
THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2026

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may be seated. Good afternoon, hon members and our guests in the gallery. Welcome to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, especially our social workers from Khayelitsha. You are not only the architects in social development but your work stretches across communities who are intimately aware of the challenges and for that we say, thank you for all that you do. Your work has a lasting impact on the lives of residents in this province. Thank you for being here.

Hon members, you are aware of the rules that govern our sittings. I would once again just highlight that for this sitting language interpretation services are

available by using the devices at your disposal and if any guest requires an interpreting device, please raise your hand and an attendant will assist you. Officials are available to assist hon members who are experiencing challenges when accessing the interpreting services during this sitting.

Hon members, we will promptly commence with the business of the day in terms of Rule 197, the Interpellations as printed on the Question Paper, and I now recognise the hon Minister of Education, the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, if you can take your seat. Hon member Sayed, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, yes. Hon member Benson has requested them to just accept him, please. He is tuned in online. If they can just accept him, please. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I will personally accept. I do not see him in the waiting room. He is accepted. Hon member Michels, are you rising on a point of order?

†Mnr J R MICHELS (NCC): Agb Adjunkspeaker, u moet gou vir my net lei. As die NCC voel ons baie ongelukkig. Dit het nou al op 'n vorige geleentheid ook gebeur dat die Sprekerslys uitgekom het en wat die tyd verloop het op

belangrike sake wat ons wil opper. In hierdie geval, waar ons kom by die Vrae aan die Premier, waar ons ook vrae ingedien het en ek verstaan ook dat daar is 'n proses hoe die name op die lys moet kom, maar ek voel dat ons as die NCC elke keer benadeel word met alles in terme van die prosesse, want op belangrike sake kry ons nie 'n spreekbeurt op hierdie sake nie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Mr J R MICHELS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker, you must just guide me. As the NCC we are very unhappy. It has already happened on a previous occasion that the speakers' list had appeared and that time had passed on important issues that we want to raise. In this case, where we get to Questions to the Premier, where we have also submitted questions, and I understand that there is a process as to how the names get onto the list, but I feel that we as the NCC are disadvantaged every time with everything in terms of the processes, because on important issues we do not get a speaking opportunity on these matters.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Michels. What I will say in this regard is that, seeing that this is the People's Parliament and that members in this Legislature ultimately represent the people of our province, we would not want any particular member to feel excluded or for a member to feel that his or her questions are not entertained. I will engage with the hon Chief Whip and the leaders of parties to see how we are able to address those concerns moving forward.

There is criteria, as you have indicated, when it comes to Questions without Notice to the Premier, which is on the Order Paper for today, and those names were drawn accordingly, in terms of Rule 204. But we will make sure that we have engagements moving forward. Thank you so much for raising that point, hon Michels.

I see the hon Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Deputy Speaker, just for informational purposes, there is a draw that takes place on Fridays at 12:15 before Questions to the Premier and political parties are welcome to attend that draw. And I am sure my counterpart, hon Bans, will agree with me that when the Secretary read out the names of members participating, the member's name was in the lucky draw. But unfortunately, it is a lucky draw, so it is not engineered. Members are drawn based on whether their names come out of the hat.

I am also offended because my name was drawn, but two of my political party colleagues were already drawn, so I cannot ask my question. But it is not an issue of members not getting a fair opportunity. It is just the luck of the draw.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Chief Whip. I will take the opportunity now, seeing that the Chief Whip raised that point as well, I can confirm that in engagements in the POC, the Parliamentary Oversight Committee, the Secretary again raised the matter with regards to training and

additional capacitation training, which the hon Chief Whip, together with members, will ultimately find a way to add it onto the programme so that that can continuously happen in this House.

Hon members, we will promptly proceed, as I have indicated, and I recognise the hon Minister.

INTERPELLATIONS

School drop outs

1. Mr F C Christians asked the Minister of Education:

In the light of the increasing number of learners dropping out of schools across the Western Cape due to parental neglect, substance abuse in households, gang violence and unstable living arrangements:

(a) What specific measures is his department implementing to identify learners who have been absent from classes for extended periods of one year or more and (b) what interdepartmental support mechanisms are in place to ensure that these children are reintegrated into the education system?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Learner retention is, of course, a priority for our department and our schools and it is no accident that we consistently have the highest learner retention rate in the

country. It is also important to remind the House that any person who prevents a child of compulsory school-going age from attending school, violates Section 3(1) of the South African Schools Act and is indeed guilty of an offence, which means they may be liable, on conviction, to a fine or imprisonment for a period of up to six months.

In terms of identifying learners who are absent from class, the WCED has 22 District School Safety Support Workers whose main function, amongst other duties, is youth development. One of the key performance areas for their role is the investigation of truancy through home visits. For their work, truancy is defined as the intentional, unjustified, unauthorised, illegal absence from compulsory education. Reports of truancy are sent to the Safe Schools Offices in districts via the Safe Schools Call Centre or directly via schools.

The School Circuit Manager, District School Safety Officer, Safe Schools Call Centre or District-based Support Teams identify learners who have been absent from school for more than seven days, are frequently absent from school, are prone to habitual or chronic truancy and/or are at risk of playing truant or indeed dropping out of school.

Truancy cases are referred to the Safe Schools Field Workers for investigation. Investigations include a home visit or call or meeting with the parent at the school, and the aim of the investigation is always to promote school attendance and to reintegrate the learner into the school system. If, after the investigation, there is reason to believe that the learner is truant, further assessments will take

place with the support of the parent but also school psychologists and social workers or indeed the District-based Support Teams.

A developmental approach will be followed to intervene after the assessment report. Where necessary, the relevant support services such as the school social workers, psychologists, Safe Schools, the District-based Support Teams, circuit managers and schools, or indeed other service providers identified in the area, are activated and then provide counselling, debriefing or the relevant positive behavioural programme.

During 2025, 285 learners were successfully reintegrated into the school system following our interventions. And, where necessary, the District Support Workers may engage with our colleagues in the Department of Social Development to provide further support to learners and the family.

But of course, hon Deputy Speaker, key to any successful intervention is the support of our parents. Without their support, our interventions are so much harder. So parents also play a vital role in alerting their school early to any problems that may cause their child to be absent from school, so that the department can provide the relevant support. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you

to the hon Minister for that reply. I want to concur with what the hon Minister said, that the Western Cape does perform better than the national average with regard to dropouts. The provincial dropout rate is approximately 30%. The national dropout rate is about 40%. But the Minister must agree with me, 30% is still too high. 30 out of 100 children is still too high.

Of the matric throughput of learners who reached grade 10 in recent years, only 70% successfully write the National Senior Certificate. So, hon Deputy Speaker, this is concerning and I heard. I do not debate the fact that the hon Minister has said what the department is doing. But I also want to remind the hon Minister that, in reality, it is not as simple. In reality, we have learners and the hon Minister must tell us; when learners are absent from school for 10 days, they are de-registered and to be registered again is another process.

So I am not sure that all of these interventions are taking place at all the schools. Maybe you have the successes in black and white, but it is not the lived reality on the ground. It is not. Our learners are dropping out and with some of them, it is not even their own fault. As the hon Minister said, we need the parents' input but in certain households we do not have that parental support, and we have that neglect.

Then if we look at other areas where there is gang violence, it further compounds these challenges. Drugs, if you do not belong to a gang, you cannot walk from point A to point B because you have to go through a gang territory. It is difficult, hon Deputy Speaker.

So I know it is not only Education's problem, it is a whole-of-society problem, but somehow we must try, that those learners who want to be in school, are in school and do not drop out because of other circumstances beyond their control, beyond their parents' control.

So hon Deputy Speaker, I will park it there. I will take the second bite. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. I recognise the hon Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Keeping learners in school requires a whole-of-society approach. However, the DA-led WCED has been performing well in ensuring that children remain in classrooms. This is not an unfounded claim.

At the beginning of this year, during the announcement of the National Senior Certificate results by the National Minister of Basic Education, it was revealed that the Western Cape class of 2025 achieved the highest retention rate in the country, at 70%. This is also the highest recorded retention rate in the province since 2021.

The retention rate is an important indicator that measures the percentage of learners who remain in the school system from one year to the next. This means more learners are being supported to complete their schooling on time, pass

their exams and progress to further studies or the world of work. This achievement is driven not only by academic support programmes, such as the Back on Track, but also psychosocial support through the Safe Schools Programme.

It is further strengthened by inter-departmental collaboration, including the School Sport Strategy and MOD programmes with the Provincial Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, as well as the integration of the SWIMS app with the Provincial Department of Social Development.

However, hon Deputy Speaker, preventing learner dropout before it occurs is the most effective way to address the challenge that hon member Christians has raised. In that regard, I would like to ask the hon Minister: what is his department doing to prevent learner dropout before it happens? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Johnson. I recognise the hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. We are facing an education crisis, but we are not treating it like one. Just yesterday, I met with the community in West Bank. I heard of children too afraid to walk to school and, honestly, I would not send a child to school either, if getting an education meant risking their life. But here is what truly defies belief. When shooting breaks out, schools close and they send the children home into the very streets where the shooting is happening. They phone parents to fetch their kids, but these are poor communities and it is not safe for mothers to walk to school to

fetch their kids while bullets are flying. The one place you would expect to find refuge becomes a revolving door back into danger.

Yet, while some children are dropping out, more than 2 000 learners in this province are still waiting to be placed, and it is June. How do we have both a dropout crisis and a placement crisis at the same time? Every month a child spends out of school increases the likelihood that they will never return. And the Western Cape Education Department still cannot tell us how much capacity exists across the system, making effective planning nearly impossible.

The children dropping out and the children not being placed share the same reality. They are being pushed to the margins and asked to carry the consequences of failures they did not create. Then, years later, we ask, why are so many young people turning to gangs and crime? But what alternatives have we given them?

Education is a right. It is also the most powerful tool we have to break cycles of poverty and violence. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Let me also take the opportunity to wish everything of the best to our national soccer team, Bafana Bafana, for this evening's game.

I want to also thank the hon Christians for the interpellation. I know he is very passionate about this, but the ANC believes that every child has a right, not only to access a school, but to remain in school, to be supported and to be protected from the social conditions that push poor and working-class learners out of education.

Now, in the Western Cape, many of our learners are not leaving school because they do not value education. They are being pushed out by unstable homes, poverty, substance abuse, gang violence, transport challenges, trauma, lack of early intervention, and also being admitted late to school by being on waiting lists and then becoming frustrated when at school.

Now, the question then to the hon MEC should be, the MEC must tell us what system exists to identify learners before they drop out, what support follows that learner, and who is held accountable when the learner disappears from the system.

Just two weeks ago, our office and this caucus assisted a learner in Mitchells Plain who dropped out of school because of gang violence. We were able to intervene. The learner is now in school, but it was very difficult. We had to push and beg the department to assist. That is the problem. We are not Government, we are the Opposition. So learner dropouts must not be treated as an individual or a family failure only. It must be understood as a social justice issue requiring early warning systems. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I hope that the hon Minister takes it in the spirit of the debate, it is not just to criticise, it is to assist because we are seeing gaps in the system. We are seeing learners who can be assisted more and they are not assisted, as the hon Minister has explained. So I want the hon Minister to accept that we want to assist or to help to ensure that we retain our learners. The ACDP believes that every child deserves access to a stable and supported learning environment.

Now, I do not know, there are still learners who still get bullied when they get to school. They face a lot of issues, such as bullying at school and all of that. I do not want to go into that but what I actually want to say is, it is already difficult for that learner to stay in school. Now, if that learner is not assisted, the first point of call is: I am not going to go back to school.

So I want to ask the hon Minister a couple of questions. Number 1, if we look at the different districts, which districts have a problem where we have a high percentage of learners that drop out?

Number 2, and the previous speakers have mentioned it, is there additional support given to those districts where there are problems and is the Minister assured that the processes that are in place are properly implemented because I am convinced, and I can come with the facts, that not all the districts and all

the schools do what they need to do. So that, for me, is a major problem.

But hon Deputy Speaker, we are passionate about education because education remains the most powerful tool available, as hon member Brett Herron says, to break the cycle of poverty, to break this inequality that we have and equip the children with knowledge and with skills, values and opportunities, that they will become something and contribute meaningfully to society.

I was extremely concerned when I visited some areas to find that some of our learners are at home and I do not want to bring in the drugs because that is prevalent in some areas. Teenage pregnancy is another problem. They are not all educational problems, but I am asking the hon Minister to do what his department can do to retain our learners and to give them a good future. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. To conclude Interpellation 1, I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I spent quite some time, of course, outlining the very good work that our districts and support workers do in cases of truancy. but I do want to highlight the work we engage in as a system to improve learner retention.

Retaining learners across the grades, hon Peter Johnson, obviously involves a number of interventions and those include providing support and remedial

action for learners at risk of dropping out and following up with those learners who have stopped attending school and encouraging them to return, as I have outlined.

But we go beyond that, of course. Every district has improvement plans where large numbers of learners who are not performing academically are supported to achieve the required levels. And this supports our learners with extra tuition and ensures that they have a better chance of succeeding and, therefore, staying in school.

And then, of course, we have made a massive investment in the foundation phase, specifically reading, writing and numeracy, so that learners progress comfortably through grades because we find that learners who are not able to read or write or calculate are far more likely to drop out. And then, importantly, we identify learners who might benefit from vocational education and we ensure that learners have opportunities to take up those opportunities.

And then the final intervention is all the behavioural programmes and psychological support and social welfare support to learners in their homes to ensure that they remain in school.

To the hon Ferlon Christians, I would caution you on the whole question of the dropout rate. It is, of course, difficult to determine the exact numbers of learners who have dropped out or may have left school or may have deregistered from the system because these numbers include relocation of learners to other

provinces or other countries, relocation of learners to TVET colleges or to home schooling or to private institutions and, unfortunately, also learners who are experiencing ill-health and, sadly, death.

To the hon Brett Herron, we are in the very early stages of our admissions process and there are at least 64 000 school places which are still going to open up in the system. And so we have asked parents for patience as these offers are confirmed and additional offers are made to parents.

To the hon Khalid Sayed, I have spent some time detailing the kind of work that our School Safety Officers and Support Workers play in our districts and also the very significant success, 285 learners returned to the system and back at school.

As my final point, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to remind members that if any of you or any of your constituents become aware of a learner at risk of dropping out or you suspect has already dropped out, please do not sit on that information. Report that information to the school or the department so that we can work with you and ensure that those learners return to school. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes Interpellation 1.

School holidays: vandalism and theft

2. Mr P Johnson asked the Minister of Education:

Given that vandalism and theft of school infrastructure are known to be particularly prevalent during school holiday periods:

What urgent measures is his Department implementing to (a) strengthen school safety and (b) protect infrastructure during the June–July school holidays?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I again recognise the hon Minister, Interpellation 2, the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Western Cape Education Department provides significant funding for holiday security subsidies at schools deemed to be at high risk of burglary and vandalism. The programme offers 12-hour security, 24-hour security and cluster patrols to selected schools, especially those schools in high-risk areas.

Schools are provided with the necessary target-hardening mechanisms, which include an alarm linked to armed response, burglar bars and stone guards, security gates, automated pedestrian and vehicular access gates and, of course, repairs to fencing of up to 35 metres. Schools are encouraged to co-ordinate with their local police station for regular visible police patrols. Armed response companies are also urged to increase their patrols, as the presence of law enforcement is, of course, a strong deterrent to potential intruders.

We plan to provide security subsidies for the 2026 June-July holidays to 453 schools, which is a significant increase on last year's allocation of 424 schools for the winter holidays.

While the WCED has implemented comprehensive measures to secure school properties during the holidays, the success of these efforts depends on community involvement and ongoing assessment to address the evolving security threats. A watchful community can defeat even the most dedicated criminals and vandals. We have schools in areas that have very high levels of crime, drugs and gang activity, but they do not fall victim to theft and vandalism because the community has decided that the school is off-limits.

We urge the public to keep a close eye on their neighbourhood schools and to report any suspicious activity immediately to the SAPS or our Safe Schools Hotline on 0800 454647. Even with our investment in security and support from the public, crime and vandalism will unfortunately continue to affect our schools.

In the most recent long holiday from December 25 to January 2026, we still had 36 incidents reported by our schools. While this was a marked decrease on the previous year, it is still 36 incidents too many. Every single item that is damaged or stolen must be replaced, which diverts funding from the core task of educating our learners so that they can get a job or study further when they leave schools.

Stealing from a school is stealing from a child's future. So if anyone has any information about incidents that have already occurred at schools, you may hold a key piece of information that will allow the SAPS to arrest the perpetrators and recover our schools' stolen property. And if you do have such information, I expect that you and your constituency report such information to the SAPS.

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon member Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape has continuously called on communities, parents and stakeholders to help end the ongoing vandalism and theft of school infrastructure across the province.

Very recently, during an oversight visit to the Sir Lowry's Pass Primary School, I witnessed the aftermath of a serious break-in and vandalism incident. According to the school, classrooms were ransacked with a preliminary damage estimate of approximately R72 000. The incident disrupted learning and affected the safety and functionality of the school.

Another oversight visit to the Brëerivier High School revealed damage to classrooms also caused by vandalism. Schools across the Western Cape continue to experience repeated vandalisms and burglaries, with 25 schools

reporting 28 incidents during the recent term break, resulting in nearly R400 000 in damages. Items stolen or damaged include computers, projectors, electrical wiring, plumbing fixtures, security systems and other critical learning infrastructure.

Hon Deputy Speaker, vandalism places additional strain on an already stretched education system. Every rand spent on repairs is money diverted away from essential priorities, such as employing more teachers, providing more learner transport, supplying textbooks and learning materials, and supporting school nutrition programmes. It also reduces the overall quality of education and compromises our learners' safety.

These challenges are further compounded by the severe weather conditions recently experienced in our province, placing additional pressure on infrastructure, budget and maintenance capacity.

The DA in the Western Cape acknowledges the efforts made by the WCED to protect our schools. However, ultimately, combating criminality is the responsibility of the South African Police Service and SAPS must step up. Our learners deserve safe and conducive spaces for learning. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Johnson. I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, allow

me to thank our Chairperson of the Standing Committee, the hon member Johnson, for the interpellation and also just for the mature manner in which we are approaching these debates.

We came across similar issues when we visited Brëerivier School in Worcester and we really want to thank the Chair for open discussion, allowing the members of the public to also give their input. That is the kind of leadership we want to see. So thank you very much, hon Chairperson.

The school infrastructure is not just bricks, windows, and buildings. It is the foundation of learning. When schools are vandalised during school holidays, it is usually learners in poor and working-class communities who suffer the most. Now, the ANC believes that public schools must be protected as community assets, but this requires more than once-off security arrangements. It requires a coordinated safety plan involving the Education Department, SAPS, law enforcement, CPF structures, Neighbourhood Watches, school governing bodies, and local communities.

So the question to the hon MEC should therefore be: what practical plans are in place before the June and July school holidays to prevent vandalism and not merely to repair schools after damage has already happened? And from the sounds of things in the MEC's initial input, there does not seem to be a plan.

School safety must be proactive, community-based, and properly resourced. This Government must explain which schools are regarded as high-risk, what

preventative measures are in place, and how it will protect school infrastructure during the school holidays. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. I recognise the hon member Cassiem

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Earlier this year on 15 February, the Western Cape Department of Education published a statement on their website in which they celebrated the reduction of burglary and vandalism at schools across the province, from 47 in the 2024/2025 school holidays to 36 in the current 2025/2026 summer school holiday.

Whilst we note the reduction of burglaries and vandalism between the two school summer holidays, 36 burglary and vandalism incidents are still quite a significant number. It is not enough to just subsidise schools for the purpose of security during school holidays. The department should actually take over the security and protection of these schools on a daily basis.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the department is currently refusing to mention the schools in which these incidents took place, citing security concerns as the main reason. However, the reality and unfortunate part is that criminals know their own targeted schools in these communities as well. Another reason why the department is not mentioning the affected schools is because it is aware that these are mostly Quintile 1 and Quintile 2 schools situated in townships across the province. These are the schools the department cares less about when it

comes to safety, compared to Quantile 4 and Quantile 5 schools in the province, which are mostly situated in leafy suburbs and enjoy maximum security and protection.

The reality is that burglary and vandalism has a greater impact and affects the proper functioning of these schools. And because they are in townships, poor schools which are not provided with proper security, the reality is that it is learners from poor backgrounds who are usually affected as a result. So, systematically, the department cares less about these areas.

My question with regards to this: I would like to know from the hon Minister whether his department only provides subsidies to the affected schools during school holidays or throughout the year. And then also to respond as to why the department is not taking over full-time security measures in all the schools in the province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Cassiem. I recognise the hon Johnson.

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. One of the methods employed by the DA-led WCED, in partnership with the DA-led City of Cape Town, to reduce vandalism and create safer schools is their School Resource Officer Programme.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this programme now deploys 82 officers across 41 schools

in high-risk communities, demonstrating the commitment of the DA-led Western Cape Government to creating safe learning environments. I am also encouraged that three additional schools will benefit from this programme from 1 July 2026. These interventions are particularly important, given the ongoing challenge of vandalism and theft, which continues to rob our learners of a safe learning environment and divert valuable resources away from education delivery.

