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WEDNESDAY, 11 JUNE 2025

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Before we proceed I would like to remind the hon members about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been our practise to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House; both from the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff, and by Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings.

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

votes as per the ATC issued on 11 August 2020.

The Serjeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. In instances where these directives, hon members', do not cover a particular eventuality, the Standing Rules must apply, and in instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Hon members, the media has also been granted access to the MS Teams meeting as guests of the WCPP, however, I wish to remind the members of the press that they may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress.

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

With that being said, hon members, good morning; and to the guests in the gallery, welcome, in particular Mr Van der Westhuizen who was a member of this House in the previous Parliamentary Session. Welcome to you and your guest, and to the guests on my left hand side in the gallery.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

## **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

### **(Motion)**

The CHIEF WHIP: Good morning, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That, notwithstanding Rule 163, the House considers the Principle and Finalisation of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 4-2025] on Wednesday 11 June 2025. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Chief Whip. Hon members, the Secretary will read the First Order of the Day.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Principle of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 4-2025]

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Hon Speaker, good morning to everyone. On Tuesday, 3 June 2025, I retabled the Western Cape 2025 Main Budget. The tabling of the budget was necessary following Minister Enoch Godongwana's withdrawal of the National Budget and the National Division of Revenue Bill.

Section 27 of the Public Finance Management Act requires that our Appropriation Bill be retabled to ensure legal compliance of all Provincial budgetary processes. Our priorities remain unchanged; our commitment to serving the people of the Western Cape remains unwavering, and we are on a mission to grow the economy and create jobs.

We have tabled a R89,316 billion Budget for 2025/2026, which totals R269,524 billion over the next three financial years, and I therefore request this House to please consider the Bill accordingly. I thank you.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The ANC rejects the Provincial Budget that was retabled by the MEC of Finance, Deidré Baartman, in this House on 3 June 2025, as she stated that there are no changes to what she presented to this House on the first tabling of this very Provincial Budget on the 27 March 2025. Actually, we must point out that we are confronted with the travesty in this province under the DA rule. The National Budget was rejected and the very DA was in the forefront thereof. Subsequently the Division of Revenue Bill was withdrawn by National Minister Godongwana on 24 April 2025.

The situation caused the effect of no legal basis of the budget tabled by MEC Baartman on 27 March in this House, as the constitutionality thereof was eroded. What was the MEC of Finance taking us to when she made a premature ill-conceived budget presentation on 27 March 2025? Was it a DA strategy of always playing to the gallery to exploit the genuine issues of the citizens, as with this budget they claim of being voices of the poor? The dangers we are subjecting ourselves and the legislative sector to are to enable political expediency to override the democratic institutions at will.

Why should provinces continue to present provincial budgets when the very fiscal framework and expenditure proposals have not been finalised and adopted by the National Assembly. What are the repercussions of allowing this trend where the Division of Revenue and Appropriation Bill were not finalised, but already Provincial Treasury has already determined allocation against unconfirmed allocations, even when the safeguards in the PFMA for Government to spend 45% of its budget when there are delays of such a nature.

Here we are in another DA theatre of gimmicks at a cost to taxpayers, where the DA and their MEC of Finance claim they are retabling the same budget and this Parliament must engage in some makeshift process that has no significant, nor substantive impact to the product they presented to this House on 27 March 2025. They have used their majority in this House to show a middle finger [0:07:40 - Reference to Hansard at 0:31:28] to the

views of the public and the Opposition parties that were registered through the discussions held in the various Standing Committees of the various votes.

This retabling is nothing but a rubber stamp of a DA process which they choose to pass through this Parliament that has been rendered toothless and deliberately disempowered this House to adopt its own Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act, a process by this very MEC Deidré Baartman, when she was the Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee in the 6th Parliament. Talk about how DA uses javelin throwing of its public reps to be referees and players in weakening state institutions for parties. The ANC reject this budget retabling. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. I recognise the PA.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Speaker, good morning, and good morning to all hon members in the House. Hon Speaker, the retabling of the budget gives us an opportunity, yet another opportunity for the House to look afresh at it and interrogate the financial commitments made by this Administration. While the numbers in this document reflect bigger allocations for some people in the Western Cape, it remains numbers. It is a status quo approach in a time demanding bold action and realignment.

Hon Speaker, this budget only shows that again the Cape Metro will be favourites in the implementation of it. It must include the other regions if we really want to make a difference and if we really want to be a Government for

all the people of the Western Cape. Hon Speaker, the budget also, the spending on this budget will also be again on the SEZ rate that is already established, but the economic development and support to other regions and other municipalities are non-existent. It is important to say, hon Speaker that the Growth for Jobs strategy must realise, we need hon Speaker, we really need it, the vulnerable people who were left behind for so long. The people of the Western Cape are not asking for hand-outs. They are demanding fair access to opportunities and equitable public investment.

Hon Speaker, we also have to address the excessive use of consultants. It is shown in the previous budget and it is shown again. The Mobility Department is one of the departments that have straight reliance on consultants. It is important to make sure that within the consultants that there is a strategy to make sure that we empower our own people. This Administration and this Government always say to municipalities that they need to employ people within their own departments, yet we are not doing the same from a provincial perspective.

