANC in National Parliament was the important role played by stakeholders and traditional healers, in particular. Consideration must go to ensure that these, together with women, people with disabilities and young people, are given the opportunity to participate in the governance of forests. Whilst we must promote reforestation, we advocate for just and sustainable solutions for communities, especially poor communities affected by the promotion of projects of reforestation. In this regard, the Bill must also be seen as a means to develop our rural areas and to ensure the development of people in the rural areas.

Again, Deputy Speaker, the ANC supports this Bill. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marran. I recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Bill under consideration does not make provision for the reversal of spatial privatisation of forestry resources which have been leased out from the South African Forestry Company Limited, which is SAFCOL, since 1998 to white-owned companies which continue to exploit them without due regard to the environment and communities who reside around these forests. Therefore the EFF will reject the Bill. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted. Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD. I assume GOOD is not on. I then recognise the ACDP. Right, abstaining. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS: Abstain.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Al Jama-ah are for the Bill, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: The National Forest Act, Act 84 of 1998 has seen a number of amendments since its first enactment. National forests and woodlands form an important part of our environment, the very same environment we need to protect for present and future generations. Plantation forests play an important part in the economy. During the previous millennium, the State played an important role in forestry but that role has seen significant changes and I want to come back to that. For centuries, national forests were harvested for short term economic benefit. In many areas this led to deforestation, resulting in irreparable harm. There is now a recognition that our remaining national forests need to be protected.

The National Forests Act provides for the declaration of protected areas and even protected trees. Forests also serve as important areas for recreation, education, cultural events and spiritual fulfilment. It was however found that the definitions of what constitutes a natural forest and woodland needed to be revised. It was also found that the national Minister required strong and swifter actions in those case where the conditions regarding national forests were breached. The Amendment Bill also proposed that in cases where the urgency of the situation required swift action, that the Minister may first declare certain forest areas as controlled forest areas and only thereafter embark on consultations and hearings.

The Amendment Bill, as circulated to provinces, also included the

prohibition on any new prospecting and mining activities in State forests except where allowed to in terms of applicable legislation. The Amendment Bill also made provision for first, the right to appeal against any decision by a department official and secondly, for the establishment of an appeal board as constituted and nominated by the responsible national Minister.

It may be of interest to members and particularly our Minister of Transport that the Select Committee in the NCOP proposed an amendment to the prohibition on mining in state forests. In the Amendment Bill, version B11D, they allow for the mining of gravel and sand for road maintenance.

†Die ANC praat van die ontwikkeling van gemeenskappe in ons plattelandse areas en veral dié naby ons plantasies. Maar agb Adjunkspeaker, dit is vir my baie jammer dat ons vorige bosbougemeenskappe, soos in die sogenaamde bosdorpe, soos 'n warm patat gelos is deur die ANC-regering. Daardie aktiwiteite, daardie bosdorpe, daardie mense wat vroeër gewerk het vir die Departement van Bosbou, is vandag werkloos en word nie voor gesorg nie, en ek wil regtig vra, dat as ons ANC-lede enige invloed het, dat hulle ons daarmee sal help.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[The ANC talks about the development of communities in our rural areas and especially those near to our plantations. But hon Deputy Speaker, we

find it a pity that our former forestry communities, as in the so-called forest towns, were dropped like a hot potato by the ANC Government. Those activities, those forest towns, those people who earlier had worked for the Department of Forestry, today are unemployed, and they are not cared for, and I really want to ask that if our ANC members have any influence, that they will help us with that.]

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental and Development Planning, recommended that the House confers ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: ... on the Western Cape's delegation in the NCOP the authority to support the Amendment Bill and I move that the report be adopted. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon member, just watch your mic. I am not sure if you are moving and causing interruption, if you hear play back you will hear that you were not very clear and maybe you could just check what is happening with your microphone. Thank you very much. I have to announce that there are currently 34 honourable members present and entitled to vote and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House is that the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the National Forests Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape

delegation in the NCOP to support this Bill be ratified and adopted.

The objections will be noted and the abstentions too. The report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the National Forests Amendment Bill has therefore been adopted. Thank you very much. Mr Stemele will you read the Fifth Order of the Day please.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism on the recommendations for the appointment of candidates to the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board, dated 8 September 2021.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Stemele. I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and that the parties who wish to do so will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration of the vote for a maximum of three minutes. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ANC supports this report for adoption by the House. In particular, we wish to once again reiterate our standpoint to support womb power, womb leadership and womb excellence as epitomised by the likes of Charlotte Manny Maxeke. Securing the leadership of women in general and black women, in particular, cannot continue to be delayed, particularly in the growing and

critical sectors of our economy with such impact on the lives of our communities, such as the Gambling and Racing Board.