While the South African Police Service remains primarily responsible for combating crime and gang-related violence, the DA-led Western Cape Government continues to step in when National Government falls short by providing an additional layer of protection through targeted interventions such as the School Resource Officer Programme.

However, hon Deputy Speaker, we are aware that incidents of school vandalism and theft often occur during the school holiday period. In light of the upcoming June-July school holidays, I would therefore like to ask the hon Minister what budget has been allocated for holiday security measures this year, and specifically for the upcoming June-July holiday period? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. To conclude Interpellation 2, I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As I mentioned, the Western Cape Education Department provides significant

funding for holiday security subsidies at schools deemed to be at high risk of burglary and vandalism. Hon Johnson, we will provide security subsidies, as I have said, to 453 schools deemed to be at high risk during the 2026 June and July school holidays. This builds on the existing safety architecture that I highlighted in my opening remarks.

In terms of the budget for holiday security, we have allocated about R12 million for this purpose during the 2026/2027 financial year. I would like to remind members that we do not directly employ security personnel at schools. The WCED provides security subsidies to the schools deemed to be at high risk, so that they can appoint holiday security services.

To the hon Khalid Sayed, of course, when it comes to holiday security, we do have a plan and I spent some time outlining that plan, providing 12-hour, 24-hour security at schools, providing cluster patrols at selected schools and investing heavily in target-hardening, an alarm linked to armed response, burglar bars, stone guards, security gates, automated pedestrian and vehicular access gates and repairs to fencing at our schools.

To the hon Aishah Cassiem, I agree with you, and I said this in my remarks, that 36 incidents in the last holiday between December and January were 36 incidents too many. And, of course, we do not identify the schools simply because we would make those schools even more vulnerable to potential vandals and criminals preying on our schools, particularly in poor communities.

I would like to thank the hon Peter Johnson for referring to the role of our School Resource Officers, which are also deployed in high-risk school environments and play a vital role in not only law enforcement, taking, for example, illicit substances out of schools, but also supporting learners with positive behaviour programmes, identifying learners at risk, and also providing positive role models in our schools.

Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to repeat what I said in my opening remarks, and appeal to school communities throughout our provinces to keep an eye on their local schools during the forthcoming holidays and to appeal to any member of the community who sees anything suspicious, please report what you see immediately to the SAPS, so that we can work together with communities to keep our schools safe during the forthcoming school holiday here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.

We proceed to Interpellation 3 and I recognise the hon Premier.

Government institutions: oversight visits

3. Ms N D Nkondlo asked the Premier:

Whether the Provincial Government has adopted a policy requiring members of the Provincial Parliament to seek permission first before

conducting oversight visits at Government institutions and facilities?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and can I say to the hon member Nkondlo, thank you very much for the question.

No, I am not aware of any such policy. The Western Cape Government facilities are guided by applicable national legislation and relevant policies intended to protect and serve residents. Members of the Provincial Parliament are also guided by applicable legislation and relevant documents of the House, such as our own Standing Rules of this very Parliament, the Provincial and the National Constitution and then, of course, any act or piece of legislation that cascades down below those constitutions, or are applicable to any specific department that offers services to the citizens in this province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. I recognise hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker, and thank you to the hon Premier for the response, because I think it becomes a very important conversation to have, hon Premier. The tension that exists in a democracy between executive powers and the legislative powers is something that we all understand will constantly be there. Separation of powers requires these three distinct spheres of government to operate in ensuring that there are checks and balances.

So it becomes a concern when we, as members of the Legislature, having to do our work, who actually go and respond to the public that brings us into this particular House, that we find that some in your Cabinet and your colleagues have a challenge in the manner in which we do the work, whether that is communicated through your officials that you employ in the departments, in how they would care. As you would know, included in our work is oversight and such oversight is very important. It is important because, at times, the very members of the public become watchdogs, which is their responsibility in a democracy, they become watchdogs of precisely yourselves as members of the Executive who sit in this particular House. We cannot actually create an impression that we will only have oversight by waiting for members of the Executive, with their departments and their officials, to come and present to us in the Standing Committees, with the speeches and the debates that we engage in, in this particular House.

That is not sufficient because in a democracy, which is also in the Constitution, members of the public, as citizens and as voters also have a role to play outside of us being here.

So it becomes disappointing, and I am stating this, hon Premier, also being a member of a constituency, a constituency which is actually financed by this House. All of us, as members, have constituency offices. When I am in my constituency and must do my work and I am told by officials that they are not allowed to engage with me as a member because for me to do that I must first write to the MEC, in this particular case the MEC of Education, because during

the opening of schools, part of what we do is to help in ensuring that things get done.

So I am very happy that you say there is no policy. Surely, and I am asking you, if you would be able then to speak to your members of the Executive so that this habit, †lo mkhuba [habit], must stop amongst the members, because indeed we are in a democracy, so that the democracy is able to work. And I am raising this here in this House because this is an important issue of ensuring that we have a live and a very robust democracy here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. I recognise the hon member Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I was actually intending to make quite a harsh response from my side, but I do think what the hon member Nkondlo is raising, and I think it was reasonably put, we want democracy to work. So I am not going to do that.

We will never, in the Western Cape, have a situation like Jack Bloom faced as a member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislative, physically assaulted and thrown out of hospitals for doing his job. That will never happen here because we understand what hon member Nkondlo is saying, the importance of democracy, the importance of oversight.

However, what we cannot do, and it is a balancing of rights at the end of the

day, is to allow service delivery to our people to be disrupted by political activities. Hospitals are places where things can change at a moment's notice, where it is often a case of life and death and we understand that members showing up without minimum notice can potentially cause serious disruptions. It is a privacy matter, it is a health matter and sometimes we have to balance these things. The same goes for schools, where learning would be severely disrupted if members were to show up during school activities without notice.

Having said that, we do not disagree with the underlying premise of what hon member Nkondlo is saying and, if there are areas of concern, let us improve our Rules. Let us not misrepresent the truth, but let us also listen to one another. I think these concerns can be solved. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Walters. Are you rising on a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I note also hon member Herron was not allowed to visit the hospital, but that is an aside, I am out of order to raise that now.

I just wanted to welcome, I see you have not done it, but just to acknowledge and welcome the entry and the presence of the hon Minister of Agriculture and former National Leader of the DA into the House.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, that is not a point of order. I will make

a comment based on hon member Sayed's input, but hon member Walters?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I believe the hon Minister was meeting with the EFF for quite a while, and so they are all welcome here.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I trust that that particular moment from member Walters and from member Sayed will not be repeated, if we are to ultimately get and see the South African wave dismantling the Mexican team tonight. That is our aim ultimately, to ensure that all members get to their destinations where they will enjoy the South African wave later on. Hon member Herron, you are recognised.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As you just heard, I recently tried to arrange an oversight visit to Mitchells Plain Hospital and the response I received was this: “Kindly note that all such requests are coordinated through the Office of the MEC.”

I am being told I must seek permission from the Executive to oversee the Executive. There is no Rule, there is no law, there is no parliamentary provision that requires a member of this House to route oversight visits through the very office we are tasked with holding accountable, none.

So to quote the DA's own parliamentary leader, George Michalakis, he said, “I have never given notice to an institution I visited because the floor is shiny when you give notice.” He is right. The purpose of oversight is not to

inconvenience departments. It is to see public institutions as they actually are, as the public experiences them, not as they have been prepared to appear.

Mitchells Plain Hospital serves thousands of residents who depend on public healthcare. As elected representatives, we have the right and a duty to understand the realities faced by healthcare workers and patients. So we are not here to seek clarity and nor are we seeking permission. We are asserting the right of this House to conduct independent oversight, unannounced, unfiltered, and free from Executive gatekeeping. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise the hon Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Greetings to the House at large. From the outset it is important to mention that South Africa is prescribed and is governed by the principles of the constitutional democracy. Section 1 of the South African Constitution is part of the values of our Constitution, to include a multi-party system of democratic government to ensure accountability, responsiveness, and openness.

While we accept that under certain conditions, and for the purposes of security, prior courtesy should be afforded to the relevant Government institution and facilities – for example, one cannot just walk into an operating theatre facility in a hospital in which medical staff are busy conducting a sensitive operation on a patient. While we accept that there are situations and circumstances in

which prior permission might be required to conduct oversight in certain facilities under certain circumstances, however, it is our view as the Economic Freedom Fighters that the Executive cannot have a blanket Rule, as a matter of policy, that on each and every occasion a member must always seek permission to conduct oversight visit in facilities in which they exercise executive control.

So, for those who are still denying us doing proper oversight, what interventions are there to ensure that we are doing our job properly and efficiently? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Lithakong. I recognise hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I think this is not just a matter of sentiment. We debate matters that are of importance in particular, as we try and seek to ensure democracy is not just a term. It is actually experienced by citizens, and it is actually disappointing that a Chairperson of a Standing Committee on constitutional matters seems not to understand his role, which, he is not a proxy of the Executive when he is here. He is actually responsible to ensure that the Executive is held accountable.

I think this is something that we need to actually ensure, that the hon members of the Standing Committees and hon members of Parliament, I think, continue to remind themselves. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo. You can take your seat. Are you rising

on a point of order?

Mr T C R Walters (DA): Hon Chair, I think my integrity is being impinged upon. I actually substantively agreed with the hon member Nkondlo, and now it is being suggested that I am protecting the Executive. Part of democracy is being able to disagree with one another, so let us respect one another.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, so much. I take the point. Hon members, I trust that we will respect the decorum. I will go and listen to the Hansard once again. Like the hon Speaker always indicates, in order to check the context and revert back if need be. But hon member Nkondlo has two minutes and 18 seconds remaining.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): As long as he takes his own medicine. I think, hon Deputy Speaker, as we understand that the DA presents itself as a champion of accountability and oversight, the Chairperson of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Police, hon Ian Cameron, regularly conducts oversight visits at police stations and training facilities. He is celebrated by his party for doing so. He publicly engages with operational matters, and frequently undertakes visits without prior approval from those institutions.

The DA applauds this conduct because it understands that oversight is a fundamental function of elected representatives. Yet here in the province, where the DA governs, a different standard appears to apply, as hon member Herron as just demonstrated. That is evidenced. We have got a member that is

in the Conduct Committee on that. I have an experience that I was just relating to.

We are not talking stories here. We are talking real life, so you can't propaganda things versus what we experience, because democracy is not only the statements that we make. It is the daily experiences of sitting in this House and seeing that indeed, the things that we say, are exactly the things that we apply. So, this is the issue that we are raising.

How can we then defend one standard in National Parliament, and here, when you are here in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, this is not the case? You are saying that this particular Provincial Parliament must not be reduced to a partisan instrument.

Actually, it is not supposed to be an instrument of rubber stamping and made to be toothless because those that are seeking to be elected in the party, they are seeking also to be in the proximity of the Premier who actually allocates them seats, must never make that their priority when they are engaging with the business of Parliament, because these are hon members of Parliament.

So we are asking, and fortunately, the hon Premier had said it himself here, that there is no policy of that nature. All we are asking is that the hon Premier communicates also to other MECs to understand that we are doing our jobs. That is all that we are doing here. We are raising matters, and indeed, we are always going to take the necessary precaution,

It is not like we just go into these spaces. We are ensuring that members of the public, when they raise matters with us, we take up those particular issues. Hon Deputy Speaker, why invest the State resources to reduce red tape, and we then introduce admin requirements onto ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Time to conclude.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): ... our own members to introduce red tape for us to resolve problems of the past.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, so much, hon member Nkondlo.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, so much, hon member Nkondlo. To conclude the interpellation, I recognise the Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and, once again, thank you very much to the hon Nkondlo. And we absolutely pride ourselves, and I talk about our collective selves, about a robust democracy and holding each other to account. And that is a basic principle of democracy, to enable members to do oversight.

But in my reply, as I said, as long as that is within the rule of law. So, of course, the POPIA Act is something that is obviously part of the rule of law, or perhaps it is in going to a facility – I do it myself, I do unannounced visits, but when I go on an unannounced visit in a health facility, I go and sit in the queue with the residents who are getting services. I ask them questions about how the

services are and the reason I was there is because I perhaps had some complaints from the public. And then I will say, can I engage the management? If the management can't see me that day because they've got a crisis on, then that must apply. And of course, I think as the hon member from the EFF who asked me if I had missed her, yes, we missed you in this House. She said you would not expect to be able to get access to an operating theatre or onto an active scene of police operations, because that is when it counts.

But legislation, for example, in education – this is the Schools Act, where it tells you that you cannot interrupt or disturb any official, any education, and that is natural. These are pieces of legislation. But that is what you are saying. I support absolutely. We have got to be able to have oversight in these spaces. But then, of course, it is not a place where you can arrive for oversight with your political party and 100 cameras and it is about politics, because that is not allowed. No party is allowed to do that. It is us as individuals who have been asked by the citizens, please, I have asked you to represent me in this House and I have a problem and you will go and check on it. Absolutely, that is all of our jobs. Then we will bring it back here. You will hold us to account in question time and that is how we will deal with these issues.

So I end once again, I agree with you. We need robust political oversight. We need to be able to indeed engage with each other on these issues. You have asked me to convey that to the Cabinet. We will discuss this again in Cabinet and I would say this openly to any member of this House: if you feel that you are being inhibited, then let me know and we will engage on that specific issue.

Perhaps the issue that hon member Herron raised, please send it to me, give me the detail and I will engage on that issue because, of course, we have got to enable you as elected members of Parliament. But then where is that line? If you are going to abuse that, well, then of course there is a difference series. And I notice and I have seen, when you are asked a question, what are we going to be asked about, I ask for research and I have seen some of the letters.

I have got a letter here from the hon member Sayed to the Head of Department saying we want to visit a facility. Absolutely. That is even better because then you can say this member has got issues, please will the management meet and then they must make the time to meet on whatever those issues are. That is how it works. We will then put it into Section 95, a Standing Committee that is ruled within our own Rules.

You cannot as a Standing Committee just arrive at a hospital or a school. There is a process in our Rules because you have officials that need to be brought in, your committee would go and you would arrange then your questions that you would ask on that side. But that is why we have legislation rules and the ability to do our work in the best interests of the democracy of our province. Thank you. [Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. It would be remiss of me not to again mention that just yesterday, in POC, it was further confirmed that the interpellation that was just debated and discussed is featuring on the National Speakers' Forum agenda and we are getting an update in Johannesburg

tomorrow in this regard, in order to formulate a clear protocol that will ultimately be discussed in each and every Legislature moving forward.

Hon members, we proceed in terms of Rule 202. Hon members are aware that there are four opportunities for follow-up questions and that is linked to the initial question and the member that posed the question will have the first opportunity. I now recognise the hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

First Thursdays Initiative

1. Ms A P Bans asked the Premier:

With reference to the Provincial Government's "First Thursdays Initiative" engagements:

- (1) Why are these engagements primarily being held in the Cape Town CBD instead of directly in the communities most affected by service delivery challenges;
- (2) whether there are plans to decentralise these engagements to ensure broader community participation and accessibility, including rural areas; if so, what are the relevant details?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and thank you very much to the hon member Bans for this question. I must say this is one of those interventions that I put in place quite a long time ago when I was a Minister and then when I became the Premier, continued with the First Thursdays. I am still, as far as I am aware, the only government in the world that does it and we continue doing it in the interests of open democracy and the ability for people to come and raise their issues without necessarily long appointments. They can come on a first-come, first-served basis.

The concourse of 7 Wale Street is the primary use for First Thursdays and Open Government events. It is central, it is close to our Parliament, it is close to our offices, etcetera and that goes to the first part of the question; why are these engagements primarily being held in Cape Town CBD, instead of directly in the communities most affected?

So I will start with that point because – and I have mentioned. It is close to the facilities and we engage other governments to come. So the City of Cape Town, when we are in this concourse, joins us, SASSA office team members join us, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman joins us and we ask any organisation if they want to come, if they are Government organisations, both City, municipal, provincial or national, they are welcome to come and join us on a First Thursday.

There a couple of issues here. The one is that often First Thursdays are falling on the same day that we have a sitting, like last Thursday was a First Thursday

and then you will see, normally on a First Thursday, at 5 o'clock, I have got to squeeze out of here as early as possible because people are already starting to queue. Last Thursday people came from far. People drive from far away and they queue from 2 o'clock, 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

But we also endeavour to take it out. So those First Thursdays have not only always been in the concourse. We have had First Thursdays off-site in different areas within the city and not at Wale Street and these have been in Stellenbosch, Mitchells Plain, Hermanus, Kraaifontein, Delft, Grassy Park, Langa, Atlantis and Strand. That is First Thursdays specifically. We also sometimes use the same format but not necessarily on a Thursday and then is when Government or the Cabinet is out of the city because remember First Thursdays are also when we go out of the city and so you will see some of those might have been in Stellenbosch or in Hermanus but not further afield.

So we have also, in addition to the First Thursdays, we just have to call it Open Government because it might be on a Wednesday or on a Tuesday but we have also done exactly the same format and we have held them in Saldanha Bay, Bredasdorp, Mossel Bay, Prince Albert, Bitou, George and Beaufort West.

We have held them in other places, not just in the centre of the city or in suburbs around the city. We have actually gone to some of the far reaches of this province. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Bans, do you have a follow-up question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, thank you very much. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think I raised the question after being present myself at the First Thursday. I must say that it is an initiative that can be expanded. It is of use. But then hon Premier, you are saying it is central. When you are saying it is central, who is it central to because it remains here?

I believe that people in rural areas – I hear the Premier saying that he has been to George, to Beaufort West, he mentioned a couple of places, but I think that when it is here in Cape Town it is central to the buildings but not to the people. Any plans in the future of moving First Thursdays to where it matters? I think I always have talks with the Minister of Beaufort West, Minister Sileku of Mobility, where people are struggling to access these facilities. So if the hon Premier can take this facility to our communities where it matters, perhaps what are the plans in the future, looking into that? Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon member. As I said, we have taken it into Mitchells Plain, we have taken it into Delft and we also get many requests to say please bring it to our town and we definitely take those requests seriously. That is why we have ended up in Beaufort West or in Saldanah Bay. Even when we go to Beaufort West, we do not go to Beaufort West Town Hall. I get what you are saying because this is now right here in the middle of the city, so it is far from Delft but obviously all the officials are based in and around here. It is much easier to walk out of the Parliament and get down to it. It does make sense. But I agree with you. I wish I could hold it and commit to a programme that says it is in every community across this province. We will

endeavour and we always try to reply to those people who request us to take it to different places but I go again. So when we go to Beaufort West, we also take that into cognisance, into mind. So we did not go to the Beaufort West Town Hall, we went to the Thusong Centre, Rustdene, in Beaufort West. We took it into where it is closest to the community. Or the Almeida Community Hall in Mossel Bay or it would be in George, in Pacaltsdorp.

We take it into the community and not in the middle of town but of course, if an hon member says, listen, let us try and get it to another community that would like to have it, I will put into the mix. We get a lot of requests and we really try to accommodate within the year programme, when we can get to different parts of the province and to different communities. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Walters.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, I agree with the hon member Bans, it is an initiative that is changing the way we interact with people. It is also a more direct form of public participation. The one question, it was something that the Premier referred to in his answer, he referred to sometimes involving the City of Cape Town. I noticed that the other night as well. I noticed the City of Cape Town, the Mayor, people as part of Super Thursdays. [Interjections.] Perhaps, hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC really wants your job. They are trying to regulate – can you please ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: So let me say thank you to the ANC for helping me

because I was very close to asking where the question is.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I concede defeat. In terms of the interactions beyond the City of Cape Town, it would be good to see local municipalities also involved. Is that part of the structured approach? Is it an ad hoc measurement or is it a standard approach to involve local municipalities when you have Super Thursday? Thanks.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and thank you very much to the hon member Walters. I noticed this is the second follow-up after I have said something that you have been very complimentary of the ANC. This a new thing happening here. It is very interesting but thank you for that. Is it – okay I will stick to my question. Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

Hon Deputy Speaker, and that follow-up, we always try when we go to different places to involve the local municipality. We ask them to play an important role because we also feel that if you are creating this space, citizens must be able to come and see their local representatives as well. It also makes it much easier when a citizen comes and says, I have got this issue that I am raising with you, and the planning department or the local housing department or the – then you say, okay, hang on a second and you get up from the table and you walk across to that Mayco member and you say this person needs help, they say they are not getting answers. It does help a lot. Or you can say, let us go across to Minister Simmer's table, let us talk to his head officials, let us see if we can sort out your problem because that is the point of doing it.

The point of doing it is saying let us make an Open Government and first- come, first-served, bring your issue and let us see if we can find a solution because we want to resolve your problem. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker and hon Premier. You have conducted quite a number of First Thursdays. Take as through, as this House, what are the most pressing issues were you able to pick up and resolve? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member are you able to repeat – you got – oh the Premier has it, okay. Hon Premier?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): What are the one or two issues you have picked up from all your First Thursdays and [Inaudible.] so that your First Thursdays perhaps cannot be just PR exercises? Thank you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. The second part of the question, whether we are using it as a PR exercise or the first part of the question is, what are the most pressing issues. I am not going to just give it to you off bat but you can ask that question where we can actually tell you what are the issues, what is the percentage of resolutions. We have a system that when you arrive at First Thursdays, you get a number, you are in the queue because it is first-come, first-served.