By the same token, hon Speaker, we have to address the fact that Government contracts only go to big companies while the SMME's are struggling. In the GoGeorge there are big companies that deal with the implementation strategy, yet there are smaller companies that might have the skills and the capacity to do so.

Hon Speaker, in conclusion, we are confronted with an Appropriation Bill that changes titles, a financial exercise that speaks more to compliance than

compassion. The Patriotic Alliance remains resolute in our commitment to advocate for those whose voices are often ignored in these Chambers – the less fortunate, the working poor, the unemployed graduates in the forgotten corners of the province.

With all that said, hon Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance still supports this budget because we need it to make sure that we provide services to the people of the Western Cape. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Before I recognise the EFF, can I please ask that – oh I see the digital clock is now on the screen. I recognise the Economic Freedom Fighters.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): I thank you very much, Somlomo, and greetings to the House at large. The Economic Freedom Fighters does not support the budget. Hon Speaker, on the previous occasion when we dealt with the very same budget, I emphasised the issue of safety in the Western Cape as a matter of going concern. It is however concerning that since then the situation has even become worse as a result of the on-going taxi violence in areas such as Mfuleni and Somerset West, which continues to rob our people's lives. Hon Speaker, the lives are being lost in instances where the on-going conflict could have been resolved through dialogue. At the heart of these conflicts lies a dispute over taxi routes, routes which should be administered by the Provincial Department of Mobility when issuing taxi permits. Some of these conflicts, hon Speaker, easily descend into violence, add to the murder rate,



and is a result of a leadership vacuum in the province.

Somlomo, the Western Cape needs a proactive leadership which is capable of mitigating against conflicts. This Provincial Government should have noticed early that there is a brewing conflict within the taxi industry and should have stepped in early to resolve whatever the conflict was. This is so because these conflicts do not only affect those running the taxi industry, as commuters as well end up being caught in the crossfire.

Somlomo, elsewhere investigations conducted by a media house, GroundUp, show that children as young as 12 years old are now recruited in high numbers by gang members in the province, for purposes aiding criminals with concealing dangerous weapons and participate in other criminal activities. Not only, hon Speaker, do we need a budget that speaks to all these things. We also need real solutions to these problems, because as we have seen with a so-called Safety Plan, money continued being spent every year, on the other hand all in the name of fighting crime, while the crime rate in the province continues to escalate on the other hand.

We are told that, hon Speaker, R43 billion will be set aside for the so-called Growth for Jobs; however, at the end of this financial year the unemployment rate will be at the same position or move slightly. The reality is that our youth has given up on ever finding employment in this province; it is for that reason why they have resorted into selling drugs to get money for protection fees and participate in other criminal activities. Hon Speaker, the budget

must speak to building of more classroom and provisions being made to absorb these learners. I thank you, hon Speaker; I see my time is up, thank you.

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

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you. Greetings to all, I greet you all in the name of his majesty. Hon Speaker, hon Premier, fellow members of the Western Cape Provincial Legislative, I greet you all. [Inaudible.] Hon Speaker, the budget presented to us has the potential to address some of the most pressing issues facing our province, and as we move forward, I urge this House to prioritise the following key areas. Hon Speaker, we must accelerate the process of land restitution and address the historical injustices faced by our people, this includes providing support to the claimants, resolving outstanding claims, and ensuring that we restore land and assist with the utilising of the land productively.

Hon Speaker, the painful legacy of the forceful removals under apartheid continues to haunt our communities. We must commit in providing reparation and support to the affected families and ensure that we undo the injustices of the past by allowing this budget to assist this Government in restoring the dignity of the coloured community. †Daar sou nooit 'n *Cape Flats* gewees het as die Witmense nie die Bruinmense se huise afgevat het en *Coloured* areas Wit areas *gedecclare* het nie. [There would never have been a Cape Flats if the White people had not taken the Brown people's houses and delared

Coloured areas as White areas.]

Hon Speaker, the lack of political will to prioritise the indigenous people of the Western Cape, †daar fail die budget al klaar [there the budget fails already.] Now we were told that 80% of the budget over the next three years will be spent on education, health, housing, and social protection in the Western Cape province, but Speaker, these are big numbers that are being tabled, and these numbers will stay just numbers in a report if there is no real political will to see these changes that this budget seeks to address. Hon Speaker, corruption by the DA leaders in Matzikama, George, Swellendam, Saldanha, and the City of Cape Town, knowing that there is no political will to address these corruption issues, this will surely sink these plans long before the first cent is deposited.

But hon Speaker, in conclusion, I urge this House to work towards, to make sure that no overseas companies benefit from this budget, and to ensure that our budget priorities align with the needs and the aspirations of the people of the Western Cape. Now let us undo the evil that was created by the imperialists and let us strive towards equality for all in order for us to create an equitable and prosperous society for all. I do thank you. *Amase!*

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

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

Front Plus notes the retabbling of the budget as it is mainly a legal compliance in terms of the PFMA. Our position has not changed in terms of our initial support for the budget. However, hon Speaker, I wish to mention the following which is very important to note today. The Constitution has set standards, standards upon which this Government must deliver. The right of access to adequate housing has been denied to many people. Even after 20 years they continue living in backyards and informal settlements. The demand for housing has increased by 83,2% between 2015 and 2024, while the provision for housing has decreased hon Speaker for the same period.