In doing so, topping the list of recommended candidates, as the ANC, we wish to applaud and give extra recognition to Ms Lebogang Mokgabudi. Her leadership in the financial sector, but more importantly being described as a woman who is committed to building Africa, she has led in financial services in countries such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Pakistan, Nepal and Azerbaijan.

Ms Mokgabudi is said to be passionate about the use of fintech for social impact and development and financial services for smallholders and farmers in Kenya and Ghana. The latest Annual Report of the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board states, and I quote:

“The Board’s mandate is to regulate the gambling industry through the licensing of suitable, qualifying persons and entities to conduct gambling and racing in the province and to ensure the industry’s compliance with the national and provincial gambling legislation. Through the licencing process the Board gives effect to economic transformation and broadbased empowerment, which are Government priorities at national and provincial level. It is however imperative for the Board to ensure that in granting of economic rights and opportunities, effective and appropriate measures are in place to ensure fair play and that the harms and dangers of gambling is

minimised.”

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC finds it necessary to reemphasise the need to our provincial economy to be integrated and to give effect to economic transformation and broadbased empowerment and participation as the Annual Report states. We hope that the Board will continue to effect the granting of economic rights and opportunities, effective and appropriate measures to be in place so that our Gambling and Racing Board continues to be a successful and well governed entity. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkdondlo. I now recognise the EFF.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. We abstain. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted. Thank you. I am going to ask GOOD for the record? I assume not here. Okay. Abstaining. ACDP? Abstaining. Freedom Front Plus?

Mr P J MARAIS: Abstaining.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted. Al Jama-ah?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Abstaining, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, thank you. The Democratic Alliance?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. On the Report of the Standing Committee on Finance, Economic Opportunities and Tourism on the recommendation of the appointment of the candidates to the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board as informed by Section 3 (1) of the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Act, Act 4 of 1996, as amended.

The matter of vacancies in the Western Cape Gambling and Racing Board was referred to the Committee on 3 August 2021 by the Office of the Speaker in terms of the ATC, as received by the Provincial Minister of Finance. Provincial Treasury informed the Committee that there was one vacancy that needed to be filled and this vacancy came about on 1 February 2021. The Provincial Treasury advertised the vacant Board Member position in the *Provincial Gazette*, *Die Burger*, *Weekend Argus* and *Bakani* on 12, 13 and 18 February 2021. On 1 September 2021, Provincial Treasury briefed the Committee on the process leading to the short listing of the candidates, as is their mandate in terms of the Act.

The Committee was then provided with a list of the four candidates to evaluate and the Committee unanimously resolved to evaluate the candidates through an interview process. Further, the Committee having interviewed the candidates recommended, unanimously, all four candidates to the Minister, ranked in order of highest preference. Hon Deputy

Speaker, if you will allow, the names are listed in the ATC but I am not to sure in terms of the Popi recommendations, so I am not going to be reading the names out in the House but the ATC is public and it is listed in order.

The Committee further was unanimous in the submission, the ranking and the adoption of the report. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to congratulate and thank the Provincial Treasury on this round of short listing. The Committee last year made recommendations on the procedures of the Provincial Treasury and not only did they listen but they implemented these processes within its shortlisting process. I would also like to thank the members of the Committee for ensuring the swift but meaningful participation during this process and we hope that our recommendations will assist the Minister and Provincial Executive with their decision in this matter.

On 1 September 2021, as you may know, the Committee then resolved to submit also our score sheets to the Minister should he need assistance in understanding the reasons for our respective rankings. Hon Deputy Speaker, I request that the report now be considered and I lobby for the support of the House. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to announce that there are currently 34 honourable members present and entitled to vote and the House is therefore quorate. This House also notes the abstentions. The question put before the House is that the report of the Standing Committee on Finance,

Economic Opportunities and Tourism be adopted as per the abstentions and the support. I therefore declare it adopted. Thank you very much.

Before we adjourn, hon members, I would like to inform the members that CPA General Meeting will commence immediately after adjournment of the House. Please note that on Thursday 9 December and Friday 10 December 2021, the proceedings will commence at 10:00. This concludes the business for the day. Mr Stemele will now end the meeting and all the members will be exited from the sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 18:00.