So the person who has been waiting there since 2 o'clock, they will be in the numbering system P001, Premier 001, or Simmers 001 or whoever that is because they will be the first in the queue for that person they want to see and then when they are registered then we take down all their details, their phone numbers, names, addresses, emails because we have to have that for the follow-up because the next day then we start saying, there were 12 issues on this, who is going to answer the question. We have got to give follow-up otherwise as the hon member Ngqentsu says it would just be a PR exercise. It cannot be. Of course, then probably, we would not get people coming back again.

People come, sometimes we can resolve it right there, pass them onto the right person. Other times we have got to send it off and then other times it is with things that we cannot help them. We refer them to the National Treasury, we refer them to whomever but sometimes it is just an issue that they want to talk to us about and raise something or it is a business idea and we tell them where to apply for business funding.

So it is open and I do not want to say random because it is not random. Everyone who comes is coming because they want to come, they have got an idea, they have got a problem and that was the whole point of it, is let us see if we can be more efficient at enabling solutions for our residents. But if the hon member wants it, he is welcome to ask that question. We can actually give him a report on cases closed, number of cases, etcetera, etcetera.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Are there any

further follow-up questions? No further follow-up. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Question number 1 as printed on the Question Paper. We move onto Question number 2 and I recognise the hon Minister of Social Development, Minister Londt.

Increasing socio-economic pressures

2. Mr F C Christians asked the Minister of Social Development:

In the light of the ever-increasing socio-economic pressures facing communities across the province:

How is his department ensuring that all communities are adequately supported and coordinated by delivering accessible and effective social services to individuals and families in need?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Speaker and to the hon Christians who is online. The department ensures service access to vulnerable communities, through six regional offices and a spread of local offices, including 48 service points, three mobile offices and 9 Government owned facilities.

Within the rural areas where accessibility is often complicated by distance, the department has established a service delivery team per local municipality supported by the mobile offices. Additionally, the department funds over 1 072

NPOs that render a range of social development services to the public. Through this extensive network, the department ensures that services are brought closer to communities to assist those most in need.

The department utilises data to inform and guide the planning and implementation of services. This includes demographic data, spatial data and service trends data, and a range of non-financial data from NPOs and service points. The department actively participates in the Joint Operations Centre to ensure optimal coordination of support to citizens made vulnerable by disasters. Further, an after-hours child protection emergency line is in operation. This line has, however, also been used to report cases of abuse of other vulnerable groups, where urgent intervention is needed.

The department has institutionalised several service delivery monitoring mechanisms for both own services and funded NPOs. Within own services, this includes monitoring of the implementation and compliance of the generic norms and standards for social welfare services, which includes the generic intervention process and supervision framework process, as well as compliance with norms and standards at our facilities. The performance of funded NPOs is monitored through desktop and onsite monitoring, including unannounced visits, supported by monitoring tools, to ensure public funds are utilised appropriately for the benefit of the most vulnerable.

To enable citizen engagement with the department on service experiences and needs, a toll-free call centre line is available for reports, compliments and

complaints, and customer care officials are also deployed at all service points. A Customer Care standard operating procedure guides the management of client complaints and enquiries at regional and programme levels as well as the call centre and documents the department's Customer Care Services Standards. Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you hon Minister for that comprehensive answer. Just a question and I think you see the question, what I want to know and you have spelt it out here that communities are adequately supported; what do you do when you have complaints in certain areas, what do you do to improve the system because you have outlined it but there are certain areas where we have certain problems and how do you address those challenges that you have when people complain? Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. Hon member Christians, irrespective of whether it is own services or whether it is services provided by the NGO partners, if a complaint gets received I refer it to the relevant Chief Director and the HOD. They make sure that it gets investigated. I get a report back on what the situation is there. If it was found that we were lacking in some aspect it gets addressed.

I am quite proud of the work that the staff do, the follow through and making sure that we plug the gaps. We have limited resources to give that geographical coverage but also the sectoral coverage but I think currently we are doing what we should do. If there, however, are any specific instances and I have had members in the House and outside as well that text me and say, “Jaco, I have got a concern about something that happened in Ladysmith.” I take that concern, we refer it, get a follow-up and give the feedback as well.

This links up with the previous debate, the interpellation that the Premier did as well. That is what helps us to strengthen our hands. If you pick up that there is an NGO that is not performing optimally, please flag it with us, so that we are on top of the normal monitoring that we do and can intervene. We have come across cases where there are activities taking place that we are not happy with and then we have even gone the route of funding some of the organisations but then made sure that we get other organisations that provide a similar service to step into that gap, so that the clients that are dependent on them are not affected. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Mr W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much. Hon Speaker. From my side also, thank you very much, hon Minister, for the very extensive response. My question is going to be and the Minister touched on it, in terms of how does the Department coordinate with the municipalities, non-profit

organisations, community-based organisations and other Government departments to ensure an holistic and integrated response to socio-economic challenges facing vulnerable households.

Now you have made mention of that, hon Minister. I think particularly now I would want to zoom in on the service delivery teams that you made mention of. I am mentioning all these different stakeholders but what is the coherent, I almost want to say, of them working together to make sure that those issues raised ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please pose your question.

Mr W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Those issues raised by these communities are in fact holistically addressed by all those stakeholders that you have mentioned. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. This is why and even when the social workers were here earlier, I asked them, “Listen, do you actually use the SWIMS Application?” and you can see the humour, some people a bit shy, some a bit more confident but that is – I said to them, “You need to own it because this system came from you, from social workers who identified the need.”

Hon member Kaizer-Philander, through you, hon Speaker, that allows us to identify where there are gaps, to also identify where there are trends of what is happening. So when it comes to the December, January period, you can see seasonal trends of what is happening in certain districts. In some districts you can see it is the younger people that abuse alcohol a lot more, in some areas, you see there are more reports of elder abuse or neglect.

That is how we try and use our data, through technology, to do preventative work but then also as you say, when there is a case that is captured on our system, there is also the reminders that come up to say, "Listen, have you followed up on this?" It allows your social work managers or even higher up, the directors, to go and do spot checks to see whether the work has been done or whether it is just a tick box exercise and not the interventions.

Another thing I enjoy and I need to do that again, is the visits to the safety parents, to actually see what are the household circumstances, are there any needs and that is what I like; that it is not just a job, it is a calling for these social workers, the social auxiliary workers and the child and youth care workers and they do the work exceptionally well but we also need to put those checks and balances in place that we do not have cases that fall through the cracks and somebody does not get the holistic services that they need. Thank you.

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, how does the department measure whether social services are reaching the most vulnerable households?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon member Stoffel that is probably one of the questions that has bowled me over the most now. When we do have a complaint, we need to follow up on that but if we do not know about something then it is difficult to follow up. That is why we do have the toll-free number as well. We encourage people, if you see something that is wrong, something that is not happening, you can report it, you can report it anonymously. Then we will send out people to do follow-ups and that is I think also where, when we talk about the Whole of Society Approach, Government cannot deliver these services if we do not have communities and NGOs that step in and also help identify where the needs are and then we can address that.

If I misunderstood your question, hon member Stoffel, you are welcome to elaborate or even take it offline with me but I tried to answer it as well as I can in how I understood that. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The last opportunity, I am going to give to hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. I just want to check with

the Minister; are these services demand driven, meaning that if nobody in a community where there is somebody affected or suffering reports, such a situation would not get to the department, so the department relies on people reporting. Is that what you are saying?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Through you, hon Speaker. Hon member Nkondlo, we make sure that we have a spread of our services, own services and partner services, that is our own social workers, social auxiliary workers. There are still some Community Development workers, where we have child and youth care workers but then we also have the NGO partners. So we try to make sure that there is a geographical spread. You obviously first look at what the population is. You have the majority of the people of the City of Cape Town but you cannot let your most rural areas be vulnerable.

That is why we brought something in like the mobile offices so that our people can actually move out to an area and not have people needing to find a lift and spend some of their hard-earned money to travel 80 or 90 kilometres to town. I said tongue in cheek to my colleague that is sitting right in front of me and I will make use of this opportunity as well, we have got five districts and we have got three mobile offices, so I am sure that we will all put forward when the debates come and I hear the Minister of Finance is also hearing that but we started off by the area that is the most difficult to get resources to.

We started up in the Central Karoo that we have an area that is covered, whether it is Nelspoort, whether it is Klaarstroom or whether it is Leeu-Gamka or whether it is Merweville or even the farming areas. We sometimes advertise a specific farm that the people know around the area. The same, we go up in the West Coast, there is a mobile site there as well, where we service the smallest areas and then also we have got one that covers the Winelands and the Overberg. So it would not make sense to have that mobile office go to let us say Hermanus but it makes sense that it goes to the smaller areas like Buffelsjacht that do not always get that easy access.

So, hon member Nkondlo, we try to balance that but also we see what the needs are and then based on the needs that get reported, you cannot have 50 social workers in an area where you only need 15 social workers. So we also need to make sure that we have the ratio of the caseloads between social workers and the community they serve so that we provide an equitable service across the province. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members that concludes Question number 2 as printed on the Question Paper. We move on to Question number 3 and I recognise the Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

Recent storms: disaster preparedness

3. Mr F C Christians asked the Minister of Infrastructure:

In the light of the devastating impact of the recent storms:

What plans does his department have to (a) improve disaster preparedness, (b) strengthen stormwater infrastructure and (c) provide faster assistance to affected residents during stormy weather conditions?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and through you to the member. In terms of the nature of the member's question and my understanding as I rise, the (a) part and the (c) part of the member's question should actually be referred to the Minister of Local Government, unless the hon member can provide more context.

Similarly, the (b) part of the hon member's question posed to me again, unless I understand the true nature of what the member is referring to, this should actually be referred to (a) the Metro in the City of Cape Town and when it is a non-metro municipality any of our 24 (b) municipalities across the province for the information which he requires.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Minister, for that. What role does your department play when we talk about – I am just taking for example, stormwater infrastructure. It is a municipal problem we have. The province sits with endless infrastructure problems. Does your department play a role when it comes to, for example, the infrastructure of

stormwater. I have seen municipalities being out there cleaning drains but there is a coordination.

Say for instance only six houses were meant to be in that road, now there are 60 houses and of course the stormwater infrastructure cannot handle the drainage system. So that is what I am referring to. What role does your department play with local municipalities in order to make sure that we prevent disaster going forward? Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Through you, thank you hon member for the clarity. We play a dual role, given that my portfolio has the provincial roads network, which means that is one aspect because a number of our key provincial roads do run through towns, which is why we provide a subsidy which covers the areas in between the two sidewalks so that the specific standard can be maintained and cleared, specifically in preparation for future storms. In terms of the human settlements component, which I think is the crux of the member's question.

We need to understand that when we do settlement planning and an envisioned housing project comes through our system, and I will use the Railton Housing Project in Swellendam as a very good example. We ensure that, because we were about to embark on building almost a thousand houses, and that is an immense pressure on the existing system, including the stormwater and the

reticulation system.

So, in terms of our project design, we then ensure that the subterranean work, even before we start building, can then accommodate, (a) the additional housing, and it can accommodate the incidents where a storm should occur, that the water drainage system can ultimately deal with the additional water flow. The recent storms are a very good example, and I will use Railton again, because it was almost a thousand houses that we built in record time.

The subterranean work and the drainage had no problem. It could filter and flush out the water, and the drains were not blocked. But what Local Government does, they do routine cleaning, which is encouraged by my colleague at Local Government, once they get alerts of possible storms to actually start clearing out their weir system, cleaning out their drainage systems. Within our designs, we incorporate bigger subterranean pipe works to ensure that we prepare our project as well.

When it comes to the historical settlements, that becomes a problem, given that where you have backyarders, or you have informal settlements near existing settlements, it does become a problem. I will use your example of six houses in 60 in the same street. We have seen in the City of Cape Town predominantly where informal settlements have been found on vacant land which was never earmarked for housing. It applies pressure on among others, the stormwater system, the sewerage system and the water system. That causes an impact, because the system was never designed for additional housing.

Which is why, in that regard, we play a very limited role. I know that Local Government again, and I must applaud my colleague for what he seeks to do, is to encourage municipalities across this province for stormwater readiness. We could see the impact of that readiness across our province, given the very low-key levels of flooding that we saw even in certain informal settlement areas.

But again, we play various roles, colleague, where the community themselves and local ward councillor plays a phenomenal role when they do see damage to the subterranean infrastructure, even in our own new developments, to report it so that it can be escalated. Thank you,

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare Minister.

[The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister.] I recognise the hon member Wessels, and then hon member Nkondlo.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, in the light of the estimated R9-billion of damages with regards to infrastructure, has the department received any indication from National Treasury on when Disaster Recovery Funding will be released, specifically with regards to strategic routes, given previous delays in the release of disaster funding? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and through

you, to the member. I will attach what he is asking to the (a) part of the member's question. Given that the estimated damage to our road network is conservatively estimated at R2-billion, it might actually be a lot more. Some of these damages do occur within the existing towns where sections of our provincial network which connects towns and communities actually have washed away, or the subterranean work has been drastically damaged.

Sadly, we have received no assistance. I will use the example, hon member, through you hon Speaker, of the 2023/2024 floods where we estimated that the damage to our network was in excess of R1.8-billion. We only got R500-million from the National Disaster Centre, and it was an additional R300-million from the Provincial Treasury, which means we were already short R1.billion.

Sadly, the current funding model does not actually incentivise preparedness in the infrastructure. It is reactive, by dealing with disaster after it happens, instead of actually incentivising provinces to actually be better prepared, seeing that global warming and the recurrence of severe weather patterns are now a more frequent occurrence than ever before. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, actually, you have taken away my question now. Are you saying we do not have a strategy at this point to deal, especially from a funding point of view, with disaster preparedness? Because for me, that would be very scary. If we talk about a

holistic disaster management, disaster indeed does not only start, or does not require the State to only intervene after.

If we are not going to be prepared, I am worried when you say there is no funding for such. In the strategies that you are discussing between yourselves in the Province and National, are you trying to tell me there is not any conversation about how to fund or how to develop a disaster ready type of strategy?

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

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Through you to the hon member. Hon member, in the Western Cape in terms of preparedness, which is again, I will latch your question to the (a) part of the member's question. We are well-prepared in terms of fires, the available data is available to us. In terms of our own portfolio, because I cannot speak for other portfolios, we all do prepare to the extent within our budget. I will take my own budget.

We do focus on ensuring in terms of gravel road network in terms of provincial road network that there is some form of budget available should anything happens. Which is why we have an annual maintenance and repair programme in terms of our road network. The problem is that certain roads are categorised by the vehicle usage, and according to that formula, we then package or annual maintenance plan for our gravel road network.

In the 2023, 2024 and the May and June storms of this year, at one stage, more than 230 roads in our entire network were affected. Some were earmarked for maintenance repairs later in the current financial year. Some were not. We managed then to shift funding within our own programme to start focussing on a lock and key routes that connect communities, and ultimately also ensure that there can be vehicle flow in certain areas.

We have managed to open more than 270% of over 230 roads, which ultimately, that is the one part we could focus on. Now, as much as the weather patterns and the data which we get tell us there will be an increase in the number of occurrences, where that storm is going to land, we will never know. In terms of human settlements, that is even more difficult to guess. But what we do do, in terms of through the data provided by my colleague at Local Government, in terms of the Winter Readiness Programme, which my colleague encourages, the City of Cape Town and our 24 B municipalities, is to ensure that within their own budgets, that the cleaning of weirs, the cleaning of storage systems is done so that the impact of above normal rainfall does not have a massive impact in certain areas.

We have seen that readiness programme in action. The problem is on the National Government side. Again, the way that the National Disaster Centre is structured and the funding we get, it is reactive post the event. Sometimes as a province, we are penalised the moment it might look that way, because we are proactive and we want our people to get to work. We want our people to connect where roads are closed. The Western Cape has actually been penalised for being

proactive in their attempts, by appointing emergency contacts to actually open those roads, that we do not get our funding back.

That is the bigger discussion which, in my own portfolio, I am having with the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Infrastructure and Public Works, because if we are proactive, we now know the patterns. Within their own national budgets, they need to accommodate that, because from our side, what we can do with our budget and shift, we can do, but it only covers so much.

As the hon member Wessels said, there is a R9-billion impact assessment that has been done. Almost R2-billion, I think it will balloon even more once the water subsidies and we can actually have a real look across four of our five districts. That is the entire roads budget. That is double the Human Settlements budget. My budget does not accommodate for that. I do want to thank, hon Speaker, through you, my colleague, Minister Baartman, who, with the last tranche when we saw that National was not coming to the table, availed R300-million at least from our own reserves to accommodate us. But the Reserve Fund only has so much, and it is more than one portfolio that is affected by these storms.

So, we do need to open the debate with the National Government on how it actually funds provinces and incentivises behavioural change from being reactive to proactive. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There is one more opportunity for a

follow up. I see the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. On part (c) of the question, hon Minister, can you indicate what solution, or how have the farmworkers that have lost their houses which were washed away by the floods, been assisted, given that those would not have insurance in those houses, and they are staying in a property of a farmer? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Indeed the recent floods have impacted massively the agricultural sector. More so, our farmworkers who work on the farms. The current architecture of the grants which I have oversight over, does not permit to spend that funding on privately owned land. Which means that also implies that through the grant structure, I cannot assist those residents who are working on a farm and living on a home which was built by the farm owner.

Similarly to the National Housing Disaster Fund. It does not permit me to do that, but what we have been doing proactively over the last two to three years, hon Speaker, through you, a number of our farmworkers are also on the housing waiting list. We encourage more of them to update their details, and if they are not, to please put the name on the list, so that when this happens, instead of then trying to accommodate them where the incident happened, we ultimately try and engage when we do our assessments, and we are busy with Human

Settlements at the moment, across all these four districts, to try and see who are those farmworkers that have been affected and are actually on our waiting list. Because then we can apply for Disaster Funding.

Again, the criteria for that are quite centralised at the moment by the National Department of Human Settlements. If it is 50 and below, the local municipality, through our support, can gain access to TRA structures. If it is above 50 and beyond, National needs to do the assessment, then we support, and then there is another process that follows. So, that is the only way in which we can assist our farmworkers who have been sadly at the receiving end of the recent storms, hon Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Question number three on the Question Paper. We move on to Question number four, and I recognise the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism, hon Minister Meyer.

Recent extreme weather: fruit harvest season

4. Mr N P Masipa asked the Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

Regarding the current 2026 winter grain planting season, on which the severe May flooding could have had an impact:

(a) What is his department's assessment of how recent waterlogging could

have had an impact on the planting progress of grains in our major producing regions, (b) what is the anticipated impact on our yield quality for the 2026 harvest and (c) what support is being provided to farmers to manage (i) these climate risks and (ii) the current financial pressure of high input costs?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Speaker, and greetings to our leaders in the gallery. Based on the Western Cape Department of Agriculture's latest public update following the May 2026 floods, the assessment of the 2026 fruit harvest season revealed that severe weather caused widespread flooding and significant disruption across the major fruit producing areas including the Hex River Valley, which I visited now twice, with the Mayor of that region, Grabouw, Elgin, Ceres, that I visited two days ago, and Worcester and McGregor. I will be visiting McGregor tomorrow, and the assessments are as follows.

Extensive damage was done to the orchards and other agricultural land, with some producers reporting complete crop losses, damage to farm infrastructure, including irrigation systems, access to roads and bridges, including farm roads and farm bridges, power outages that disrupted pack houses, storage facilities and irrigation operations, as well as communication networks.

In several areas, farms were effectively cut off because flooded rivers and damaged transport routes prevented normal access. With regards to road closures and the movement of fruit to the Port of Cape Town and various

markets, the assessment revealed that transport route damage caused access constraints.

In other words, the damaged roads, bridges and farm access routes were identified as major operational challenges and affecting the agricultural districts. But through the liaison with the Department of Infrastructure and the Minister, we have prioritised certain key routes, specifically as it relates to the harvest season.

Particularly, this is now the harvest season for citrus, and so those particular areas were prioritised. Support mechanisms activated to ensure functionality, not only for the perishable produce, but to ensure that economic activities resume in the various areas, include ongoing provincial disaster response.

In this regard, I want to thank the hon Minister of Local Government, because that Disaster Management Centre was immediately activated when there is a Level 8 Weather Disaster Warning from the Department of Weather Services. He activated it immediately. In fact, when there is a Level 5, he normally activates these Disaster Management Centres across the province. We have also seen 72% infrastructure repair operations. This is something you don't see anywhere in South Africa.

I was flying on a Friday over the Cape Winelands Region. Saw a bridge washed away in McGregor. That was the Friday. The Monday, emergency operations through the Minister of Infrastructure were on site busy fixing that road, and

tomorrow I will have a look at that particular road infrastructure. This is remarkable, since 72% of those roads, out of about 233 roads that were washed away, severely damaged, mainly in farming and rural areas, are already in phases of being repaired.