The constitutional standard also sets a right to life but many people are denied this, they are being murdered in this province, hon Speaker, we are the official murder capital of South Africa. Hon Speaker, we are becoming an ageing population according to Stats SA and yet there is not sufficient accommodation for pensioners to live a dignified life in their old age. The funding from National is inadequate to address the growing needs of the Western Cape. The budget will not be sufficient to turn back the tide of our crisis, but this budget is fait accompli, we have to accept what has been decided for us, and the Western Cape must continue to look forward and say that we will pursue the ideal of federal autonomy.

As was raised by my father in the 6th Parliament, devolution of powers to the Western Cape is an important objective if we want to address this situation of our financial dependency on National. "Finance must follow function" is a principle which we hope with more powers we will get more finance, and we

call upon the DA and the GNU to make this a point of discussion at National, and the Freedom Front Plus will play their role in this regard. In closing, hon Speaker ... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. In closing, we do support, but the declining financial allocation in real terms, while a growing population in the Western Cape is a recipe for disaster, hon Speaker, which must be noted. Thank you.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, when we look at Provincial Treasury, we must ask the question, where is the budget to protect our children, where is the budget to protect our children from bullets; because here in the Western Cape there are more drug dens than schools.

Crime is not just a criminal issue, it is a socio-economic crisis. Children are dying in gang cross-fires. Women are hiding from abusers with nowhere safe to go. Entire communities are held hostage by drugs, gangsterism and unemployment. We call on Treasury to urgently increase budget allocation towards community based safety programmes, support for shelters for abused women and children, youth development and after school initiatives that offer

an alternative to gangs.

Hon Speaker, a truly thriving economy must be rooted in justice, that means real support for emerging farmers and land reform, access to capital for small businesses, a tourism sector that uplifts rural areas, and a budget that prioritises safety, dignity and opportunity, especially for our youth. Until then we cannot claim progress, we cannot talk about growth while the majority remain outside the gates of opportunity. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the ACDP supports the budget. Hon Speaker, when we look at the budget what is concerning is that safety is eating into the budget, because when we engage Education, they must allocate now money for safety. When we speak to Health, they must have, they are looking at taking of their essential money for safety. The point I want to make hon Speaker is that we need devolution of police powers. That is what we need.

The police are under resourced and people are not safe. We saw now in the last statistics that murder has gone up. Many other categories have gone down, but murder has gone up. As the ACDP we did it previously and we are calling also for our learners to be safe, our learners are not even safe going to school, and the Walking Bus was very, very effective getting our learners safe to school. There is MEC Wenger, we went to visit the Walking Bus. So

safety is a major concern and I believe the province can do so well, if police power is devolved, and money can be spent elsewhere.

Engaging with the Health Department, they said to us, “listen, our job is, you know to look at healthcare, but now we must take from our money for security of our buildings that have been vandalised, for our staff that is not safe.” The same with Education, Education is there to teach but some of their budget must now go to the safety programmes. It is a major concern.

I think one way to go forward is when we call for the devolution of police powers so that the Province can have operational powers over the police, saying we do not have enough policemen in “x”, let us put policemen there, so we are calling for the devolution – we believe the Province can save quite a bit of money when you have total control of the police. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the 2025 Western Cape Budget 2.0, had the opportunity to shift away from its original form and actually prioritise the long term needs of our people, but instead it has continued to favour short term optics. Despite allocating R101 billion to Education over the MTEF, our schools are struggling under the weight of increasing enrolments, overcrowded classrooms and a shortage of teachers.

The additional R549 million allocated for learner growth over the next three years is simply inadequate. True investments in the future demand proper infrastructure, well paid teachers and expanded educational support, all of which is insufficiently addressed in this budget.

We welcome the announcement from the National Minister that extra funding will be allocated to Education and Health, and will come into effect later this year; however we all wait with bated breath to see how the Western Cape Government spends this extra funding.

Meanwhile the Province has chosen to pour nearly R4 billion into safety programmes, including R1,3 billion for the Law Enforcement Advancement Programme and other police initiatives over the MTEF. Additionally the safety sector has received almost double its Equitable Share this year, jumping from R347 million to R684 million, funds that could have bolstered Education, and despite these massive expenditures crime and gang violence remain rampant. More police and reactive measures are not enough.

Addressing the root causes of crime, poverty, inequality and lack of economic opportunities is what is needed. Despite an uptick in the discourse about moving away from private funding, especially for public infrastructure, the Western Cape Government has doubled down and stuck to its increasing reliance on private funding to finance public infrastructure, with plans for a R200 billion pipeline of bankable projects by 2030. Private investors expect returns which could lead to creep-in privatisation, user fees for essential



services, and reduce public accountability.

The details of these agreements also remain opaque, raising concerns around long term financial risk. If these projects fail, it would be taxpayers who will ultimately bear the burden. This Budget 2.0 does not deviate from its original form in any meaningful way. This Government heard our calls in March when we critiqued Budget 1.0, but those calls fell on deaf ears. It still underfunds Education, overspends on ineffective policing and invites private interests into public infrastructure without transparency.

The people of the Western Cape deserve leadership that prioritises their needs, not one that shifts responsibility to the private sector while neglecting systemic challenges. We need bold leadership, not just big numbers, and we need a budget that truly invests in education, community driven safety initiatives and a well-funded public healthcare system, only then can we build a just and sustainable future for all. Thank you.

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

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, South Africa stands at a crossroads, our national economy is in crisis, growth is faltering and joblessness continues to rise, but here in the Western Cape we are stepping up. We are building a province that works for everyone, and that is exactly why nearly 80% of our budget over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework is committed to Social Services, because dignity is a non-negotiable.

The budget protects and strengthens the services that matter most, quality education, reliable healthcare, and critical social development programmes. Over R215 billion will be invested in frontline services, R101 billion in Education to improve outcomes and expand access, R100 billion in Healthcare to strengthen our facilities and workforce, and R8,4 billion in Social Development to support the most vulnerable families and communities.

In regions often overlooked by the National Government we are deliberately doing more. In the Central Karoo, per capita spending is 34% higher than the provincial average, this is proof that this budget reaches far beyond just the metros; we are building a province where no one is left behind.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape also has the lowest unemployment rate in the country, standing at 19,6%. This is not by chance, but rather as a result of focused action. Through our Growth for Jobs strategy we are building an economy that includes the entrepreneur in Khayelitsha, the farmer in Beaufort West and the factory worker in George. That is why R31 billion is being directed towards infrastructure to better connect rural towns to opportunity. It is exactly why we are cutting red tape with R45 million in support to make doing business easier, and it is why R382 million will go to 17 green energy projects, so that homes stay powered and industries can keep producing.

The Western Cape already leads South Africa with the lowest inequality and the highest human development index, but we are not done. With this budget we are building a province where progress is measured not just in rand but in lives uplifted. Hon Speaker, to this end, the DA supports this budget. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Johnson. Hon Booysen, is that a point of order?

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker, I am standing on a point of clarity, may I raise [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: You can address me.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Speaker, firstly, is it parliamentary to use the term “middle finger”, because we know the true reference of the meaning “middle finger”, and secondly, hon Speaker, when members vote against the budget, how would their remuneration be treated?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, that is a – I will [Interjection.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Please take this member to a workshop [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order members, there was a point of order. Hon Booysen,

firstly, if you raise a point of order ... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: That is no point of order.

The SPEAKER: ... you cannot raise two points of order with substantially different points of orders, that is the first point. So I am going to rule on your first point and I will consult Hansard [0:31:28 Reference to middle finger at 0:07:40] to check the pretext, contexts and posttext of that contribution by the member and I will revert back to the House; and secondly, that is not a point of order on your second point. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I will try and pair some of the comments together. In terms of the parliamentary process, I am not going to speak on behalf of Parliament or the Programming Authority that determines the programme of the House, including the programme that is before us today. To my knowledge the particular process was proposed by the largest Opposition party in our House and I would encourage the members to engage their respective party representatives on the particular body if they disagree with the suggestions that were made by their particular party.

In terms of the Government procedure, it is the same procedure we follow every year, it is not a new procedure, and we always aim to conclude our Provincial Budget before the financial year start for certainty and stability in

the system, and in terms of the legal procedure followed, we have followed the advice and guidance of the National Treasury of the Legal Unit within the Department of the Premier of the Provincial Treasury, as well as procedural guidance from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, and I am currently comfortable with that legal procedure being in order from our side.

In terms of the Money Bills Amendment Bill, it is before the Budget Committee, and it is something I am very passionate about myself, hon Speaker, as you know in the previous term I introduced the particular resolution that we work on that particular Bill, but due to the nature of the Bill and my new role now, it would be inappropriate for a Finance Minister to introduce such legislation, which is why I brought the matter in my previous role, where it would have been appropriate as Budget Chair at the time, and I would encourage the members of the Budget Committee to continue with that work because I do think it is very important work and that it would assist us in future budget matters.

The hon member Constable mentioned the rural areas and that we need to spend more money on rural areas. I would like to thank the hon member for the support of the budget.

I would also like to reiterate to this House that despite the average per capita of this budget in the Western Cape being R11 634 per person. So if anyone at home is watching, if you have to take our full budget and divide it by everyone in the Western Cape, the average per person is R11 634, and in the

Central Karoo we are actually spending R15 609 per person, and in the Garden Route, for example, we are spending R11 670 per person.

So that is actually above the average per capita. So people in the Central Karoo, from which I know the hon member is very passionate about, is actually getting a larger average per capita based on this budget.

In terms of employment. Employment is still high despite the fact that employment has come down in our province. Employment has decreased. He will know that employment for especially Coloured and African Black components, as per Stats SA, has increased and we have also budgeted R43,8 billion for our Growth for Jobs portfolios and programmes within this particular budget to make sure that we do not stop at 19,6%, that we decrease that employment figure even further.