That I think is the route infrastructure that I think is also benefitting agriculture. We have also seen efforts to restore power, and I want to thank the Minister of Local Government for the work that he is doing nonstop, engaging with the Department of Eskom to restore the electricity also in farming community areas. Hon Deputy Speaker, you will be happy to know that two days ago, one of the severely affected areas in terms of electricity was in the Ceres area. I was there two days ago with the National Deputy Minister of Electricity and Energy, in terms of trying to see what can be done to fix that particular area.

There were also various industries who have also done their own work and support the industry. Specifically in the area of Ceres, because this is part of the largest soft fruit industry. As hon member Nkondlo will know, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, this is the biggest soft fruit region south of the equator. That is why it was important to see what we can do in terms of the particular area.

The first thing, I have asked the farmers to present their case to us in Ceres, to fully understand the scale and the scope of their problems. Secondly, we have heard the desire, the urgency from the farmers, and we have made a commitment

with Eskom, with the National Minister, that we will try to fix those electricity lines affecting the harvest season, the packing, the cold storage.

We now have a date around the 24th of June to fix it. We are very thankful to the National Deputy Minister of Energy and Electricity because they brought in two additional teams from Free State and Gauteng to fix those lines specifically in Ceres. We are particularly happy, and they are working as we speak. I was onsite with the teams from Gauteng and the Free State and the Western Cape team. I was also there with the Regional Manager of Eskom, Mr Yedwa and Ms Promise Ntuli, to see what that scale and scope of work is all about.

They have confirmed this is known for storms. This is the impact of climate change and Eskom is now also heavily investing in climate change experts in terms of reconfiguring those lines and the pylons and the wooden poles, because under normal circumstances, we have winds of about 30-40km per hour in that region, as the hon member Nkondlo will know. But when you have wind speeds of 160km per hour, those lines, they collapse under that speed.

So, we have also prioritised individual farms, because this is a region, but people have individual needs, so we also have prioritised that. I think this House will be very happy to hear on the basis of the Premier's Energy Council, Eskom has now agreed that they will establish a District Energy Council so that these matters can be dealt with at the district level. I am happy to report to this House and to our friends, that the first District Energy Council will now take

place next Friday, the 19th of June, and they will do it, hon member, in your constituency. Our hon Deputy Chief Whip, it will be piloted in the Cape Winelands, but specifically in Witzenberg, in Ceres. I will try to attend that meeting next Friday.

There is a shortage of engineers, and I think hon members know, hon Minister Bredell is on record. He said, every Jan Rap is now an engineer when you go to a site. Every Jan Rap, even hon member of Mobility, is now an engineer. So we said, no, there is a shortage of engineers to fix things. We are not going to work with Jan Rap engineers. We are – no, that is not a true example. I ask that you understand. So, the real issue here is when you have a shortage of engineers, you cannot have Jan Rap engineers.

So the plan with Eskom is to have – and this is also a thing that hon Minister Bredell on frequent times advocates, is that we have a shared service for engineers, so he can send, in fact, he himself sent many engineers to various towns to assist. I think this is something, hon Speaker, one of the issues that was also discussed in my meeting, was the issue of grid expansion and the future growth of Witzenberg. I am particularly happy that the farmers have raised the issue of the grid expansion. They said they cannot wait, because in terms of Eskom's planning, they have forecasted the planning towards 2031, and they have said no, 2031 is too far. And so, certainly, they will be looking at this particular matter.

I am very happy that we are working with this situation, because it is the

packhouse, it is the cold storage, it is the transportation, and hon member Noko Masipa is correct, because currently, as we stand here, there are thousands of litres of diesel that are being burnt in the area of Witzenberg to keep the packhouses and particularly the cold storage. I think that is the major risk, and that is why the urgency of this meeting two days ago in Ceres.

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The condition of roads and infrastructure is still a significant challenge, hon Minister, as you indicated. But we just want to say thank you to you and your team, that you have worked tirelessly to restore some functionality and support affected areas and communities.

While the provincial role of Government's multidisciplinary approach has thus far been effective in responding to the crisis, I would like to ask, hon Minister, you have indicated that (1) you are engaged with the hon Minister of Electricity and Deputy Minister to really coordinate some work regarding the Eskom restoration.

Other engagements that are taking place at national level with other departments to coordinate support and address broader challenges that are faced by farmers and other communities to revitalise their local economies. Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Chair of the Standing Committee. Yes, most of the coordination taking place with other departments in a disaster happens through the coordinating platform of Minister Bredell through the National Disaster Management Centre. He coordinates all the various inputs, but this morning, the Cabinet has met, and Cabinet has also requested that each Minister has to be seated here, contact the National counterparts.

So I will be in contact with the National Department of Agriculture. The Provincial Treasury will provide us a template as to how we should approach that so that we have consistency in the methodology for seeking assistance, both in the policy strategy and the actual budget processes going forward. So hon Minister Bredell and the Provincial Treasury will give us some guidance as to how we should approach the various departments.

But because of the urgency, when there is a river, when there are floods, my department also immediately contacts, also with the assistance of hon Minister Bredell, the National Department of Water and Sanitation, because if there is a river, you have water usage associations. Last year, I made R50-million available to deal with the situation to the Water Usage Association in Citrusdal. And so, we work with the Water Usage Association in terms of the ecological infrastructure that we put in the riverbeds. You cannot do that without the National Department of Environmental Affairs. You cannot do that without the National Department of Water and Sanitation, so we work with that particular department as well.

So, the whole of Government approach is coming together. This matter was discussed last week. Hon member, last week we had an Agriculture MIDMAC meeting, and in that MIDMAC meeting, it was all the MECs asking what about massive support for famers, collectively from Government, as was done during COVID, because during COVID, there was support to everybody.

For example, during COVID, there was a ban on the export of wine. We made money available from this Government to the wine cellars, because they are working in the wine cellars and there is no wine selling happening and wine tasting. This Government, during COVID-19, made money available to support that. They have asked in the meeting, what support is now being given from the national department?

As we know, the National Government has only classified this as a disaster. To our friends in the EFF, through you, hon Speaker, when you hear the matter has been classified, do not ask us, "Where is the money?" Classification in terms of the National Disaster Management Act means we note, but there is no money. That is why hon Minister Bredell is now asking the National Government not to classify a disaster, but to declare a disaster, because once you declare a disaster, you can approach the National Treasury for the funding allocations.

So the hon member of the EFF, please, help us. Get some more money from your friends there. That budget that you touch there. Get that money to the Western Cape, not into your own pockets, and so fast, it is important that we really understand the scale and the scope of the situation.

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

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. I would like the hon Minister to withdraw [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I would like the hon Minister to withdraw how he referred to hon member Lithakong, saying they must not put the money into their pockets. Yes, that is really – it is not right.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, before you proceed, can I ask, there was a point of order. Were you referring to any particular member in this House?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: No. To the EFF.

The SPEAKER: All right, hon Chief Whip, I will refer to Hansard. Order, members! Order! I will refer to Hansard. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, I am addressing your point of order to you. So, I will refer to Hansard, and I will look at the pretext, the context and the post text of that contribution by the Minister, and I will come back to the House with a ruling. But Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon Deputy Speaker, this matter in terms of disasters is so wide. That is why we are dealing with this on different levels, both vertical and horizontal. The hon Premier this morning has also indicated that he will also liaise with the President, because this is a matter that warrants the attention of the PCC, which is the Presidential Coordinating Council, because this is not only a disaster here in this province. This is a disaster that has happened in six provinces, so the hon Premier will have a discussion on this matter.

Secondly, the hon Premier has invited, with the assistance of the hon Minister of Finance, the CoGTA Minister first. Minister Hlabisa was at our Cabinet. During that meeting, he indicated to the Cabinet that he will liaise with the National Minister of Finance. This morning in the Cabinet, the Premier has indicated that he will give consideration to invite the National Minister of Finance also to the Cabinet, because this is a disaster that we have not seen in the last 200 years.

So, this is not something that we can do on our own. Not any single Government department, not even any province. But there is something that we have a major concern with. That concern was raised by the Minister of Infrastructure. When this disaster happened, we could not wait and sit, because people were under severe pressure. So, we made upfront money available. We were proactive, and now, we have to get that money back from the National Disaster and the National Government says, "We will not help you." This is not helpful in a constitutional democracy. When you help people upfront, you park some urgent

critical projects, and now [Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: We call on the National Government not only to assist the Western Cape, but all provinces immediately.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that concludes Question No. 4 as printed on the Question Paper, and also brings us to the end of the time allotted for oral questions, for oral reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard. We now move on to the Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204.

I want to remind the hon members that two follow-ups by the member posing the question which relates to the original question being posed, will be allowed. Hon members, so it's only the hon member whose name has been drawn, in terms of the Rules and the process when it comes to Questions to the Premier without Notice, is the only person, or only member that can ask follow-up questions. I recognise the hon member Brinkhuis.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, good afternoon. Good afternoon to all the colleagues. Hon Speaker, through you to the hon

Premier. Hon Premier, how much money did you get for the new Social Development budget year? Can you commit [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, one question.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Yes, hon Speaker. This is part of the question. Hon Premier, can you commit to spend the money for [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, in terms of the Rules, you are allowed to pose one question. You will get an opportunity to ask a follow-up question. You cannot have a question with subsections. Please pose your question directly to the hon Premier, and I will give you two follow-ups, based on the response. So please pose your question.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Alright, thank you very much, hon Speaker. My first question will be, how much money did you get, hon Premier, for the new Social Development budget year. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much to the hon member for the question. Obviously, Questions to the Premier without Notice are not really supposed to be substantive questions which need you to give Rands and cents, or how many times has Joe Bloggs written to your department, because those are very difficult questions to answer when you just get given the question blind.

Obviously, there was a bit of time while the hon member was asking the question, so I could quickly Google it. Of course, the hon member obviously is an hon member of this House, sits in the Budget Committees, so this is open, transparent information that sits in the Budget Book. The Western Cape Department of Social Development was allocated R2.897-billion for the 2026/2027 financial year.

This marks a nearly 5% increase from the R2.760-billion allocated on 2025/2026 and it is supporting vulnerable communities amid rising economic and social pressures. I hope that answers the question. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. Hon member Brinkhuis, your first follow up.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, through you, my follow up question is, can the hon Premier commit to spend that money for social development programmes, especially the HIV and AIDS and stronger support or parenting programmes, and transport for disabled people to access these social development programmes? Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for that follow up. The answer obviously must be yes, because we really endeavour to spend 100% of our budget every single year. The Social Development Department has a very good track record

of reaching very close to that in the 96/7 and 8 percentage points, and have shown it. Of course, they do spend it according to their programmes.

Hon member Brinkhuis in his question mentioned parenting. There are a number of parenting programmes that are run by the department. He mentioned HIV and AIDS. He also mentioned people with disabilities and specifically around transport. I will get to that last, and also, being innovative as a department.

Of course, they have programmes where they are now looking at gender-based violence and have been working on something that was launched a while ago, where we have GBV ambassadors. So you have people on the ground, in communities, who are helping individuals who have been abused, making sure that they get to the police station. They get the care that they need. They get the charges laid. And so it goes through all of their programmes.

Lastly, when it comes to mobility, and specifically mobility around people with disabilities, you will note in the financial year last year that the department started procuring their own specially made vehicles that are specially designed so that people with special needs, especially mobility needs, are able to get to our care facilities, etc.

Of course, that also links over into the money spent on disability by other departments, primarily here the Department of Mobility. There, you know the millions that they put in as a grant towards the Dial a Ride, but they also look at other areas of how mobility can be made more accessible. But that will also

be driven by co-interdepartmental discussions. But again, just coming back, absolutely. They endeavour to, on every single one of their programmes, get those programmes landed, and get them spent. That is what happens in our quarterly reporting. You can follow up on how far they are, and of course, as a Standing Committee, you can call them to that Standing Committee and ask them for progress reports on each of those programmes. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Brinkhuis, your final follow-up?

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much hon Speaker. Through you, hon Speaker, can the hon Premier commit to the programme that he has referred to, the Dial a Ride Programme? Can the Premier commit to the Dial a Ride Programme? Will it continue? Thank you.

The PREMIER: So obviously, that gets dealt with when we have our MTEC processes, depending on budget availability. It is not up to me to say, "Make a promise in Parliament of how our budget process works." I can tell you it is in this current budget. Hon Minister Sileku's department brings an allocation for it, and it goes through a budget process.

So absolutely, it is there. It is supported, and of course, we will then consider it again when it comes to the end of the year, depending on what the tax income was like in the country, what the allocation letter is that the Minister of Finance gets, how that process works. I can say that it has been there for years.

It seems to get renewed every year, but obviously, it will get assessed and then of course decisions get made by that respective department, and that is how they put their budget forward to the committee that gets put together around MTEC. And of course, then eventually it does end up in the next Budget, or perhaps even gets adjusted in the Adjustment Budget, depending on its ability to deliver. But from here, of course, yes, it is budgeted for and it is supported in this financial year.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That brings us to the end of that first question for Questions to the Premier without Notice. I now recognise the hon member Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and through you. Following the hon Premier's recent visit to the Garden Route District, which has experienced significant infrastructure damages as a result of the storms, what can the hon Premier report to the House regarding the current status of municipal and provincial infrastructure in that region?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much for that question, hon member Booysen. Yes, absolutely, infrastructure in general across this province has been absolutely decimated by the recent floods, the high winds, and then of course rain on rain. So another set of floods that came through, and specifically in the Garden Route, the impact is immense.

It is primarily I think, the problem right now is the energy question. I was interacting at six o'clock this morning with the energy question in the Bito region. There was a meeting again with Eskom today at two o'clock. I am not sure if the House knows, but I also meet with Eskom at seven o'clock in the morning. So tomorrow morning again, I will meet with Mr Yedwa, the Head of Eskom in the province, with his team, along with our teams, be that the Department of Infrastructure, be that our mobility teams, whomever is responsible and actually held together by Disaster Management teams and the Head of Department Local Government.

The reason that we do that is to try and get this infrastructure repaired as quickly as possible. So for example, when we get a report back, we know, I think there are now 500 poles that still have to be planted, new poles. The problem in the Garden Route is twofold when it comes to energy. The first thing is the destruction of the trees falling down and breaking that electrical infrastructure, and then it having to be restrung. And much of it, because of the rain, vehicular access has not been possible.

So even going in sometimes with these trucks, they have had to have these digger loaders, trying to pull them through the mud, etc. And then there is another problem in that area, and that is cable theft. So, while the power is not on, we are finding cable theft, and I think that is absolutely despicable, because we have already got residents, citizens, who are in desperate need of electricity, and they have been off now for four and a half weeks.

The projection is it is going to be another two to three weeks until they are back on again. Now, we need to try and bring that forward, but while you are trying to do that, people are stealing cables. I mean, it just cannot be. I have specifically asked that we have a lot more eyes and ears out there. Let us catch these guys. But that is the energy side of the infrastructure.

The hard infrastructure, the road infrastructure, that is also a massive, massive problem. So I think in the earlier question, you heard hon Minister Meyer talking about the discussion that we had in Cabinet today where we were having those preliminary numbers of nearly R9-billion. That is obviously changing all the time because as the assessments are happening, we are seeing the complexity of it.

In the Garden Route, I will talk about the road between Oudtshoorn and the Cango Caves. Yesterday, I actually got handed a petition from residents there because they are so worried. You cannot get to school. You cannot get to work. The tourism operations do not happen. But if you look at that slippage, you will hear from hon Minister Simmers' teams and his engineers, they do not know when you move those thousands of tonnes off that roadway, what is going to happen. Is further mountain going to slip down, etc? They want to know, are we going to get the road open tomorrow? Well, we cannot guarantee that. We cannot even guarantee next week until some of those studies are done.

I think of Meiringspoort, and now, the water has been running over it for weeks, and now you are starting to get those pictures of what it actually looks like.

You are getting reports back from those engineers who first had to go in with canoes, but now at least they can get in, and now you are looking at the hundreds of millions of Rands that that is going to cost.

Time, we cannot even estimate that yet, because we have got to do the geotechnical testing, etc, what has to be replaced. And then also ask ourselves a question, do we just build it back, or do we build it back differently? That generally costs two, three times more, and we know we are heavily constrained by budget.

But over and above that, I was dealing this morning, no, a little while ago, I actually shared it with hon Minister Simmers a little while ago. There are some rural roads that belong to Bosbou and Forestry, and they are quagmire mud baths. You have got people that need healthcare that are on the other side of this mud bath, and you have got to try and get people in and out.

So, it is a major issue. We have got teams across, I think they are quite tired already, but we have got teams across this province that have been working 24/7 nonstop in getting access. There is still a long way to go, and there has been serious damage. I looked yesterday in Mossel Bay at some of the damage along the coastal side. We know that that washaway has been pretty substantial. A lot of areas are very badly flooded from a water level point of view.

The best I can say is that we are really on it every single day from all the departments to get it going. That is number one, and number two, we just ask

people to be realistic and patient. I know it is frustrating, and I feel your pain. We will continue to communicate as best as we can, so that you know exactly what is happening, when it is being repaired, how it is being repaired. Because of course you do not want to, as in the electrical space, be in the dark. You need to know what is happening, and that at least gives you a bit of hope.

I also think we have got an amazing track record on how quickly the procurement does happen when we are able to do it, and how many thousands and thousands of tonnes get moved in when we can actually repair it. Just coming home last night, that bridge in Swellendam. Okay, that is outside of the jurisdiction of what you have just asked. But that is on the N2.

There is a massive hole in the road that falls through under that bridge, because that water was coming up underneath the bridge, that they are busy repairing. At least you have got a bit of a stop and go there. But that is where we are trying to go wherever we have got these blockages to infrastructure. I have not even gone to perhaps other infrastructure, like private infrastructure and damage.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Booysen, your first follow up. Hon Premier, can I just remind you, when you answer, that you speak to me. Hon member Booysen.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Premier, and through you, hon Speaker. How has the recent severe weather affected the progress or the ongoing Section

154 Support Plan in Knysna?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Obviously, now we are talking about municipal infrastructure and specifically water sewerage. I would not say it has necessarily severely hampered the process. Yesterday I was with the Knysna Mayor actually onsite in the water pump stations, looking at the replacement pumps. There is a water plan on the table. It runs to nearly R500-million, but it has got to have outsourced money from other places.

We have already put around R70-million on the table. It is still a risk, but of course, with the rain, that actually diminished the drought risk that the town felt because if you think about it, a month and a half ago, we were putting water restrictions in all over the place, and Knysna specifically had days where the water in their Akkerkloof Dam was low, the Glebe Dam was not being filled sufficiently and we were filling water into the system, the Charlesford Pump Station's pumps were broken, and so on and so forth.

Now we are in a better position. Charlesford yesterday was pumping 150 or 57 litres per second. That is not where it should be. It should be probably double that, at least double that. But it is enough to just keep the system going. Because I think the negatives around the other infrastructure, that has at least reduced the risk on keeping the water in the system. But our engineers are on site and working every day to try and get it working as quicky as possible so that we

can diminish that risk. I would not say that the floods have really hampered it a lot, that process. The 154 is still ongoing.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Booysen, your final opportunity.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Through you, hon Speaker. Hon Premier, what measures are being implemented to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure to reduce the impact of future extreme weather events and climate change related disasters?

The SPEAKER: Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: That goes back to what I was saying about build back better. The rebuild of hon Minister Simmers' bridge in Citrusdal. That washed away every year, and this year, it had a one in 200-year flood. In actual fact, in 1924, they measured the last measurement as the highest they have ever measured the Clanwilliam Dam, and the level across that whole level was one and a half metres higher than that, and that build back better held.

The same thing happened, we have had the Ashton Bridge, again, tested and tested. But the problem is that that infrastructure cost three times more. So we have to probably apply the same, when we want to look at Meiringspoort, but I do not know what that is going to cost if we have to build it back differently.

So, we are trying to apply our minds to it. I know we asked hon Minister Hlabisa to start a process. In actual fact, after today's Cabinet meeting, we are writing to the National Minister for a visit, as hon Minister Meyer said. I also had a discussion with the hon Deputy Minister of Finance today, because we actually need to change the way we do things.

We must have Disaster Management capability in funds, but that is not enough with the devastation that we get. Sorry, hon Speaker. That is not enough. I believe that in CoGTA there is R600-million. Now, the north of our country has got massive flooding, Eastern Cape and the Western Cape. R600-million is nothing. So we have to budget difficultly, but we also have to budget for building back better, and that cannot come out of Disaster Management money.

We have got to positively start budgeting money so that we can actually build back better, that it is climate change resilient, that we know that this bridge washes away every year, we will build it differently. Meiringspoort floods a lot. So far, it has held for 30 years, but now it is not holding, and now we have got to build it differently. And so, that is going to cost a lot more money, and we need different budgeting processes for that.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. With 20 seconds remaining, I am not going to, hon professor Mbombo, my apologies, you are next, but I do not think it is going to do it justice, so I am not going to provide you that opportunity. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204. We now move on to Statements by Members in

terms of Rule 145, and I recognise the DA.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Speaker, schools should be places of learning, hope and opportunity. However, acts of violence, vandalism and burglary continue to rob learners and teachers of a safe and dignified environment in which to teach and learn. In fact, every classroom damaged, every window broken, and every textbook stolen, is ultimately an attack on the future of our children. The DA in the Western Cape strongly condemns all acts of violence, vandalism and criminality that threaten the safety of learners, educators and school communities.