The hon member Lithakong from EFF asked questions about safety. We are allocating R3,96 billion for safety in our budget, including additional money for the Provincial Safety Intelligence Centre, because we need to make sure that that data and evidence inform our safety programmes.

The hon member asked about where are our infrastructure money in Education. We also received the BFI funding for Education from National and the departments, they worked very hard on being able to get these documents and applications over the line.

So the Western Cape Government and the departments can be proud to say the National Treasury has confidence to be able to give us this additional money from BFI.

Hon member Jacobs mentioned the land restitution. Land restitution is a national mandate, so I would recommend that the hon member brings those particular items into the DORA division of Revenuable Process should the hon member wish.

In terms of corruption, please do report corruption where you have evidence. I would hate for any hon member of this House to be sitting on evidence of corruption and not reporting it in terms of relevant legislation. So please do submit that to the respective body, depending on the nature of the allegation.

The hon member mentioned no overseas company should benefit from this budget. I just need to make this House aware that, for example, the MS Teams system that we are currently using to have this Sitting as hybrid, is paid for to an international company because we do not own MS Teams in South Africa.

So in the budget, if he had to say, for example, no overseas companies allowed to benefit from this budget, we would have to cut all MS Teams in the whole Western Cape Government, including all licences for internet and things that we have to use Government programmes for.

So I just want to caution us not to make blanket statements in this regard because sometimes there is something out of our country that we do not make and we have to import it, and that is not my fault. I do not create MS Teams, but we do need it.

The hon member from the EFF – sorry, not EFF, Vryheidsfront Plus, mentioned that we need to – that we are the safety capital. We are not the safety capital anymore, hon Speaker, and I just need to put that on record.

The hon member also indicated that we need to look after our elderly and I completely agree we need to look after our elderly. This is why we increased the subsidies in the Social Development budget, and this includes for the elderly programmes and it is actually the first time that we have increased these particular subsidies in, I think, eight years, and that comes from money from the Provincial Revenue Fund. It is not from National. It is our own money in the province that we took in order to be able to increase those subsidies.

The hon member also asked that we call upon the DA in the GNU to make certain decisions. To my knowledge the hon member also has a colleague from their particular party in the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. I recognise the hon member Marais. Is that a point of order?



Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon speaker, I just wanted to – the hon Minister says that I said that we are the safety capital. I said we are the murder capital. Just a correction for the hon Minister.

The SPEAKER: Alright. Hon members – I note your point, hon member Marais. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you for that correction. I did mean murder capital, but you could – I guess in terms of statistics you could probably argue both, but that is why we need to make sure that we spend that R3,9 billion on safety in order to bring the murder rate down. Despite us not being the murder capital in South Africa anymore, one murder is one too many. So we need to continue working to bring those figures down, and we hope that the hon member will support us in this efforts.

Hon member Brinkhuis asked what are our budget items in order to protect children. Over and above what was already in departmental baselines previously we are giving – from the Provincial Revenue Fund we are giving an additional billion rand to Education in their budget.

So out of the R3,2 billion of the Provincial Revenue Fund:

- R1 billion is going to Education.
- R755 million is going to Health.

- We are, for example, spending R6,2 million on the Provincial Safety Intelligence Centre.
- We are giving additional funding for agriculture education and training.
- We are giving additional money for the Year Beyond Library Project.
- We are giving additional money for safeguarding facilities and social development.
- An extra R15 million for humanitarian relief.

In Infrastructure's budget you will see that we took out of the asset reserve in order to assist with the building of the CYCC, which is the Children's Youth Care Centre. That is R35 million which Infrastructure is building on behalf and doing on behalf of Social Development.

There is money for GBV, there is money for TCC services, there is additional money for SWIMS app, and all of these items are over and above what is already in departmental baselines and their particular programmes previously.

In terms of safety money being taken from Education and Health, that is not true. Both budgets of Education and Health have increased. Okay. What I heard was safety money is coming from Education and Health, but that is not true, and what I will do is I will just quickly pair the funding together.

The Provincial Revenue Fund put into this budget R3,2 billion. Out of that R3,2 billion we have increased the Education budget by a billion, we have

increased the Health budget by R755 million.

When you look at the data that goes into the PES from Health, from Education and from Social Development, that equals 78%, the data, but when you look at the PES that we have allocated to Health, Education and Social Development in the budget, it equates to 84,62%.

So that is almost a 7% above the data that goes into the PES nationally, and in Education specifically, their PES amount in their budget is just under 45%, which is the highest it has ever been, but it is also above the National Treasury recommendation of 44% in this regard.

It also should be noted that PES is not a budgeting tool, it is a funding tool.

So I am just going to try and pair some of those questions together, but I do agree with the hon member that safety must be devolved. We do need more powers and we need to be able to continue fighting for that devolution so that we are able to bring that murder rate down. We really do need to do that.

An HON MEMBER: Hear-hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: In terms of – thank you, and I am sure that the hon members online will also WhatsApp their colleagues from their political parties, not also only rely on the DA WhatsApps to go to National.

In terms of the national education and health funding that will be coming later in the year to us, that will be earmarked from the National Treasury.

So we will essentially just be like a bank account passing the money along to the respective departments and for the particular purposes. In Education particularly the earmarked funding will be for the implementation of the BELA Bill in that regard.

In terms of private funding and the agreements being opaque. I am not sure what the hon member is referring to because I have not signed any loan agreements binding this province.

In terms of the Borrowing Act of South Africa and in the Province, in terms of borrowing, legally only the MEC for Finance is allowed to sign off a loan. Not only do you have to then sign off this loan, that has to go to the National Loans Committee meeting, which is convened by the National Finance Minister and all nine MECs are there.

So even if I had to sign off on a loan, that loan is not effective until all MECs for Finance, including the Finance Minister, have also signed off on such a loan, and none of that has happened. So I do not know what the hon member means in terms of the agreements being opaque.

However, for example, there is a committee meeting tomorrow in Provincial Parliament dealing with alternative and blended financing in our Province,

where the chairpersons of Finance and Infrastructure are calling us to come and explain what does this mean, and I would encourage the hon member to attend these committee sessions because this is what oversight means, is we have tabled this document, we have tabled this vision of what we want to do and part of the parliamentary oversight is we must come explain to Parliament what this means.

Not only that, but there is legal oversight mechanisms through the Budget Committee on these items, as well as through the Loans Committee. I mean I was in a Loans Committee meeting yesterday regarding Gauteng matters, and even when you go to the Loans Committee, the province that submits the request does not have a vote.

So you cannot vote on your own stuff. The other eight Finance Ministers and the National Minister has to say, “Are we giving you permission to go out on a loan?”

So there are many, many areas for oversight, both from a National Treasury perspective, both from the other MECs, to make sure that provinces do not throw the country into debt irresponsibly, but also through the respective Legislatures and the National Parliaments and the NCOP and so on. So we need to use our oversight mechanisms in this regard.

In terms – hon Speaker, I just want to conclude by saying that at the beginning of the year the Premier urged all of us at the State of the Province

Address to step up, and this budget process, even though we are calling it 2.0, is a testament to that. We are a province with all of our institutions coming together and stepping up to serve the people of the Western Cape.

It is a budget period that tested the resilience of the Western Cape Government and the Provincial Treasury to navigate complex fiscal processes in an uncertain national context, and this Government demonstrated stability through its unwavering commitment to fiscal stability, discipline and sustainability.

We maintain strict cashflow protocols to protect service delivery in the province. As you would know, hon Speaker, the PMA also has specific rules to say if a budget has not been passed then how much money we are allowed to use, and we are well within our legal limit, making sure that our cashflow protocols are maintained.

I want to therefore extend my gratitude to the Provincial Treasury for their technical excellence and for keeping a steady hand in spite of the turbulent waters we had to navigate, as well as recognising the legal services in the Department of the Premier for their guidance throughout this process.

I want to thank the Speakerage and the officials of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament for your procedural guidance, and to the political party leadership represented in this House, thank you for rising above the politics to offer cooperation as we steer ourselves through these unprecedented times,

including giving us permission, through the Programming Authority, for the particular procedures.

Hon Speaker, lastly, I want to acknowledge the people of the Western Cape. Whether you engaged with us at a First Thursday or submitted your tips using the “Budget with Deidre” link, or simply left a comment on social media, really thank you so much, and thank you for trusting the Western Cape Government to keep working for you.

Hon Speaker, I want to conclude by acknowledging the contributions by the respective speakers and the declarations during today's Sitting, especially the valuable and constructive comments on this particular budget, and where relevant we will consider the respective inputs for future processes.

I thank you and request that this House please adopts the Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, 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: Object!

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker, my hand is up.

An HON MEMBER: We object!

The SPEAKER: Order, order, hon members. Are there any objections to the approval of the Consideration of the Bill?

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection.

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: All those in favour of the approval of the Consideration of the Principle of the Bill being adopted, please say yes.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the Consideration of the approval of the Principle of the Bill, please say no.

An HON MEMBER: No!

An HON MEMBER: No!

An HON MEMBER: No!



An HON MEMBER: No! No!

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it. Order, hon members! I think the ayes have it. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Votes and Schedule – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4-2025].

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Parties now have an opportunity to make a declaration covering all the Votes.

I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and that parties who wish to do so will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration for a maximum of three minutes each.

I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration. If they so wish, I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The ANC rises to participate in this debate with grave concerns about the lived realities of our people in the Western Cape, which this budget fails to address.

The regression in municipal audit outcomes, the deepening food insecurity crisis and the chronic underspending on Human Settlements grants expose an uncaring Government that prioritises optics over tangible change.

The Auditor-General's report reveals a disturbing decline in audit outcomes for Western Cape municipalities, with only 20 clean audits in 2023/24, decreasing from 22 in 2020/2021.

This regression demands urgent intervention from the Provincial Treasury. Poor financial management, irregular expenditure and weak procurement processes are robbing communities of services. Yet this budget lacks concrete measures to hold municipalities accountable or rebuild institutional integrity.