Following a recent oversight visit, and in light of the alleged stabbing of a learner outside the premises of the Breërivier Secondary School, I have written to the Provincial Minister of Education to express my concern regarding this deeply troubling incident. While the incident reportedly occurred outside the schoolgrounds, it nevertheless highlights the broader challenge of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our learners.

Preventing violence in and around our schools is a shared responsibility. Government, parents, communities and learners themselves all have a role to play in creating safe environments where teaching and learning can flourish. But it is time for the South African Police Service to step in. Through the Western Cape Education Department's Safe Schools Strategy, targeted

interventions are implemented based on risk assessment, to protect learners and school infrastructure.

This includes emergency security deployment and holiday security support for schools identified as being the most vulnerable. Together, we must forge better pathways to prevent violence and vandalism in and around our schools, and protect these vital spaces, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Thank you very much. I recognise the ANC.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, the ANC notes with serious concern the recent search and seizure operation conducted by the South African Police Service, Commercial Crime Investigation unit at the City of Cape Town offices. The residences of a mayoral committee member, municipal officials and other individuals link to an ongoing corruption investigation.

According to SAPS, these raids form part of a broader investigation into allegations of fraud, corruption and involving a former municipal contractor, CCC Maintenance Services. Hon Speaker, this is not the first time that the City of Cape Town has found itself at the centre of major corruption investigations. Hon members will recall the multibillion Rand housing tender scandal of last year that led to expensive investigations into allegations of fraud, corruption

and links between the municipal officials, contractors and organised criminal networks.

These developments once again exposed the glaring contradictions between the Democratic Alliance's carefully crafted image of clean governance, and the growing list of corruption allegations emerging from institutions under its control. While the ANC respects the presumption of innocence and will not prejudge the outcome of the investigation, the public deserves transparency and accountability from those entrusted with public resources.

The ANC therefore calls on the City of Cape Town to fully cooperate with the law enforcement authorities and provide regular public updates on matters relating to corruption investigations. We further call on the Standing Committee on Mobility Infrastructure and Public Works, together with the relevant oversight committees, to invite SAPS Provincial Management to brief the Legislature on the progress of these investigations, and the broader measures being implemented to combat corruption in Local Government.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, your time has expired. Thank you very much. I recognise the PA.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, am I audible?

The SPEAKER: You are indeed audible.

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Allow me tonight to thank the community of Malmesbury for once again in Ward 11 for electing the PA as their party of choice and voice. Once again, crime and gangsterism continue to threaten the safety of many communities, and while unemployment is rising, cost of living is increasing, pressure on our households across the province is growing.

Residents are also raising concerns about service delivery, including road maintenance, water, infrastructure and municipal responsiveness. Hon Speaker, the people of the Western Cape deserve action, accountability and solutions. We must ensure that Government responds to these challenges with urgency and no community is left behind. That, we have heard last night from the community of Malmesbury again, when they showed us, when they voted for the Patriotic Alliance, that the DA does not care for our people.

Hon Speaker, last week Friday night, again in George, we had only one ambulance for about 270 000 residents of the whole of George, to react. We had a problem where one teenager was stabbed with a knife, and he had to wait more than two to three hours for an ambulance, to be assisted. This cannot be the case in a province where we say, or you are saying that the DA runs the best municipalities in our country.

Hon Speaker, I call on, once again, on the hon Minister of Health to urgently look at the ambulance shortages in the Garden Route and in George, to make sure that our people get the healthcare and the services that they deserve. I

thank you.

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

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. As the unyielding tide of technological advance races ahead, the need for our institutions to adapt has never been more prevalent. Much like the steam engine, the assembly line and the internet, the rise of artificial intelligence marks a period of untold innovation. For the first time ever, critical thinking, our most sacred human attribute, is on the cusp of a revolutionary advance. But history warns us that the dual use of powerful technology can lead to disastrous outcomes. The Haber-Bosch process created synthetic fertilisers that feed half the world, yet it was weaponised for chemical warfare. The splitting of the atom promised limitless clean energy, yet gave us the atomic bomb. Alfred Nobel's dynamite built our roads, but destroyed lives on the battlefield. Today AI seeks to augment human intelligence, yet left unchecked it is already being used to power autonomous weapons, targeting mass surveillance and the systematic degradation of truth.

As lawmakers we have a profound responsibility to ensure that this technology serves the good of the people. That is why the Western Cape is leading from the front. Through the Western Cape AI cluster this Provincial Government has established a pioneering ecosystem to transform Cape Town into Africa's leading AI hub, localising compute power, investing in tech startups and aggressively re-skilling our workforce so no worker is left behind, but

innovation without integrity is a danger to our democracy.

This is why this Parliament is finalising a comprehensive AI governance framework, while our Provincial Treasury pilots machine learning tools to flag financial abnormalities and stop supply chain corruption before it even ends.

We are proving that we can embrace cutting edge technology while maintaining the highest standards of ethical oversight and fiscal discipline.

We are not just preparing for the future, hon Speaker, we are responsibly building it and I am fully appreciative of this Parliament's advanced AI policy.

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

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The EFF would like to take this opportunity to wish the South African senior men's soccer team, Bafana Bafana, well when they embark on their journey of participating in the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which kicks off tonight with the first game of the tournament against co-host Mexico.

The qualification of South Africa in this year's edition of the World Cup is quite a milestone and an achievement, taking into account that the country was only allowed to participate again from 1992 onwards following the ban that was placed on the soccer team as a result of apartheid laws and regime in South Africa. Following the lifting of the ban, the South African soccer team went on to qualify and participate in the 1998, 2002, 2010 and now 2026 edition of the

FIFA National Team World Cup.

The latest qualification by Bafana Bafana for the World Cup is a constant reminder that we are hard workers as a nation and we are constantly striving to achieve greater heights as a collective. The indication from FIFA is that when the ball is kicked from the centre of the soccer field tonight, about 1,5 billion people worldwide will be watching South Africa play, so safe to say all eyes will be on us in the world stage.

However, the hosting of this tournament is not without controversy as the US, which are co-hosts of the tournament, are doing their best to turn the tournament into a political ball game and a mini war targeting individuals from certain countries, which the USA deems as enemies, such as Iran, Somalia, to name a few.

Having said that, hon Speaker, EFF would like to take this opportunity to wish Bafana Bafana well in their journey and without doubt believes that they will return home with FIFA World Cup trophy. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Agb Speaker, die Witzenberg Munisipaliteit wat deur die DA beheer word, bied mense geen hulp aan na die afgelope storms nie. Mense bly onder seile nadat hul wonings verspoel het en hulle omstandighede is haglik, en dit terwyl vakansie-oorde leeg staan, waar mense gehuisves kan

word.

Vandag moet hierdie Huis 'n ongemaklike waarheid in die oë kyk. Die Wes-Kaap word nie deur bekwaamheid regeer nie, maar deur 'n Demokratiese Alliansie wat 'n obsessie het met beeldbou, rassebeheer en politieke bemarking, terwyl die arme armste gemeenskappe steeds verdrink, brand en ly sonder werklike ondersteuning.

Vir jare verkoop die DA die mite van 'n goedbestuurde provinsie, maar elke onafhanklike verslag van die Ouditeur-Generaal tot die Menseregtekommissie-ondersoeke, wys op 'n groeiende ongelykheid, vervallende munisipale infrastruktuur en 'n rasgebaseerde patroon van belegging wat Kleurling- en werkersklasgemeenskappe agterlaat. Dit is nie bewerings nie, dit is gedokumenteerde feite.

Ons het die afgelope maande weer gesien vloedrampe verwoes informele nedersettings, bendegegeweld neem toe, behuisingsagterstande ontplof, openbare vervoer stort ineen, DA-beheerde munisipaliteite faal oudit na oudit, maar die agb Premier se kantoor hou aan om Openbare Betrekkinge-toere te organiseer in plaas van werklike bestuur toe te pas.

Ons eis, as die NCC, dat ons mense wegbeweeg van die DA af. Ons sê vir ons mense beweeg weg van die DA af, want ons sit met 'n DA-regering wat nie omgee nie, en soos 'n vorige agb lid in hierdie Huis gesê het, die DA is sleg. Dankie, agb Speaker.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraphs follow.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Speaker, the Witzenberg Municipality that is governed by the DA, offers no aid to people after the recent storms. People are living under canvas after their houses have been flooded and their circumstances are atrocious, and this while holiday resorts stand empty where people can be accommodated.

Today this House must face an uncomfortable truth. The Western Cape is not governed by competency, but by a Democratic Alliance that has an obsession with image building, racial control and political marketing, while the poor poorest communities are still drowning, burn and suffer without real assistance.

For years the DA has been selling the myth of a well managed province, but every independent report from the Auditor General to the Humans Rights Commission inquiries indicates a growing inequality, collapsing municipal infrastructure and a race based pattern of investment leaving Coloured and workers class communities behind. These are not allegations, it is documented facts.

Over the past months we have again seen that flood disasters destroy informal settlements, gang violence is escalating, housing backlogs explode, public transport collapses, DA controlled municipalities fail audit after audit, but the Premier's Office continues to organise Public Relations instead of applying real management.

We demand, as the NCC, that our people move away from the DA. We say to our people move away from the DA, because we sit with a DA Government that does not care, and as a previous member said in this House, the DA is bad. Thank you, hon Speaker.]

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Michels. [Interjections.] I recognise the ANC. [Interjections.] I recognise the ANC. [Interjections.] I will recognise the DA.

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance warmly welcomes the official opening of the new R48,7 million Hornlee Clinic in Knysna, a significant investment in the health and well-being of the residents of Hornlee and the surrounding communities.

The previous clinic served the community faithfully for many years, but with approximately 30 000 patient visits annually it became increasingly clear that expanded facilities were needed to meet the growing demand of the area. The new Hornlee Clinic responds directly to this need by providing modern infrastructure, increased capacity and improved service delivery.

We welcome the inclusion of chronic and acute care services, consultation and counselling rooms, an expansion of the dispensary, improved waiting areas and enhanced administrative facilities. These improvements will reduce

overcrowding and waiting times, and will also create a more comfortable and dignified experience for patients and their families.

As the DA we firmly believe that investing in healthcare infrastructure is investing in people. Strong communities are built on reliable public services and quality healthcare remains one of the most important services governments can provide.

The opening of the clinic demonstrates the Western Cape Government's continued commitment to planning for growth, investing in communities and ensuring that services keep pace with demand. It is an example of how responsible governance translates into tangible improvements in the lives of residents. We look forward to the successful completion and phase transition process, and to seeing the clinic fully operational by 1 July 2026.

The Democratic Alliance congratulates the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness, all project partners, healthcare staff and the community of Hornlee in this important milestone. †Enkosi kakhulu. [Thank you very much.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Booysen. I recognise the ANC. [Interjections.] I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as was heard today Opposition parties do not want to be inhibited when we exercise our oversight functions over institutions meant to serve our

communities.

We go out to the public, but we also invite them to this House, but unfortunately, hon Deputy Speaker, as an active member of this House I invited groups of people to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, but have recently, and I think since May 2025, been ignored and denied the opportunity to continue with this. My emails have been ignored, unanswered, sidelined by the institution of Parliament.

Yesterday I have addressed an email to the Secretary of Parliament to investigate the matter. She promised to get back to me and I will give her reasonable time to reply. [Interjections.] I want to know what has changed?

An HON MEMBER: She has not heard of the [Inaudible.]

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I do not want to assume a political agenda behind this to inhibit my function as a member of the Freedom Front Plus, but it does bother me. I treasure the institution of Parliament as a permanent feature of our democracy. It should not belong to a single political party ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: Yes!

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): ...but to all of us equally. [Interjections.] Thank you,

hon Deputy Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: Thank you.

†n AGB LID: Mooi julle!

[An HON MEMBER: Well done, you!]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marais. For the final time I recognise the ANC. [Interjections.] Are you forfeiting your opportunity? I recognise the Al Jama-ah.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, as we commemorate Youth Month we pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the young people of 1976 who stood against injustice and fought for a better future. Their struggle was not only for political freedom, but also for dignity, opportunity and a meaningful future for generations to come.

Today, however, many young South Africans continue to face a difficult but equally devastating challenge, unemployment. Youth unemployment remains one of the greatest crises confronting our nation. Across the Western Cape and South Africa thousands of capable, talented and ambitious young people wake up every day without access to jobs, skills development opportunities or pathways into the economy. Many have completed their schooling, some have obtained qualifications, yet they remain excluded from meaningful economic

participation.

For young people in rural communities, townships and informal settlements the barriers are even greater. Limited access to transport, digital connectivity, career guidance and work experience often prevent them from accessing opportunities that many take for granted. Al Jama-ah believes that our youth are not a burden, they are our greatest asset.

We therefore call for a coordinated approach involving Government, the private sector, educational institutions and civil society to create sustainable pathways into employment and entrepreneurship. We must strengthen partnerships that provide learnerships, apprenticeships, internships, skills training and support for youth-owned enterprises. Career guidance should begin at school level ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon member.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Ensuring that learners are exposed to opportunities before they leave the education system. Therefore ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Due to a technical glitch I now see the hon member

Nkondlo, the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As we commemorate Youth Month... [Incomplete.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, as you are aware there is a significant moment later on and we are needing to maintain the decorum of the House. Hon member Nkondlo, your time will start on your first word.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As we commemorate Youth Month and reflect on the sacrifices of the generation of 1976 we must confront an uncomfortable truth. Far too many young people in the province are facing a crisis of economic exclusion, not being absorbed by the labour market, unemployment and hopelessness.

According to the Stats SA General Household Survey of 2024, an estimated 87 757 children between the ages of 5 and 17 in the province were not attending any educational institution. The crisis worsens as young people transition into adulthood. Approximately 376 000 young people aged 15 to 24 in the province were classified as not being in employment, not in education or not in training, representing 31% of that age group.

The official youth unemployment rate in the province stands at 33,2%. These are hundreds of thousands of young people whose dreams are being deferred and whose potential is being wasted. Excluded from education, disconnected

from economic opportunities and denied access to meaningful skills development, many are left with few pathways to a better future.

The consequences are visible in communities such as Manenberg, Khayelitsha, Bishop Lavis, Hanover Park, Delft, Nduli, Mitchells Plain, where gang violence, drug abuse and organised crime continue to rob young people of hope and opportunity. Children are recruited into gangs at increasingly younger ages, often becoming victims of criminal networks before they have had the chance to build productive lives.

The youth of the province are in a crisis and the Government is failing them. They deserve quality education, safe communities, decent jobs and real opportunities. The future of our province depends on it. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The ACDP in the Western Cape strongly condemns the increasing incidence of teachers being threatened, assaulted, intimidated and verbally abused in schools by our learners.

These attacks reflect a deep, concerning erosion of respect for authority and undermine the very foundation of our education system. Teachers play a vital role in shaping the future of our children, yet many teachers are now forced to

work in environments where discipline is undermined, authority is disregarded and violence is becoming alarmingly common.

The ACDP in the Western Cape states that the breakdown of respect in our schools mirrors a broader moral and social crisis affecting many communities. When learners no longer respect teachers, parents, community leaders or the rule of law, the consequences extend far beyond the classroom.

The ACDP firmly believes that restoring discipline and respect begins in our homes and must be reinforced in our schools, faith-based organisations and society at large. Educators deserve safe and secure working environments where teaching and learning can thrive.

We call on all stakeholders to work together to rebuild a culture of respect, accountability and responsibility at our schools, protecting our teachers. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Christians. I recognise the GOOD Party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I have no statement.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Herron. I recognise the DA.

Prof N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, many South Africans have fond memories of travelling by train and some rail represented daily journeys to work and school. For others it brings back memories of family holidays and the excitement of discovering new places. Rail has always had a unique ability to connect people, communities and opportunities.

Against this backdrop it is encouraging to see progress being made towards restoring the iconic Outeniqua Choo Tjoe tourist train between Knysna and George. Project leaders have indicated that trains could once again operate between Knysna and Sedgefield by 2027, with services gradually extending to George as engineering work progresses.

For decades the Choo Tjoe Line connected communities and supported economic activities before becoming one of the world's most renowned tourist rail experiences. During its peak years visitors from across the globe travelled this particular route, showcasing the beauty of the Garden Route to the world. The return of the Choo Tjoe is about more than preserving history, it highlights the important role that rail plays in connecting people to opportunities, supporting tourism, stimulating local economies and moving goods and services efficiently.

As we continue to build a more connected and prosperous Western Cape, the revival of this beloved railway reminds us that rail remains an important enabler of growth, mobility and shared experiences. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mbombo. Hon members, as you are aware that Presiding Officers are able to consult Hansard with regards to any comments that have been made, I will at this particular moment confirm that based on the comments made by the hon member Marais, I will consult the Hansard and look into the comments that have been made, considering the comment that you made earlier on, and revert back to the House to see if it meets the requirements for statement.

Hon members, that now concludes Members Statements. No. Yes, that concludes Members Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6) I now give members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to Members Statements for not more than five minutes collectively, if you so wish. I see the hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. To the hon member Peter Johnson. We are of course aware of the incident that took place at Breërivier High School, and I would really like to thank the Chairperson of the Standing Committee, who not only immediately alerted me to the incident, but also subsequently wrote to me about the incident, which of course is of serious concern, and we have asked the department to investigate the matter and take the appropriate action.

Also to the hon member Ferlon Christians. I could not agree with him more and I share his concern about the assault of teachers in our schools. I would like to remind the hon member that of course assault on teachers is regarded as serious misconduct, and schools must act and be seen to act to enforce the code of

conduct, and ensure that our teachers are protected, because of course they are our most precious resource in the Western Cape Education Department. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further hands from the Executive. That is the end of Members Statements in terms of Rule 151.

All Notices of Motion by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

I hereby bring this substantive motion to place before the House a matter concerning the operation of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the institutional role assigned to the Office of the Speaker within the appeals process established by that Code; notes that Sections 30 and 31 of the Code of Conduct establish an Appeals Committee and designate the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as Chairperson of that Committee, with the authority to hear and determine appeals arising from decisions of the Conduct Committee; further notes that Section 33 of the Code of Conduct requires the findings and recommendations of the Appeals Committee to

be reported to the House and that the Speaker, as Presiding Officer of the Legislature, is required to act upon decisions of the House arising from such proceedings, recognises the unique constitutional position occupied by the Speaker as the principal Presiding Officer of the Legislature, the custodian of the institution and the representative of all members irrespective of party affiliation; further notes that the current framework may create a reasonable apprehension that insufficient institutional separation exists between the appellate function exercised by the Appeals Committee and the constitutional responsibilities exercised by the Speaker in relation to the House; acknowledges that the concern raised relates to the structure and design of the Code of Conduct itself and does not concern the conduct, integrity or impartiality of any current or former holder of the Office of the Speaker; further notes that public confidence in parliamentary disciplinary processes depends not only upon actual fairness and impartiality but also upon the perception that such processes are independent, transparent and procedurally fair; therefore resolves that the matter be referred to the Conduct Committee and the Rules Committee for urgent consideration and review of Sections 30, 31 and 33 of the Code of Conduct; further calls upon the Conduct Committee and the Rules Committee to consider whether the continued participation of the Speaker as Chairperson or member of the Appeals Committee remains appropriate in light of the constitutional role of the Office of the Speaker and the principles of procedural fairness; further calls upon the relevant committees to consider amendments to the Code of Conduct that would create a clearer institutional separation between the appellate function and

the constitutional responsibilities of the Speaker; finally resolves that the committees report back to the House with recommendations on any legislative, procedural or institutional reforms necessary to strengthen the integrity, fairness and credibility of the parliamentary disciplinary framework.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House notes that the City of Cape Town and large parts of the Western Cape are supplied with drinking water that consistently meets high national and international quality standards, with South African potable water historically recognised among the highest-quality municipal drinking water systems globally through the Blue Drop Certification Programme; notes that, despite the high quality and safety of municipal drinking water available in the precinct of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, disposable plastic bottled water continues to be procured for sittings, committee meetings and other parliamentary activities; notes that plastic pollution and microplastic contamination have become a growing environmental and public health concern internationally and in South Africa; notes that recent peer-reviewed South African research found microplastics in all sampled bottled water brands tested in the country, with concentrations ranging from 5 to 25 particles per litre and with polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and polypropylene among the most

common polymers identified; notes that international research indicates that individuals who consume bottled water regularly may ingest substantially more microplastic particles annually than those who primarily consume tap water; notes that plastic bottles contribute significantly to landfill waste, marine pollution and environmental degradation, particularly in coastal regions, such as the Western Cape, where studies have shown increasing levels of microplastic contamination in coastal waters, stormwater systems and marine ecosystems around Cape Town; notes that the Western Cape Government and the Western Cape Provincial Parliament have repeatedly committed themselves to sustainability, environmental stewardship and reducing unnecessary waste in Government operations; notes that many legislatures, universities, municipalities and international institutions have successfully transitioned away from single-use bottled water in favour of refill stations, reusable jugs and drinking glasses as part of broader sustainability programmes; and therefore resolves that the procurement and use of disposable plastic bottled water in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament precinct be phased out over a period of three months from the adoption of this motion, that reusable water jugs, refill stations and drinking glasses be provided to members during all sittings of the House and meetings of committees, that this policy applies to all ordinary committee meetings and parliamentary activities held within parliamentary facilities, that exceptions be permitted only in emergency situations, disaster-response circumstances, or special meetings and oversight visits where it is not reasonably possible to provide a practical alternative to bottled water.