While the DA boasts of a well-run province and municipalities, 23,2% of people in the City of Cape Town face food insecurity, according to SIRI's recent report.

On the other hand the Green Capes 2016 Marketing Intelligence Report revealed that 7,7 million tons of waste produced annually in this province, with 2,9 million tons being organic waste that includes food from crops, crop waste, food production waste and retail, hospitality and wholesale waste.

The Department of Health's pilot project in partnership with GGMT to address stunting is welcomed, but our appeal is for this number to be increased so that more and more mothers and children can benefit.

The DA's neglect of the poor is starkest in the failure to spend Human Settlement grants while over 600 000 people languish on the housing demand database.

Informal settlements like Khayelitsha and Dunoon flood annually, yet millions of rand earmarked for informal settlements upgrading were not spent and returned to the National Treasury. Shockingly 17 projects under MEC Simmers's watch were undertaken without approved business plan.

Why is public monies being spent without oversight? We demand an investigation into this reckless mismanagement.

The ANC rejects this budget that entrenches inequality. It ignores the Cape Flats where over 1 000 lives were lost in violence in three months, and 1 000 women and children suffered sexual violence. It abandons the poor while subsidising privilege.

The ANC cannot support a budget that fails to transform the apartheid spatial economy, addresses hunger or audits its own failures. The people deserve better. I thank you.

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

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Greetings, hon Speaker and all the people of the Western Cape. I am speaking on behalf of the Patriotic Alliance.

Hon Speaker, we are not here only to criticise, but to see that there is well-being for all our people in the Western Cape.

Our main concern is the distribution and the implementation of the budget and the resources. We again ask for intervention in education, safety, social development, job creation and housing.

†Agb Speaker, daar moet indringend gekyk word na die rol van munisipaliteite in die uitrol van die begroting. Munisipaliteite wat nie hul diensleweringrol kan vervul nie moet aangespreek word en gehelp word. [Hon Speaker, there has to be thoroughly looked at the role of municipalities and the rollout of the budget. Municipalities that cannot fulfil their service delivery should be taken to task and assisted.]

The PA supports the Budget and the Budget Votes. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the EFF.

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

Hon Speaker, the amount allocated for safety is too little considering that this needs to be directed to fighting the scourge of crime in this province, which is ever-increasing, whilst the budget allocation is not [Inaudible.] catching up.

Hon Speaker, drugs and alcohol remain a huge concern in the province as they account and play a decisive role in most of the crimes committed in this province.

We still have a Community Safety Provincial Department which is incapable of identifying and shutting down all drug houses in this province, especially in the Cape Flats.

Every time when this Department is expected to step up and save people of this province from their misery, those running it would rather blame the South African Police Services for everything, but then attempt to take credit for every success story.

Most domestic violence crimes, such as gender-based violence, abuses against children and femicide in this province have alcohol as a main contributory source. Not only does alcohol harm those who consume it, but also those close to them.

It cannot be that this Province celebrates financial collections made from the Provincial Liquor Authority, but does not use adequate financial and other resources to fight against harms created by alcohol.

Hon Speaker, these harms, which are out of control as a result of alcohol and drugs, also affect the budget allocation in other Votes or departments, such as the Department of Social Development, which will have to spend more money in order to find more shelters for women and children who now remain homeless as a result of running away from drunkards and drug users.

The same with our hospitals, hon Speaker, which in this province are always full on weekends as a result of motor car accidents and domestic violence incidents as a result of alcohol.

Hon Speaker, the amount allocated to the Department of Education needs to be spent on building more classrooms and more schools from Quantile 1 to Quantile 5. We also need schools with better facilities and resources. It cannot be that only Quantile 3 to 5 schools receive these resources. When it comes to 1 and 2, we are provided with stories. Township schools also need sporting facilities, hon Speaker, and catering for different sporting codes.

Before the end of this year every learner who applied for school placement needs to be placed in school as well.

Hon Speaker, the amount allocated to the Department of Infrastructure is

enough to make sure that we have better road infrastructure to mitigate against traffic congestion as well as building better bridges which will not be flooded during the period of natural disasters.

Hon Speaker, the budget needs to speak to spatial planning in the inner city and the rapid development of affordable social housing, as well as building houses for the indigent in townships.

In conclusion, hon Speaker. As long as all these issues are not resolved, the EFF will not be supporting this Vote. Thank you.

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

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): [No audible response]

The SPEAKER: I recognise the NCC.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, R43 million has been allocated to create jobs and equip jobseekers to be competitive in the job market. Cape Town has welcomed more than 3 million international passengers in 2024, but the income that was derived was clearly not shared with the people of Cape Town.

The NCC hopes that this budget will be used to develop the Khoi First Nation

sites, support small businesses and also develop the sites for tourists in the Coloured areas so it can grow and create real sustainable jobs.

Hon Speaker, almost R4 billion has been budgeted and allocated for safety in the province. The NCC really hopes that the hon Premier, in his infinite wisdom, does not take another billion from Safety and send it to other departments as he usually does.

Hon Speaker, the million sent to the City of Cape Town ShotStopper has failed dismally. The MACo for community safety officers was raided, 30 guns got missing and not one reported to the police.