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

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the alarming rise of extortion syndicates targeting the Western Cape, and threatening the safety of learners, educators and school communities.

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the growing concerns regarding governance, transparency and accountability in the City of Cape Town following recent corruption and collusion investigations involving senior municipal officials.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the high number of young people in the Western Cape who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, in terms of Rule 150 I would like to inform you that in terms of the Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence or congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 9 June 2026. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been duly informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 9 June 2026 political parties submitted the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority and they are as follows: hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Bans, hon member Ngqentsu, hon member Windvogel, hon member Van Minnen, hon member Johnson, hon member Booysen, hon member Johnson, hon member Bosman, hon member Kaizer-Philander, hon member Johnson, hon member Van Minnen and hon member Bosman.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of the young and talented Cape Town musician and songwriter, Liyema Ndibi known as “Brie Lee”, following a courageous battle with osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, at the age of 28. Brie Lee, who hailed from Khayelitsha, inspired many through her music, resilience, and determination in the face of immense adversity; despite her illness, she remained committed to her craft and continued to share her talent with audiences across South Africa, becoming a symbol of courage and hope for many young people; further notes the outpouring of support she received from communities across the country during her illness, reflecting the impact she made through her artistry and the lives she touched through her story of perseverance. Her untimely passing is a significant loss to the South African music industry, to the people of Khayelitsha, and to all who admired her strength and creativity; conveys deepest condolences to her family, friends, supporters, fellow artists, and the broader music community. May they find comfort during this difficult time, and may her legacy continue to inspire future generations of artists.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms A P BANS (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of veteran South African journalist, political commentator, author and historian,

Gerald Shaw, who passed away at the age of 92 at his home in Rondebosch, Cape Town; acknowledges Gerald Shaw's immense contribution to South African journalism and political discourse over several decades. As Assistant Editor of the *Cape Times* and author of the influential weekly *Political Survey* column, which he penned from 1966 to 1996, Shaw chronicled some of the most significant and turbulent periods in South Africa's history. Through his incisive analysis, principled reporting and commitment to truth, he provided generations of readers with a deeper understanding of the country's political landscape; further notes that Shaw was a respected author and historian whose work helped preserve and interpret South Africa's political and media history. Throughout his career, he bore witness to the injustices of apartheid, the struggle for democracy and the dawn of a new South Africa, documenting these events with integrity, courage and intellectual rigour; conveys heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, former colleagues, the broader media fraternity and all those whose lives were enriched by his work. His contribution to journalism and the preservation of South Africa's democratic history will remain an enduring legacy.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the tragic passing of

Eugene Jacobs, affectionately known in his community as "Gene" or "Queen Sparkle", who was fatally shot in Elsies River. Eugene was a former witness in a murder trial and had previously been placed under witness protection before returning to Cape Town, where he dedicated himself to community service and volunteer work; acknowledges Eugene's contribution to his community through his work at the Elsies River Community Advice Office and his commitment to assisting residents in need. He was widely regarded as a vibrant, compassionate and community-minded individual whose presence brought comfort and support to many. His untimely death has left his family, friends and the broader Elsies River community deeply shocked and saddened; further notes with concern the broader challenges of violent crime that continue to affect communities across the Western Cape and recognises the courage demonstrated by individuals who assist the criminal justice system by coming forward as witnesses in the pursuit of justice; conveys heartfelt condolences to Eugene Jacobs' mother, family, friends, colleagues, and the residents of Elsies River. May they find strength and comfort during this difficult time and may his dedication to serving his community be remembered with respect and appreciation.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with profound sadness the passing of Mr Jason Riddles, who departed this life on 29 May 2026 at the age of 47; acknowledges the deep sense of loss experienced by his family, friends, colleagues, and the broader Swellendam community. While death is an inevitable part of life, the passing of a loved one leaves an irreplaceable void in the hearts of those who knew and cherished him; further recognises that Mr Riddles touched many lives through his relationships, service, and presence within his community. During this difficult period of mourning, we honour his life and the memories that will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him; conveys heartfelt condolences to the Riddles family, relatives, friends, and all those affected by his passing and may they find comfort, strength, and solace in the support of their community and in the cherished memories they shared with him.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends and loved ones of three-year-old Lavelle Prins of Strand, whose tragic death has left a family and community devastated; notes with profound sadness reports that young Lavelle was playing outside in the street on Sunday afternoon when he was allegedly struck by a car travelling at high speed, resulting in the loss of his young life; recognises the

immeasurable grief and trauma experienced by the Prins family and the wider Strand community following this heartbreaking incident; further calls on all road users to exercise the utmost caution, responsibility and respect for speed limits in residential areas, where children and vulnerable pedestrians are particularly at risk; may the Prins family find strength and comfort during this difficult time, and may the memory of young Lavelle remain in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Miguel Hendricks, an 18-year-old matric learner from Berg River Secondary in Wellington, on his remarkable determination and entrepreneurial spirit in raising more than R10 000 by selling fruit to fund his matric farewell; despite facing significant financial challenges and growing up in a single-parent household, Miguel chose not to place additional financial pressure on his mother, a farm worker, and instead worked tirelessly after school and on weekends to save for this important milestone. In addition to funding his matric farewell, he has also contributed towards his school fees and helped support his family with food and electricity expenses; commends Miguel for prioritising his education while balancing his fundraising efforts, and recognises him as an inspiring example of

resilience, responsibility and perseverance for young people across the Western Cape; and may his story serve as a reminder that hard work, self-belief and determination can overcome even the most difficult circumstances, and may he be wished every success in his matric examinations and future endeavours.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Dr Sinesipho Jojo, a first-year registrar in Emergency Medicine, on being named runner-up in the Penn Emergency Medicine Global Health Case Competition; notes that, competing among 20 finalists from low- and middle-income countries, Dr Jojo presented a contextually relevant emergency medicine case that promoted learning, clinical reasoning and academic writing, demonstrating excellence in both clinical practice and academic scholarship; further recognises that this outstanding achievement is a source of pride for the Division of Emergency Medicine and the Tygerberg campus community, and reflects the high standard of medical training and research excellence in the Western Cape; and may Dr Jojo continue to excel in her medical career and inspire future healthcare professionals through her commitment to emergency medicine, academic excellence and global health.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates 17-year-old Brooklyn Booysen, a learner from Hoërskool Overberg in Caledon, on her outstanding achievement in qualifying as a rugby referee and pursuing her dream of officiating at the highest levels of the sport; notes that Brooklyn has already officiated numerous matches, has been selected for provincial youth rugby tournaments, and continues to break barriers in a field traditionally dominated by men. Her dedication, confidence and commitment to excellence have earned her recognition as a rising talent in South African rugby; further commends Brooklyn for serving as an inspiration to young women across the Western Cape, demonstrating that hard work, perseverance and courage can open doors to opportunities both on and off the sports field; and may Brooklyn continue to excel in her refereeing career and pursue her ambition of one day officiating at international rugby tournaments, including the Rugby World Cup.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Provincial Treasury on

winning the “Catalytic Innovations that Contribute to Growth” category at the 2026 Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards for its Alternative and Blended Finance Framework; further notes that the Framework was launched in April 2025 in response to tightening national fiscal conditions and the need to unlock new sources of funding for economic growth and infrastructure development in the Western Cape; acknowledges that the Framework represents an innovative approach to leveraging partnerships with the private sector to deliver greater impact, stimulate investment and support sustainable economic development; further notes the progress already made in implementing the Framework, including collaboration with National Treasury and the World Bank on the establishment of a Credit Guarantee Vehicle to derisk private sector investment, as well as preparations for the first provincial loan in the history of the Western Cape Government; recognises the leadership of Provincial Minister of Finance, Deidré Baartman, Head of Treasury Julinda Gantana, and the officials of the Provincial Treasury whose dedication and innovation have contributed to this achievement; and commends the Western Cape Government for continuing to pioneer innovative governance solutions that strengthen public finances, support infrastructure investment, drive economic growth and create jobs for the people of the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes and welcomes the official opening of House of Grace in Grabouw, a new Child and Youth Care Centre dedicated to providing specialised care and support to children with intellectual disabilities; further notes that vulnerable children requiring alternative care have for many years faced limited placement opportunities due to a shortage of specialised facilities in the province, placing additional strain on families and child protection services; acknowledges that the centre will expand access to specialised care for children aged 0 to 12 years, assist in reducing waiting lists, strengthen child protection services, and provide a safe, nurturing and supportive environment where children can develop, learn and thrive; recognises the importance of ensuring that children with disabilities are able to remain as close as possible to their families, communities and support networks, thereby promoting inclusion, continuity of care and stronger family connections; commends the Western Cape Department of Social Development, its partners and all stakeholders involved in making this important facility a reality, and reaffirms that every child deserves dignity, protection, specialised support and the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of disability; and may House of Grace serve as a beacon of hope and care for vulnerable children and their families for many years to come.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): I move without notice:

That the House notes with pride the outstanding achievement of learners from the Delft Primary School who secured third place in a highly competitive engineering and technology competition hosted by the Faculty of Engineering at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology; further notes that the school's team of Grade 7 learners designed and built a functioning grain crusher model, demonstrating exceptional creativity, innovation and problem-solving skills; acknowledges the dedication of the learners, their educators and the school community in fostering a culture of excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education; and commends the Delft Primary School for proving that learners from all communities in the Western Cape can compete and excel in fields that are critical to the future growth and development of our province and country.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, to be celebrated on 6 June 2026, marking two decades of dedicated community service and development initiatives across the Helderberg region; notes that since being

chartered on 6 June 2006, the club has remained committed to improving the lives of residents through impactful projects focused on education, literacy and numeracy, providing supplementary learning resources to schools in disadvantaged communities and embracing innovative digital learning tools that have contributed to improved educational outcomes; recognises the club's commitment to youth development through the establishment of Interact Clubs at local high schools and the sponsorship of learners to attend Rotary Youth Leadership camps, fostering a culture of service and leadership among young people; also acknowledges the efforts of the club's members, including several founding members who remain actively involved, and their successful fundraising initiatives, including their longstanding support of the annual Wine to Whales mountain bike race; and may the Helderberg Sunrise Rotary Club continue to serve the community with distinction and build on its legacy of service above self for many years to come.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Government's Red Tape Reduction Unit on winning the "Public Policy and Support Institutions" category at the 2026 Western Cape Economy Innovation Awards; further notes that the award recognises the Unit's ongoing

efforts to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, improve the ease of doing business, and create a more enabling environment for economic growth and job creation in the Western Cape; acknowledges that the Red Tape Reduction Unit has played a significant role in assisting businesses, investors and entrepreneurs by identifying and removing regulatory barriers that hinder investment, expansion and economic opportunity; recognises that an efficient, responsive and capable state is essential to unlocking economic growth and that reducing administrative burdens strengthens business confidence and competitiveness across the province; further recognises the leadership of John Peters, Founder and Chief Director of the Red Tape Reduction Unit, together with the officials and partners who have contributed to the Unit's success; and commends the Western Cape Government for its continued commitment to innovation, good governance and practical interventions that support economic development, attract investment and create jobs for the people of the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. The motions

will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard in each individual member's name as if the member had read them out aloud.

I will now afford an opportunity to hon members to move Motions without Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting.

I now recognise – are you rising on a point of order, hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I do not want to be disruptive, I know it is now 17:15 and there is a national duty that we all have to support Bafana Bafana, but just to say, hon Deputy Speaker, the Programming Authority, and they have the right to do so, rejected our proposal from the hon Chief Whip of the Official Opposition for my substantive motion questioning the Code of Conduct, with the hon Speaker being a member of the Appeals Committee, that that motion, in the form of a substantive motion, for it to go above the line.

Now I am rising here to request the indulgence of the House for the matter to go above the line. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member Sayed. Hon members, as done previously, when such a matter is brought to the House for any item that is below the line to be brought above the line, I will now put it to the House and the House will then give me an understanding in order to take

it further.

Hon members, based on the motion that is below the line, as moved by the hon member Sayed to move it above the line, are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection.

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. The motion will remain below the line. I have put it to the House, hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, thank you very much. I just want it to be noted that the DA have openly stated ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: There is an objection. There is an objection!
[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...that they do not want – the DA have objected, they have objected to the matter being [Interjections.] discussed ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...they have objected to
[Interjections.] the Rules ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...to the code of conduct
being properly deliberated in this House. [Interjections.]

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The Western Cape public
must know that. Thank you very much. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] get the votes.

The PREMIER: Below the lines [Inaudible.] [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: They have objected.

An HON MEMBER: If you want to be above the line [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, I have duly, [Interjections.] I
have duly – your motion was duly put to the House. There has been an objection,

we then proceed. I will trust that hon members respect the decorum of the House in order for us to ultimately maintain the dignity of Parliament.

Are you covered, hon Chief Whip?

An HON MEMBER: Yes.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Chair, I just wanted to also indicate that when he took – you need to caution hon members to challenge decisions of the House. We are all expected to abide by the Rules of Order and we must also advise hon members that you cannot change the law through motions. [Interjections.] The Code of Conduct is an Act. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, thank you so much. Once again I sincerely trust ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: It is not.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...we are two years in this particular Parliament, hon members are familiar with the Rules. There is fair opportunity to contest any particular matter. There are speaking times to raise your voice and to represent your views, and as indicated previously we will not always agree with one another, but we must have fair debate and discussion.

†Agb lede, dit sal ook onvergeeflik wees van my om nie ook diegene wat later

by ons in die Wetgewer aangesluit het, te verwelkom nie, en ek vertrou dat u is welkom hier in die Parlement. Baie, baie dankie. [Onhoorbaar 0:28:46] ek weet nie of my Afrikaans nog so mooi is nie, ek sal probeer.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Hon members, it will be unforgivable of me to not welcome those who also joined us later in the Legislature, and I trust that you are welcome here in the Parliament. Thank you. [Inaudible.] I do not know if my Afrikaans is still good, I will try.]

Hon members, I will now recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Oh, for my actual motion?
[Interjections.] [Laughs.] Oh, for the motion that you want to hear?

An HON MEMBER: The other one was not real. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Ja, let me say for the motion that the DA wants to hear. [Interjections.] Ja, no, no, they do not want to be held accountable. It is fine, this one will also hold them accountable.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the recurring impact of severe winter

weather, flooding, fires and other disasters on vulnerable communities across the Western Cape, particularly informal settlements; further notes that these disasters are often worsened by a lack of adequate infrastructure, weak local preparedness, poor drainage, overcrowding and the absence of organised community-level disaster response structures; recognises that disaster management cannot only be reactive, but must prioritise prevention, preparedness, early warning, community participation and clear coordination between residents, municipalities and the Western Cape Provincial Government; supports the establishment of Community Disaster Management Committees in vulnerable communities, including Sir Lowry's Pass Village, to strengthen the risk assessment, communication, shelter coordination, first aid support, infrastructure monitoring and assistance to vulnerable persons; commends community leaders of Sir Lowrey's Pass Village for amplifying this proposal; calls on the Western Cape Government and municipalities to urgently assist communities to establish these structures before winter intensifies; and calls for proper oversight and reporting to ensure poor communities are protected, prepared and not left behind. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The PREMIER: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Premier.

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

I now recognise hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The hon Premier objected.

An HON MEMBER: Yes. [Interjections.]

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We need to maintain the decorum and not merely switch on your mic, hon member Sayed. [Interjections.] I see the hon member Nkondlo.

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

That the House notes the publication of the Electoral Commission's

latest Political Party Funding Disclosure Report, which reveals that political parties declared more than R97 million in donations during the first quarter of 2026, ahead of the upcoming Local Government Elections; further notes that the overwhelming majority of these donations were concentrated among a small number of political parties, raising important questions about the growing role of private wealth in democratic politics; recognises that transparency in political funding is essential to ensuring public trust in democratic institutions and electoral processes; acknowledges the right of South Africans to know who funds political parties and whether such funding may influence policy positions, governance priorities or political decision-making; expresses concern that excessive reliance on wealthy donors risks amplifying the voices of those with financial resources while marginalising the interests of ordinary citizens, workers, the poor, youth and vulnerable communities; calls on all political parties to uphold the highest standards of transparency, accountability and ethical conduct in relation to political funding; and reaffirms that democracy must always serve the public interest and not the interests of those with the deepest pockets. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I again recognise the hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

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

That the House notes the recent compliance operations led by the Department of Employment and Labour, in conjunction with the South African Police Service and the Department of Home Affairs, at construction sites in Cape Town's CBD, which resulted in the arrest of at least 27 undocumented foreign nationals found working on a major construction project in Bree Street; further notes that these inspections form part of a broader effort to enforce South Africa's labour and immigration laws and to protect vulnerable workers from exploitation; acknowledges that employers who knowingly employ undocumented workers often undermine labour standards, suppress wages and place compliant businesses at a competitive disadvantage; recognises that these operations demonstrate the importance of proactive labour inspections and effective enforcement; therefore commends the Department of Employment and Labour for taking decisive action to uphold the rule of law and protect the integrity of South Africa's labour market; further notes with concern that these developments come almost two years after the tragic George building collapse exposed serious shortcomings in labour compliance and oversight within the construction sector, yet the DA-led Provincial Government has failed to demonstrate the same urgency in rooting out illegal labour practices and ensuring stricter enforcement across construction sites in the Western Cape; therefore calls on the Provincial Government to work

more closely with national authorities to ensure full compliance with labour and immigration laws throughout the province. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object! [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise hon member Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes the oversight visit undertaken on 25 May 2026 by members of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, accompanied by Ward Councillor Jacob Zalie and local stakeholders, to farms in the Wolseley area of the Witzenberg Municipality that were severely affected by recent natural disasters; further notes that the delegation met with both farmworkers and farmers to assess the extent of damage to homes, agricultural infrastructure and crops, and to better understand the immediate and long-term challenges facing affected communities; acknowledges that the visit highlighted the urgent need for support measures to assist affected residents, including emergency

shelter, the restoration of damaged infrastructure and interventions aimed at protecting livelihoods and ensuring food security in the region; we are deeply concerned that six families displaced by the disaster were found living in a cold storage facility under difficult conditions, underscoring the vulnerability of farmworker communities and the need for urgent humanitarian assistance; recognises the efforts of Councillor Jacob Zalie, the community leaders and other stakeholders who have worked tirelessly on the ground to support affected residents during this difficult period; affirms that meaningful oversight requires not only identifying challenges, but also ensuring that appropriate action to address them is also done; also acknowledge that Chris Loubser, which is a local private business person, mobilised private business and that must be acknowledged with all the business people that came together and ensured donations, food and other essentials, which are currently being distributed across the area to the farmworkers. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Windvogel. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern the traumatic experience endured by Mitchells Plain resident, Mr Alvin Collins, who has lodged a formal complaint against the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness following allegations of excessive waiting times, overcrowding, inadequate patient care, poor communication and undignified treatment at public healthcare facilities; further notes that this incident is not an isolated occurrence, but forms part of a growing pattern of complaints from residents across the province regarding the worsening state of healthcare services under the DA-led Western Cape Government; further notes that while the Democratic Alliance continues to market the Western Cape as a model of good governance, the lived reality of many residents is one of overburdened hospitals, understaffed facilities, prolonged waiting periods and increasing barriers to accessing quality healthcare, especially in working-class and historically disadvantaged communities; recognises that access to quality healthcare is a constitutional right and that no resident should be subjected to unnecessary suffering, indignity or delays when seeking urgent medical treatment; and therefore calls on the Provincial Government and the Provincial Minister of Health and Wellness to provide a full account of the circumstances surrounding this matter, urgently address the systemic challenges facing public healthcare facilities and take decisive action to ensure that all residents of the Western Cape receive the quality, dignity and care they deserve. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is an objection, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise again the hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the rollout of Lenacapavir, a groundbreaking long-acting HIV prevention injection, at 22 healthcare facilities across the Western Cape, particularly in communities with a high HIV burden; recognises this important scientific advancement as a valuable addition to the fight against HIV and AIDS, and a significant step towards expanding prevention options for vulnerable populations; further notes that while this intervention offers renewed hope in reducing new HIV infections, its success will depend on sustained investment in public healthcare, community awareness programmes, adequate staffing and the expansion of access to all communities across the province; further notes that the Western Cape continues to face significant challenges relating to HIV infections, particularly among young people, women and vulnerable communities, and that scientific breakthroughs alone cannot overcome the social and economic inequalities that continue to

drive the epidemic; and therefore calls on the Provincial Government to ensure that the rollout of Lenacapavir is rapidly expanded, adequately resourced and integrated with broader HIV prevention, testing, treatment and education programmes to ensure that no community is left behind in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Already doing.

An HON MEMBER: I so move.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I so move.