Hon Speaker, from 2 to 8 June 2025, 115 shooting incidents occurred, and in less than a space of a week 20 people killed on the Cape Flats, and LEAP was nowhere to be seen. As the NCC we say that LEAP has not yield the outcomes compared to the financial input.

The NCC notes the amount budgeted and we will make sure that we keep an eye on the expenditure.

Now we note that R6,4 billion in Infrastructure is set aside for housing, as tabled by the budget and the Western Cape, as we speak, has a backlog of about 600 000 people on the housing waiting list, meaning the backyard dwellers are also increasing.



The Department will spend around R3,25 million on informal settlements in the Western Cape. However, the residents in these informal settlements are not from the Western Cape, being rewarded for stealing land is very encouraging.

Now, hon Speaker, I see the whole budget is tabled and it indicates that R100 billion over the period of three years will be spent. It is clear that the lack of services is not the shortage, the shortage of pills and equipment, that is what needs to be done. We need a service to be delivered, but in this case there is no service delivery.

Hon Speaker, we note that R101 billion allocated over three years is also allocated. The National Minister allocated additional funding to Education and Health.

So as the NCC we will be happy to see that the MEC reinstates the 2 407 teachers that were released in 2025. Education is the cornerstone of our communities and the lack of access for Coloured people to schools is our biggest challenge.

Let this budget be beneficial to the poor. I thank you.

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

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, on behalf of the Freedom Front Plus I just want to say that the departments must spend the money. We tax people in South Africa and if that money is not spent then we have overtaxed our people.

So I want to appeal to the departments and to the Ministers to ensure that we achieve the maximum benefit we can to improve the quality of people's lives.

A budget is a tool. It is a tool that we use in order to achieve the standards set by the Constitution so that we can deliver on the promise of a better quality of life for all our people in the province.

Having said that, I want to reaffirm that in the previous Sitting I raised my concern on the hon Premier's Vote, the Education Vote and the Infrastructure Vote, and I would like to make sure that the hon Premier takes note that funds held in reserve must eventually serve a purpose because it is taxpayers' money and money must be spent.

We are not here to profit off our people, we are here to benefit, or rather to spend the money to benefit them and improve the quality of their lives in the Western Cape. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you, hon Speaker. No declaration from Al Jama-ah, thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. At least I can clarify myself quickly when it comes to Education and Health.

What I said was Education Budget gets given to them. Out of their budget they must now provide for safety. That is a concern.

The same with Health. When you engage Health they will tell you, “We must take our money, we must provide healthcare, but now we must also have a budget for safety because our doctors are not safe, the facilities are vandalised.” That is the problem I have.

So when you go to social services you have the same problem, because we do not have proper police services. It is inadequate, it is under-resourced and if we have the devolution of powers at least police can do their work and that money can be better allocated to serve our people better. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise GOOD.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. We have no further declaration.

The SPEAKER: Order! GOOD?

Mr B N HERRON: I said thank you, hon Speaker, we have no further declaration.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much. I recognise the DA.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Hon Speaker, just a correction. It is not the Growth for Jobs strategy, it is the award-winning Growth for Job strategy, and for that reason the DA fully supports the budget. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member.

Hon members, that concludes the declaration on the Consideration of the Votes and the Schedule of the Bill. Are there any objections to Votes 1 to 14 and the Schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill? Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: We object! We object!

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection. So all those in favour – my apologies. I was just informed by the Table Staff that there was a hand on the hybrid system, but that hand has subsequently dropped so I will continue.

All those in favour of the Votes and the Schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill being adopted, please say yes.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the Votes and the Schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill being adopted, please say no.

HON MEMBERS: No.

The SPEAKER: I think the ayes have it. The Votes and the Schedule of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill has therefore been adopted.

The Secretary will read the Third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Finalisation of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B-2025], including the clauses and the short title.

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister of Finance.

†Die MINISTER VAN FINANSIES: Dankie, agb Speaker, ek vra hiermee dat hierdie Huis die Wes-Kaapse Begrotingswetsontwerp Wet 4 van 2025 asseblief finaliseer. Dankie.

[The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you, hon Speaker, I hereby request that this House please finalises the Western Cape Appropriation Bill Act 4 of 2025. ]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister.

There being no list of speakers, are there any objections to the Bill being finalised? No objections, agreed to.

Hon members, was that an objection? Hon members, I want to reiterate the importance of this process. We need to ensure that Parliament fulfils its responsibility to ensure that the process is followed according to the Rules and to the law, and just for the record, I have put the question to the House. There were no objections and therefore it has been agreed to that the Bill is therefore finalised.

Hon members, with that being said, the Bill will be sent – my apologies. The Secretary must first read the Bill. Secretary, read the Bill, please.

An HON MEMBER: I thought that was missing.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, the finalisation, including the clauses and the short title of the Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B4-2025], are therefore approved.

The Secretary has read the Bill and the Bill will therefore be sent to the Premier for assent.

Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all hon members will be exited from the Sitting. The House is adjourned.

*[The House adjourns at 11:05.]*