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

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, agreed to. For a final time I again recognise the hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes the commemoration of Children's Day on 1 June 2026 and Child Protection Week, which serve as important reminders of our collective responsibility to protect, nurture and advance the rights and wellbeing of all children; further notes that children in the Western Cape continue to face significant challenges, including poverty, hunger, malnutrition, abuse, neglect and violence, with far too many children growing up in circumstances that undermine their development, dignity and future prospects; acknowledges the important role of the Western Cape Commissioner for Children as an independent institution established to protect and promote the rights, needs and interests of children and to hold Government accountable for policies and services affecting children; recognises the role played by progressive forces and child-rights advocates in championing the establishment of this important office; expresses concern that despite the existence of this office ongoing resource constraints and institutional limitations continue to hamper its ability to fully realise its mandate and effectively respond to the growing challenges facing children across the province; further notes that child hunger and malnutrition remain a serious concern, with evidence showing that stunting continues to affect children's physical development, educational outcomes and future economic opportunities, while many vulnerable households struggle to provide adequate nutrition for their children; recognises that recent incidents involving the killing of children and acts of violence against children, are a stark reminder that far more must be done to create safe environments in homes, schools

and communities; calls on the Government to prioritise child protection, strengthen interventions aimed at combating hunger and malnutrition, support families and caregivers, and ensure that institutions tasked with advancing children's rights are adequately empowered and resourced; and reaffirms that every child has the right to safety, dignity, adequate nutrition, quality healthcare, education and the opportunity to reach their full potential. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No objection.

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: It is just too long.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections, [Interjections.] agreed to. I now recognise the hon member Bans.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the Premier's "First Thursdays" initiative, which is presented as a platform to bring Government closer to the people, but which, in its current form, appears to function primarily as a public relations exercise aimed at creating a positive image for the Democratic Alliance administration rather than meaningfully addressing the challenges faced by communities across the Western Cape; further notes that these engagements are consistently hosted within the Cape Town CBD, a location that remains inaccessible to many working-class residents, township communities, rural residents, farm workers, unemployed youth, pensioners and people living with disabilities, who are most dependent on Government services; acknowledges that while public participation and Government accessibility are important democratic principles, they must be implemented in a manner that reaches communities where the need is greatest and where residents continue to experience poverty, unemployment, crime, inadequate housing, failing infrastructure and limited access to essential Government services; recognises that meaningful public engagement cannot be confined to the corridors of Government buildings in the city centre while the lived realities of millions of Western Cape residents remain largely removed from these engagements; calls on the Premier and the Provincial Government to decentralise the "First Thursdays" initiative by taking it directly into townships, informal settlements, rural towns and working-class communities ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: It is exactly [Inaudible.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:

...across the province, allowing residents to engage with the Provincial Cabinet and senior Government officials in their own communities; and further calls on ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION:

...the Provincial Government to ensure that future public engagement programmes prioritise accessibility, inclusivity and responsiveness to the real needs of communities rather than serving as an image-building exercise for the governing party. †Ons soek jou op Site C, agb Premier. [We need you on Site C, hon Premier.] I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Objection. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I have already objected. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, the motion ...[Interjections.]

The PREMIER: [Inaudible.] before the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise the hon member Bans. [Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Just in time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, there is one Presiding Officer that has the floor. I have now recognised the hon member Bans. [Interjections.]

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes with serious concern the incident at Sikelela Primary School in Crossroads, where at least 19 learners reportedly fell ill and required medical attention after allegedly consuming food products purchased from informal vendors operating near the school; further notes that several learners had to be transported to healthcare facilities for treatment, causing distress to parents, educators and the broader community; recognises that this incident has once again

highlighted the urgent need for stronger food safety monitoring and enforcement measures around schools; further notes that children from poor and working-class communities are often exposed to unsafe food products sold in the vicinity of schools due to weak regulation, inadequate inspections and poor coordination between the relevant authorities; that the safety and well-being of learners cannot be compromised by failures in oversight and enforcement; therefore calls on the Western Cape Government, the Provincial Minister of Education, the Provincial Minister of Health and Wellness and the City of Cape Town to urgently investigate the circumstances surrounding this incident, strengthen food safety inspections around schools, intensify public awareness campaigns and implement measures to ensure that no learner is exposed to potentially harmful food products while pursuing their constitutional right to education. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Object!

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Yôh!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...the motion will be printed on the Order Paper.
[Interjections.] On the hybrid system I recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.

An HON MEMBER: He is objecting.

An HON MEMBER: He is not here.

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

That this House commends the *Cry of the Excluded* for convening the People's Assembly on 5 June 2026 in Gugulethu, aimed at building a broad popular front for service delivery, jobs, dignity and social justice for the people of the Western Cape; acknowledges that the Assembly will bring together social movements, community organisations, unemployed formations, civic structures and activists from across the province to deliberate on the pressing challenges facing working class communities in the Western Cape; recognises that the Assembly is convened against the backdrop of a deepening chronic

crisis of under-development characterised by unemployment, poverty, inequality, collapsing municipalities, corruption, violent crime, hunger and the continued marginalisation of working-class communities; notes that the objective of this initiative is to build a principled and united popular front capable of defending communities, strengthening grassroots struggles, advancing people's demands and promoting democratic participation in the struggle for a better life for all; and therefore calls on this House to support and welcome the People's Assembly as an important platform for community mobilisation, popular participation and collective action in pursuit of social and economic justice for the people of the Western Cape. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

An HON MEMBER: Object! Object!

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, the motion will be printed

on the Order Paper. I again recognise hon member Ngqentsu.

An HON MEMBER: Who objected?

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

That the House condemns the reckless conduct of the Chairperson of the National Assembly Police Portfolio Committee, Ian Cameron, for his repeated habit of taking sensitive policing and security matters into the public domain in a manner that risks undermining the operational effectiveness of law enforcement agencies; acknowledges that South Africa faces a deep crisis of violent crime, organised criminality and attacks on law enforcement personnel, requiring responsible leadership and the safeguarding of security information ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Not correct.

Mr B M NGQENTSU (ANC):

...further notes with concern that Ian Cameron has increasingly used his position as Chairperson to wage political battles and conduct public campaigns that blur the line between legitimate oversight and political grandstanding; recognises that parliamentary oversight must strengthen, not weaken ...[Interjections.] the capacity of the police to combat crime and protect communities; believes that the public

disclosure of sensitive security matters for political mileage serves neither transparency nor accountability, but instead risks emboldening criminal elements and undermining public confidence in State institutions; therefore calls on this House to condemn Ian Cameron's irresponsible approach to matters of national security and policing, and to reaffirm that oversight must be exercised in a manner that protects the security interests of the Republic and the operational integrity of the South African Police Service. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? [Interjections.] There is an objection, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise the hon member Ngqentsu. [Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The DA is indeed inconsistent and they are quite hypocritical. I move without notice:

That this House ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC):

...notes with concern the mass shooting... [Incomplete.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Listening is a skill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...I am struggling [Interjections.] to hear the hon member on the hybrid system. Hon member Ngqentsu, you may proceed.

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

That the House notes with grave concern the mass shooting that occurred in Nyanga on 2 June 2026, in which four people lost their lives and two others were critically injured in a suspected taxi-related attack; further notes that this incident, together with recent killings and circulating threatening voice notes linked to tensions within the taxi industry, has the potential to undermine the recent peace commitments made by CATA and CODETA, which were welcomed by communities across the province; acknowledges that recurring violence continues to instil fear and insecurity in working-class townships, where residents are too often caught in the crossfire of criminal and taxi-related disputes; expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured; calls on SAPS to urgently apprehend those responsible and utilise all available resources, including footage from the City of Cape

Town's CCTV camera network, to assist investigations and secure successful prosecutions; notes with concern that despite repeated claims regarding the value of the City's surveillance infrastructure in fighting crime, residents of working-class townships continue to experience devastating incidents of violence, raising serious questions about whether these systems are adequately deployed and effectively utilised in communities most affected by crime; further calls on the Western Cape Government to strengthen crime prevention initiatives, improve community safety interventions and work towards lasting solutions to the recurring taxi-related violence and other forms of violent crime affecting communities across the Western Cape; and reaffirms that all residents have the right to live in safe and secure communities free from fear, violence and lawlessness. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No.

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

An HON MEMBER: Object.

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise the hon member Ngqentsu.
[Interjections.]

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

That the House notes with profound shock and concern the brutal triple murder shootings in Lower Crossroads and Langa, which claimed the lives of six people in two separate incidents over a single weekend; further notes that in Lower Crossroads three men were gunned down while seated at a fruit and veg stall, while in Langa three men were shot and killed at a braai stand, leaving families devastated and communities living in fear; further notes that these horrific incidents are yet another reminder of the persistent scourge of violent crime, gang-related violence and the easy availability of illegal firearms that continue to terrorise communities across the Cape Flats and other township areas; that residents have repeatedly called for increased police visibility, intelligence-driven policing and sustained crime prevention interventions to restore safety and public confidence; recognises that the continued loss of life in working-class communities cannot be normalised and that every resident has a constitutional right to live in safety and security; and therefore calls on all spheres of government, law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders to

intensify efforts to combat violent crime, strengthen police resources in crime hotspots, remove illegal firearms from communities and ensure that those responsible for these senseless killings are swiftly brought to justice. I so move, thank you very much.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon member Lekker.

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

That the House notes with serious concern the reports that a Sea Point resident has suffered extensive property damage allegedly caused by ongoing construction activities of a neighbouring multi-storey development, including damage to a boundary wall, cracked windows, structural disturbance and severe noise and environmental disruption; further notes that the resident has raised these concerns with the City of Cape Town, the ward councillor and the developers, but continues to experience significant disruption to her home and property as construction proceeds adjacent to her residence; further notes that this incident highlights the growing tensions between rapid urban densification and the protection of existing residents' property rights,

particularly in high-density development zones such as Sea Point, where construction activity has intensified and has, in some instances, raised concerns about compliance with building standards, enforcement of setback regulations and the adequacy of monitoring mechanisms by the relevant authorities; that residents are increasingly being left to pursue costly legal remedies in order to protect their homes and ensure accountability; recognises that while urban development is necessary for economic growth and spatial transformation, it must not come at the expense of residents' constitutional rights to property, safety and an environment that is not harmful to their well-being; and therefore calls on the City of Cape Town and the relevant provincial authorities to urgently investigate the allegations of damage, ensure strict compliance with approved building plans and construction regulations, strengthen enforcement mechanisms and provide affected residents with appropriate recourse and protection where negligence or non-compliance is identified. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: No. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. I would like to rise on a point of order. The particular motion does not actually indicate who it is or what the specific details are. So even if this House – and the particular wording in the Rule Book that I am referring to under the point of order section, is regarding practices of this House. We cannot call on the City to do something and then we do not send them the information to ask them what happened.

So I would like the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff to please have a look at this motion, and if there is something that happened we would like to be able to assist.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: So can we please get the details of this in order to deal with it?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. [Interjections.] Hon member Lekker, I see you.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I want to raise an order on you, hon Deputy Speaker, because the hon MEC is negotiating on how a motion must be written, of which there is no such a Rule. She must

rather object or agree with the motion.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, how we will proceed in this regard, I have taken the point by the hon Minister, I have listened to hon member Lekker, also afforded hon member Lekker additional seconds in order to conclude the motion because I wanted to put it to the House.

So once again, hon members, are there any objections to the motion being approved ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motions being moved without notice? [Interjections.] There is an objection. [Interjections.]

Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice. Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice. The Secretary will now read the first Order of the Day.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill [B 3–2025]. (See Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, no 53, dated 8 June 2026, p

277.)

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no speakers' list, hence I will now afford political parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. Are you rising on a point of order, hon member Bans?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I thought I am going to afford you an opportunity to perhaps take us into your confidence. The Programming Authority has duly adopted four orders for today. I only see three on the Order Paper. We were not taken into confidence why the consideration and finalisation of the Constitution of the Western Cape Amendment Bill as adopted by the Programming Authority is not here. Perhaps we can get an explanation for that. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. The fourth order was withdrawn in the member's name who has submitted the Bill. It was not yet tabled in the House so it did not belong to the House at that point, so it did not need to come to the House. The same way that members can withdraw questions from the Question Paper before it gets to the House, the same happened in that instance.

With that being said, I recognise the ANC.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Kan ...[Tussenwerpsels.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Can ...[Interjections.]]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Michels?

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Ja, ek wil net vra miskien as u my gaan toelaat, deur u, kan die agb lid miskien aandui wat die rede was hoekom hy dit teruggetrek het?

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Yes, I just want to ask if you will allow me, through you, can the hon member perhaps indicate what the reason was that he withdrew it?]

The SPEAKER: There is no need for the hon member to indicate.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Ek meen dit is my – wat ek bedoel is kan die agb Speaker miskien vir die agb lid vra of hy vir ons 'n rede kan verskaf?

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): I mean it is my – what I mean is can the hon Speaker perhaps ask the hon member if he can give us a reason?]

The SPEAKER: The member was the Speaker and there is no Rule that requires me to indicate. Like I have explained, the same way that you do not indicate to the House when you withdraw a question from the Question Paper before it is tabled in the House, the same applies in this instance. I recognise the ANC.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Allow me to acknowledge

and welcome the presence of Khoisan leaders in the House today. Their presence reminds us that the question of land in South Africa is not merely an administrative matter, it is deeply connected to history, identity, culture, dignity and justice. Any legislation dealing with land use and planning must therefore be approached with the utmost care, with meaningful public participation.

Hon Speaker, the African National Congress cannot support the Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill in its current form. Whilst we recognise the stated intention of the Bill to reduce red tape and improve administrative efficiency, we believe that efficiency cannot come at the expense of democracy, accountability, transparency and public participation.

Land use planning decisions have far-reaching consequences for communities. They determine where people live, where services are provided, how environmental resources are protected and how future developments take place.

Our primary concern is that this Bill weakens public participation. The removal of important notification consultation requirements means that many residents who may be affected by land use decisions will no longer have adequate opportunities to engage in these processes, the disproportionality of affected rural communities, working-class residents and those who already face barriers in accessing information.

The Bill also grants municipalities greater discretion in planning decisions

while reducing provincial oversight. At a time when communities are demanding greater accountability from all spheres of government, it is difficult to justify concentrating more power without introducing strong safeguards. Oversight mechanisms exist to protect the public interest, ensure consistency and prevent decisions that may have negative social, environmental and economic consequences.

Furthermore, the shift towards limited publication of planning decisions raises serious transparency concerns. Public trust in Government institutions depends on openness and accessibility. Decisions that shape the future of the community should be widely communicated and easily accessible to all residents, not only to those with the resources and capacity to monitor technical processes.

For these reasons the African National Congress rejects this Bill, remains committed to planning systems that balance efficiency with accountability, development with inclusion and growth with meaningful public participation. The people of the Western Cape deserve nothing less. Thank you, hon Speaker.

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agb lid. [Applous.][Tussenwerpsels.]
[The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon member. [Applause.] [Interjections.]]
Order! Order! Before I recognise the PA, just have a friendly reminder to our visitors in the gallery. You may not participate in the proceedings of the House, but I think the hon Deputy Speaker did welcome you. You are very welcome at the sitting, but you cannot participate on the floor. With that being said, I recognise the PA.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker, am I audible?

The SPEAKER: You are indeed audible.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, allow me to first welcome also the members of the Khoi community in the gallery today. [Speaking in the vernacular] to my brothers and sisters who are in Parliament today. I unfortunately could not be there, I had to fight the DA in Thembaletu Court today.

Hon Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance supports the principle of land ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): ...transformation and recognises the importance of addressing the spatial inequalities created by apartheid era planning.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: My apologies, I am just trying to protect you on the virtual platform, hon member. Hon members, there is a member on the floor. You may continue.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you for protecting me. Hon Speaker, the Patriotic Alliance supports the principle of land transformation and recognises the importance of addressing the spatial inequalities created by the apartheid era planning.

However, given the potential implications of the Land Use Planning Amendment Bill on municipal decision-making and the management of municipality land, we believe that further scrutiny is required. We do not want actions like what is happening in Knoflokskraal to continue.

We therefore call on additional investigation into this Bill and its practical impact on our people and municipalities.

Furthermore, we are of the view that broader public participation should be undertaken to ensure that all affected stakeholders have an opportunity to make meaningful input before the Bill is finalised. I thank you. [Speaking in vernacular.]

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

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, †Somlomo [Speaker]. The Economic Freedom Fighters does not support the Bill. Thank you.

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

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Agb Speaker, ek wil ook net die mense van Sir Lowry's-pas, of die Khoi-mense van Sir Lowry's-pas, erken. Dit is my geboorteplek en ek is trots om julle hier te sien, en geassosieer te word met julle, en die NCC verwerp ook die Wetsontwerp. Dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Speaker, I just want to recognise the people of Sir Lowry's Pass, or the Khoi people of Sir Lowry's Pass. It is my place of birth and I am proud to see you here, and be associated with you, and the NC also rejects the Bill. Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus does not support the amendment to the Bill.

Municipalities across our country and many across this province have lost public trust. Service delivery failures to constant raids at the City of Cape Town's offices continue to erode public confidence in Local Government institutions. Public participation should not merely be an administrative process, it is a fundamental democratic principle guaranteeing transparency and accountability.

Now in the past, our people were excluded from decision making at

municipalities and that should no longer continue. By repealing Sections 43 and 44 of the Land Use Planning Act, we are effectively weakening oversight and lowering provincial standards to which we hold municipalities accountable.

No substantially equivalent protections have been proposed, as confirmed by our own legal advisor of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. Granting greater discretionary powers to municipal officials, particularly when it regards giving notices, public notices, land use related matters and determining who will be considered as adversely affected, will lead to further abuse of the processes as there will be no longer a uniform standard across all municipalities.

Many municipalities do not have the same capacity or competency, nor moral conviction to do the right thing. This amendment will not address the uniformity and transparency concerns.

Hon Speaker, we have heard arguments before that other provinces do not do and do not have these types of legislation, and they say that the aggrieved communities should rely on the PAJA process, which is an after the fact process and a legally expensive process. The Western Cape, historically, has been better governed than other parts of the country precisely because of strong oversight mechanisms and governance frameworks. Municipalities who underperform cannot justifiably be given more discretionary powers when it comes to land use planning processes.

Furthermore, constitutionally municipal bylaws may not contradict any provincial or national legislation. Provincial legislation therefore remains an important safeguard within our governance framework. For that reason and for these that I have mentioned, we therefore do not support the amendment. Thank you.

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

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. While more than 80% of the agricultural land in the Western Cape is still in the hands of White farmers, the Al Jama-ah does not support this Bill. Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, we will not make a statement, thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. The amendments to the Western Cape LUPA deserve scrutiny because they simultaneously strip minimum public participation requirements and weaken the spatial planning safeguards this province depends on.

Land use decisions are not merely technical exercises, they shape people's daily lives, where people live, how far they travel to work, whether children have access to schools, whether communities are integrated or fragmented, and these amendments cut at both participation and planning integrity at once.

On participation, clauses 14, 15 and 16 repeal the mandatory minimum notice and consultation requirements and halve comment periods from 60 days to 30 days. In a country still defined by deep spatial inequality, minimum participation standards are not procedural luxuries, they are constitutional necessities. Stripping them does not produce efficiency, it produces exclusion.

On spatial frameworks, clause 6 rewrites the consistency standard. Developments will now need only to avoid conflicting with a spatial development framework's main goals, rather than positively aligning with its specific designations. Bodies like the Cape Town Municipal Planning Tribunal will have even less reason to enforce these frameworks rigorously. Over time this hollows out the very tools designed to undo the spatial legacy of apartheid.

What is the point of carefully crafted spatial plans if they can be routinely side-stepped? What does it mean for spatial justice when speed and convenience begin to outweigh inclusion and coherence? Efficiency does matter, but once minimum participation standards are stripped away and planning frameworks are diluted, the costs are not procedural, they are structural, enduring and borne by the most vulnerable.

These amendments in their current form cannot be supported. Thank you.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environment and Development Planning on 8 July 2025.

The committee subsequently published the Bill in the Provincial Gazette on the same date. To facilitate public participation identified stakeholders were then invited to participate in consultations on 6 August 2025. The Standing Committee then resolved to conduct a series of public consultations across the province, including sessions in Saldanha on 16 September 2025; Stellenbosch on 17 September 2025; Plettenberg Bay on 30 September 2025, and Cape Town on 1 October 2025, which included an option for the public to participate virtually. A total of 253 people attended the consultations, during which 21 written submissions and 51 verbal submissions were received and recorded for consideration.

Last month our committee received comprehensive feedback from the department on the comments received. The department's feedback indicated that there were no further amendments that were required arising from the inputs received.

We also received an opinion from our committee legal advisor on the

interpretation of an aspect of the legislation and thereafter the committee resolved to provide an opportunity for this opinion to be articulated in a formal document. The department was also given an opportunity to respond and members were able to ask questions and apply their minds during the Standing Committee meeting.

After it was established that all amendments were constitutionally sound, members were then provided with an opportunity to indicate whether they were in support of the amendments from a policy perspective. The committee chose to support the amendments, with the ANC and the Freedom Front Plus voting against.

After the extensive public participation, as well as an extended opportunity to further examine aspects of the proposed Bill, the DA is fully satisfied that the amendments are desirable. The department has demonstrated clearly that these amendments serve to improve the planning process by helping to reduce red tape in relation to land use planning matters and to make the process more user-friendly.

The DA is fully in support of the proposed amendments. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Hon Members, I have to announce that there are currently 38 hon 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 Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill B3 of 2025 be adopted.

Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. I am rising to call for a division for a show of hands.

The SPEAKER: Absolutely. Order, hon members. There has been a call for division. In order for the hon members to have their respective votes on the abovementioned question and that the 38 members be recorded correctly, I will enquire from the Chief Whips and, or parliamentary leaders to indicate their respective parties' position on the question.

For political parties represented in the WCPP by more than one member, I will then also enquire from the members of such parties whether any of such members wish to record a vote different to the vote of their party.

Will the Chief Whip of the DA please indicate whether the DA is in support of the approval of the question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Unanimously in support, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any individual members of the DA who wish to record a different vote to the vote of their party? No. I will move on. [Interjections.] Will the Chief Whip – order, hon members! There has been call for division. It is a voting process.

Will the Chief Whip of the ANC please indicate whether the ANC is in support of the approval of the question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, the ANC, unanimously, is not in support.

An HON MEMBER: What about the SACP?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any individual members of the ANC who wish to record a different vote to that of the vote of their party? No. [Interjections.]

Will the Parliamentary Leader of the EFF please indicate whether the EFF is in support of the approval of the question?

An HON MEMBER: Who is the Parliamentary Leader?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Do not support.

The SPEAKER: Could you please put on your microphone?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Not supporting, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Are there any individual members of the EFF who wish to record a different vote to the vote of their party?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Never.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the GOOD party please indicate whether the GOOD party is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): No, not support.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the ACDP please indicate whether the ACDP is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): I will abstain, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the Freedom Front Plus Party please indicate whether the Freedom Front Plus is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): The Freedom Front Plus does not support.

An HON MEMBER: What about the rest of his caucus?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Whose caucus?

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the Al Jama-ah party please indicate whether the Al Jama-ah party is in support of the approval of the question?

An HON MEMBER: He is in support.

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Not in support, hon Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Will the hon member of the NCC party please indicate whether the NCC is in support of the approval of the question?

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): [Onhoorbaar 0:23:07]... is ek nie in ondersteuning daarvan nie, agb Speaker. Dankie.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): [Inaudible.] ...I am not in support of it, hon Speaker. Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, and will the Parliamentary Leader of the PA please indicate whether the PA is in support of the approval of the question?

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): He is in prison.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Not in support, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Are there any individual members of the PA who wish to record a different vote to the vote of their party?

Mr B ADAMS (PA): No, hon Speaker.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Point of order.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): [Onhoorbaar 0:23:36]... saam met myne, want ek het nou 'n lid van dié kant gehoor wat praat van iemand wat agb Speaker, 'n lid se naam genoem het en toe sê een van die lede van dié kant, agb lid Van Minnen, dat die persoon in die gevangenis is ...

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): [Inaudible.] along with mine, because I have now heard a member from the side who speaks of someone who – who hon Speaker, mentioned a member's name and then one of the members from the side, hon member Van Minnen, that the person is in jail,] and I think that was not nice.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. I will – hon members, we are busy with the voting process, but because it is a point of order I will revert to Hansard and come back to the House.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Hansard will not hear it.

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Hon member Sayed?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, Chair. You see, Chair, this is a very serious allegation that has been made. We know hon member Petrus is not in jail now, otherwise, I do not know, not unless they have got access to the hybrid there. So I think really, I mean, I know you want to go to Hansard, but I would say that you actually have to rule now. The hon member must be asked if the hon member said that and they must withdraw.

The SPEAKER: I will rule. I have already made a ruling. If you are not satisfied with my ruling please challenge it through the parliamentary process. I have ruled, I cannot – I have made a ruling and I will come back to the House with Hansard.

Hon members, I have to announce that there are ...[Interjections.]

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ...38 hon members ...[Interjections.]

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon member Adams, is that a point of order?

Mr B ADAMS (PA): Hon Speaker, just to – hon Speaker, on a point of order, just for record. As the PA we demand that the hon member withdraws the last statement.

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Adams. I have – order! I have indicated, hon member Adams, that I will revert to Hansard and I will come back to the House. [Interjections.] If there is a need then the hon member will – then I will rule on it. You cannot rise on a point of order that has already been ruled on. If you are not satisfied with my ruling please follow the parliamentary process to challenge it. I will not continue entertaining any further points of orders. We are in the middle of a voting process.

Ms N D NKONDLO: How will Hansard hear that, hon Speaker, if it is not recorded? It is very soft that [inaudible.] [Interjections.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC) : [Inaudible.] It is nice to be white.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, you must just give me an opportunity. We are just doing the tallies and then I will come back to the House.

I have to announce that 21 hon members are in support of the approval of the Question and 13 are opposed to the approval of the question. The question has therefore been adopted. The names of the individual members present and their

support, or otherwise, for the question before the House will be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings to ensure a full record of the voting on the consideration of the question. The Secretary will read the second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration and Finalisation of the Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill [B 3–2025]. (Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning.)

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, I move for the Bill to be approved.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. There being no list of speakers, are there any objections to the Bill being approved? There is an objection. I have to announce that there are currently 38 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. Those in favour of the Bill, hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I call for a division again.

The SPEAKER: Absolutely. We will do that. Can I just ask that the hon

members please work with me while we do this? In order for the hon members to have their respective votes on the abovementioned question, be recorded correctly, I will enquire from the Chief Whips and/or of Parliamentary Leaders to indicate their respective parties' position on the question. For political parties represented in the WCPP by more than one member, I will also enquire from the members of such parties whether any such members wish to record a vote different to the vote of their party. Will the Chief Whip of the DA please indicate whether the DA is in support of the approval of the question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: Hon Speaker, the DA is in support, but I just wanted to check on a point of procedure, whether there is more than one member calling for the division, because do we not need four members to support the calling of a division?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. There was an indication by the Chief Whip, but just for the record, can I get the four members to indicate that they indeed support the division? There has been enough support for the division. [Interjections.] Order. Are there any individual members of the DA who wish to record a vote different to the vote of their party? No. Hon member Herron, is that a point of order?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Yes, hon Speaker, and it is about the process of voting. I am not sure what Rules you are reading from, but the Rules of Order require the bells to be rung in order for the division to take place. Secondly, we are not being told how many members of the Democratic Alliance are

present. So surely the Chief Whip should say he has got 20 members present and they all support the Bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: I do that at the end, but I will just double check with the Table Staff. Table Staff, if you can please direct? I have been informed by the Table Staff that there are 21 DA members present and entitled to cast their vote. I say it at the end, before the question is approved, but in the interest of hon member Herron and the interest of moving forward, hon member Herron, there are 21 DA members entitled to cast their vote. Are there any individual members of the DA who wish to vote differently to the vote of their party? No, there are no individual members. Will the Chief Whip of the ANC please indicate whether the ANC is in support of the approval of the question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The ANC is not in support in approval of the question, Deputy Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order. Can I just get from the Table Staff, how many ANC members are entitled to cast their vote? There are eight members of the ANC who are entitled to cast their vote. [Interjections.] Order. Order. Are there any individual members of the ANC who wish to record a vote different to that of their party? Please give me an indication. The eight members of the ANC are recording the same vote as announced by the Chief Whip of the ANC. Will the Party Leader of the EFF please indicate whether the EFF is in support of the approval of the question?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): The two members are not in support, hon Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. The EFF has indicated that they are two members and they are not in support. Can I just, for the record and moving forward, are there any individual members of the EFF who wish to record a vote different to that of their party?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): I said the two members, not in support, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: You are the Party Leader, so in the interest of fairness and transparency, the other member must indicate if she wishes to have a different vote. You cannot be the Party Leader and speak on behalf of the other member.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): I am everything in the EFF, hon Speaker.
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Order. Order. Hon Cassiem, on a serious point, do ...[Interjection.]

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, our vote is the same. We are against it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of the GOOD Party please indicate whether the GOOD Party is in support of the approval of

the question?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): No, Speaker, we are not. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of the ACDP please indicate whether the ACDP is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Speaker, I abstain.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the Freedom Front Plus please indicate whether the Freedom Front Plus is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus is not in support of the approval of the question. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of Al Jama-ah please indicate whether Al Jama-ah is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Hon Speaker, Al Jama-ah is not in support. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the NCC please indicate whether the NCC party is in support of the approval of the question.

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker, we are not in support.

The SPEAKER: Order. Will the Parliamentary Leader of the PA please indicate whether the PA is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): We are not in support, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Are there any individual members of the PA who wish to record a different vote to the vote of their party?

Mr B ADAMS (PA): No, hon Speaker. No, no, no.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I have to announce that 21 hon members are in support of the approval of the question and 16 are opposed to the approval of the question. The question has therefore been adopted. The names of the individual members present and their support, or otherwise, for the question before the House will be recorded in the Minutes of the Proceedings to ensure a full record of the voting on the consideration of the question. Let me just do this for the record. The Secretary will read the Bill.

The SECRETARY: The Western Cape Land Use Planning Amendment Bill [B 3–2025].

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. The Bill will be sent to the Premier for assent. The Secretary will now read the third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of the Report of the Standing Committee on Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Constitution of the Western Cape Amendment Bill (Determination of Number of Members) [B 6B–2023]. (See Announcements, Tablings and Committee Reports, no 83, dated 26 August 2025, p 316.)

The SPEAKER: I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and I will now afford political parties an opportunity to make a declaration, if they so wish, and I recognise the ANC. Can I please get the podium for the Leader of the Opposition. [Interjections.] Order hon members. When we do the modernisation, you can put it in the survey.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, the ANC rises to declare its position on the report concerning the proposed amendment of the Western Cape Constitution to increase the number of members of the Provincial Parliament by six seats. Let us be clear, the ANC is not opposed to increasing the size of the Legislature. We support democracy, stronger oversight, improved representation and a legislature that better reflects the growing population and diverse voices of the Western Cape, but the issue is not whether there should be an increase. The issue is whether this House should support the DA's arbitrary proposal of six additional seats without any attempt to engage across the board in a flexible manner. Our position is consistent. If the Western Cape increases the number of seats, it must either do so in line with the IEC formula and the constitutional approach followed in the rest of South Africa,

or at least engage in good faith with all political parties, including the Official Opposition, on a possible middle ground.

The Bill is another example of Western Cape DA exceptionalism; an attempt to stand apart from the country. Not for the betterment of democracy, but for political control. There is also a contradiction in the DA's approach. When the DA needs relatively smaller parties to amend the Western Cape Constitution it suddenly discovers them and seeks their support, but when smaller parties ask for more speaking time, fairer participation and a meaningful space in debates, motions, committees and programming, the DA does not show the same respect. That is selective democracy. Smaller parties matter to the DA when their votes are needed, but not when their voices must be heard.

Six additional seats will not meaningfully transform oversight, strengthen public participation or fix weaknesses in committee work and constituency accountability. Seat increase proposals must be coupled with guarding against the shutting down of oversight. The ANC supports an increase in principle but rejects the six-seat proposal because it fails to follow the IEC formula in any way, fails to make a meaningful democratic difference and undermines the principle of meaningful engagement. Not only with us as the Official Opposition, but with most parties in the House. For these reasons, the ANC is opposed and will vote against the Bill in its current form. To save the DA from embarrassment of not getting the required two-thirds, the Bill has now suddenly been withdrawn without consultation.

Having said that, it is now crucial for meaningful multi-party dialogue to take place before the Bill is tabled again, and we are open to that dialogue ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired. Thank you very much. I recognise the PA.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Patriotic Alliance takes note of the report from the Committee and supports the recommendation that the Bill be referred back. Therefore, we would like the committee to take the following into consideration. The demographics, the benefit to rural and isolated communities, population growth, registered voters, strengthening of oversight, the financial implication on the taxpayers and administration, inputs from the IEC, public participation and all applicable laws. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Hon Speaker, the EFF will not be supporting the Western Cape Amendment in relation to the determination of the number of members as it stands. The EFF also wants to emphasise and rejects the six seat proposal on the basis that it fails to follow the IEC formula and, once again, like the ANC has said as well, it undermines the principle of meaningful engagement with parties on the side of the House. So, once again, therefore, the EFF does not support and vote against the Bill in its current form. Thank you.

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

†Mnr D G JACOBS (NCC): Agb Speaker, die NCC is ook in beginsel ten gunste van wat ons sê dat ja, dit moet gedoen word, maar ons het 'n probleem met die aantal. Ons is ook daarvoor in wat ons sê die IEC-formule moet in ag geneem word, en om daardie rede gaan ons dit nie, soos dit hier voorgestel word, ondersteun nie. Dankie.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): Hon Speaker, the NCC is also in principle in favour of what we say that yes, it should be done, but we have a problem with the number. We are also, what we say is the IEC formula should be taken into account, and for that reason we are not going to support it as it is proposed here. Thank you.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus does not support the Western Cape Amendment Bill. The Freedom Front Plus acknowledges that representative democracy comes at a financial cost to taxpayers. We also acknowledge that the population growth justifies a review of the number of seats in the Western Cape Parliament. We are therefore not opposed to the increase in principle.

However, hon Speaker, the amendment is being brought before this House without meaningful consensus sought from all political parties represented in the 7th Parliament. The governing party in the Western Cape, being the DA, does not have the required two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution of the Western Cape. Therefore, the amendment should ideally be preceded by broad engagement and consensus building with Opposition parties. The amendment is only envisaged to take effect in 2029. So there's time for consensus seeking. Speaker, by comparison, Limpopo has a population of 6.4 million with 64 members. The Eastern Cape has a population of 7.1 million with 72 members. The Western Cape is a rapidly growing population of more than these provinces and the proposal to take it to 48 members is below the IEC's minimum requirement, will not serve in the interest of adequate, fair, and effective oversight.

The Freedom Front Plus is of the view that population size should not be the only consideration when determining representation. The Western Cape is geographically large, also covers approximately 129,462 square kilometres. Members serving constituencies in Cape Town face very different realities from those serving communities of Beaufort West, Matzikama, Central Karoo, Overberg and the West Coast. A fair, balanced formula should therefore be considered for both population and geography.

Hon Speaker, the proposed seats do not consider this. For these reasons, the Freedom Front Plus cannot support the amendment in its current form. Thank you.

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

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Al Jama-ah does not support the Bill. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. The ACDP does support the amendment of the Western Cape Constitution. Looking at the financial implications, six seats will cost year 1 - R23 million, year 2 - R20 million, year 3 - R21 million. If we look at taking the Provincial Parliament to 71 or 72 it will cost R101 million the first year, R98 million the second year and R103 million the third year.

So although the ACDP would have wanted to see more, but we also know the financial burden that the province is under and that is why we support the amendment to the Western Cape Constitution.

Hon Speaker, we know that the IEC formula-based approach is one member per 100 000 residents, but we also believe that the public purse being under financial pressure, we recommend and we support the amendment in its current form. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. South Africans are struggling. The cost of living is punishing families. Housing backlogs grow every year. Infrastructure crumbles. Unemployment is hollowing out communities. 53% Of the Western Cape is hungry and what does the DA want to bring? A proposal to hire six more politicians. At this moment in this province that is the priority the DA wants to spend our money on.

The justification offered is a population ratio. One member of Parliament for every 100 000 residents. But follow that logic to its conclusion. with the Western Cape growing by roughly 120 000 people a year, this House would need to add a new member every single year. Is that really the DA's plan? A Parliament that expands on demand, funded by taxpayers who cannot afford it. Each additional member will cost R1.6 million per year. Six new members, more than R21 million annually. Not once off. Every year, forever.

A BNG house costs R400 000. That 21 million could build 53 homes, 53 families moved off a waiting list and into a life of dignity every year. Instead, the amendment asks those same families to fund six more people to sit in this Chamber. South Africans are not demanding more politicians. They are demanding better service delivery, functioning hospitals, passable roads and roofs over people's heads. They are demanding valuable money from a Government that seems increasingly unwilling or unable to provide it. This proposed amendment offers the public more cost with no clear benefit. It is the wrong priority, at the wrong time, driven by the wrong instincts. Thank you.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, the importance of representation in our democracy must never be underestimated. The Western Cape is now South Africa's third most populous province. Our province has seen enormous growth since the number of seats this Legislature was first determined, driven especially since 2009 with increasing in migration. This has created the need for more public representatives to best serve the people of the province. The interests of our constituents must always remain our first priority. It is their votes that put us here and we must ensure that their voices are heard when we are in this Chamber.

So currently it is very simple; 42 members to represent twice the population of 1994, clearly, factually shows that there is an issue in terms of the size of this body. At the same time, and I think the hon member Herron touched on that as well, we are acutely aware of the increased costs associated with any increase in the number of members, and this has been thoroughly considered and weighed up against the benefits to our people of better representation.

We have gone through all the various processes of consultation. We have come to what we believe is a reasonable accommodation between what hon member Herron, through you hon Speaker, says and what we hear from other parties. Some parties wanted to expand it to the IEC formula. Massive cost implications. Other parties do not want to have it increased at all. I actually think what we demonstrated is an attempt by the governing party to balance all

the various views.

Having said that, hon Speaker, I think if we are going to have an honest conversation ...[Interjections.] ... and the DA is willing to have an honest conversation with parties, I think the difficulty is you have committee meetings, which is not a negotiation forum, and then we have a request for dialogue. We are not against that. We are honestly not happy to engage. Just remember, an honest exchange means you calculate the costs, as hon member Herron pointed out. You hear the views of whether an IEC formula in an economically, physically constrained way is in fact, the way to go, but can I also say we must also be honest, and here I am not casting aspersions at parties, but politicians that are self-interested, that are worried about the future existence of their parties, have a self-interest also to increase the size of the body.

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Speak to the DA!

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): No, I am actually trying to reach across the floor, and again, a dialogue means we do not shout at one another. A dialogue means we do not have videos being taken and TikTok moments. Let us have an honest conversation.

So the DA supports this report, because we are considering the report, and we are willing to engage, to hear the views and see whether there are grounds to find one another.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. The time has expired.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order members. I have to announce that there are currently 38 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 Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Constitution of the Western Cape Amendment Bill, determination of the number of members [B 6B–2023] be adopted. Are there any objections? Hon member Herron.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Speaker, in terms of Rule 132, may we have a division, please?

The SPEAKER: Yes, we may. Can you please rise in terms of the Rules, the four members? You are not on your feet. Can you please be on your feet when you rise? Thank you very much. [Interjections.] Order. In order for the members to have their respective votes on the abovementioned question be recorded correctly, I will enquire from the Chief Whips and that of the Parliamentary Leaders to indicate their respective parties' position on the question.

For political parties represented in the WCPP by more than one member, I will then also inquire from the members of such parties whether any of such

members wishes to record a vote different to that of their party. Will the Chief Whip of the DA please indicate whether the DA is in fact in support of the approval of the question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE MAJORITY PARTY: The DA is in support of the approval of the question.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any individual members of the DA who wish to record a different vote to that of the vote of their party? No? Thank you very much. Will the Chief Whip of the ANC please indicate whether the ANC is in support of the approval of the question?

The CHIEF WHIP OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Speaker. The ANC is not in support.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Are there any individual members of the ANC who wish to record a vote different to the vote of their political party? No. Order Members. Hon member Brinkhuis, is that a point of order?

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): No, hon Speaker. That is a raised hand mistake. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. That is a raised hand in error. Will the Parliamentary Leader of the EFF please indicate whether the EFF is in support

of the approval of the question?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): The EFF is not in support.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the Parliamentary Leader. Are there any individual members of the EFF who wish to record a vote different to the vote of their party?

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): No different vote. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of GOOD please indicate whether the GOOD party is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Not in support. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Will the hon member of the ACDP please indicate whether the ACDP is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): The ACDP is in support.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of the Freedom Front Plus please indicate whether the Freedom Front Plus party is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): The Freedom Front Plus is not in support of the

approval of the question. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of Al Jama-ah Party please indicate whether the Al Jama-ah party is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr K BRINKHUIS (AJA): Speaker, Al Jam-ah is not in support. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the hon member of the NCC please indicate whether the NCC party is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr D G JACOBS (NCC): No, I am not in support.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Will the Parliamentary Leader of the Patriotic Alliance please indicate whether the PA is in support of the approval of the question?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Hon Speaker, the PA is not in support.

The SPEAKER: Are there any individual members of the PA who wish to record a vote different to the vote of their party?

Mr B ADAMS (PA): No, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order members. I am just waiting for

the Table Staff to advise me on the numbers. Thank you very much. I have to announce that 23 hon members are in support of the approval of the question and 16 are opposed to the approval of the question. The question has therefore been adopted. The Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Constitution of the Western Cape Amendment Bill, Determination of Number of Members [B 6B – 2023] has therefore been adopted. Hon members, I wish to just remind you that directly after the adjournment members are required to remain behind for the CPA AGM. Hon members, that concludes the business for the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will exit it from the sitting.

The House is adjourned at 18:46.