
THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The hon Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

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

When a member of this Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, it is the member's responsibility to ensure that he or she has good quality data connectivity, good quality audio and video, and

that there are no disturbances where they are. Members would note that the hybrid system has been functioning well, and poor audio and video cannot be attributed to the system, but rather to the quality of data connectivity.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution of the Western Cape and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on the 11th of August 2020.

10 Members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law.

Hon members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order. The Sergeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. Hon members, when an hon member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer as expected, but must mute their microphones when they have concluded speaking. Hon members are requested to please ensure that their microphones are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them
20 and, when they are done speaking, to please mute their microphones.

Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams are requested not to sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device. Hon members, the media have also been granted access to the MS Teams meetings as guests of the WCPP. However, members of the press may not use the chat

room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. For the Sitting, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels.

Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings, and to this end, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. Hon members, before we proceed with the business of the House, I would like to make a ruling that is an outstanding ruling of the – just give me one second, I think it is the 14th of August. Hon Windvogel, can
 10 you please rise? Hon Windvogel, during the Questions to the Premier without Notice on the 14th of August 2025, the hon Chief Whip, Mr Bosman, raised a point of order concerning an utterance made by the hon Member Windvogel, and I quote:

“Moordenaars”

The Chief Whip requested a ruling on whether it was parliamentary for the hon Windvogel to utter such a remark. As I did not clearly hear what was said at the time, I therefore sought clarity on the utterances made from the
 20 hon Windvogel, whether she referred to any member in the House. Hon Windvogel responded by saying, and I quote:

“No, hon Speaker.”

Close quote. When the hon Windvogel denied referring to any hon member, I

accepted the word of the hon member and indicated that I would study Hansard and take the pretext, the context, and the post text into account when I make my ruling. Having now had the opportunity to study the unrevised Hansard, I would like to rule as follows.

The transcript reflects that the hon Windvogel stated, and I quote:

“Moordenaars.”

10 After having consulted Hansard, it is clear that the hon Windvogel's utterances were used with direct reference to the hon members on the other side of the House, and the utterances in question reflects negatively upon the character and integrity of the hon members in the House. Hon members are well aware that it is impermissible to make such allegations in the House. I therefore invoke the provision of Rule 58, and accordingly rule that the remark made by the hon Windvogel is un-parliamentary, and therefore request that the hon Windvogel to withdraw the remark unconditionally.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I withdraw, Speaker.

20

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Then, hon members, hon Windvogel, know the ruling. Hon members, that is not me picking on hon Windvogel today, it is an outstanding ruling, so please bear with me. Hon member, during Questions to the Premier without Notice on the 28th of August 2025, a point of order was raised by the honourable Chief Whip Bosman concerning

an interjection by the hon Windvogel which violates Rule 59. Hon Windvogel attended the Sitting remotely and interjected that the Premier, who was speaking at the time, must, and I quote:

“Stop lying.”

Close quote. I ruled on the matter at the time and cautioned the hon Windvogel not to transgress the Rules as far as interjecting from the hybrid platform was concerned. I also dealt with points of order raised by the
 10 honourable Chief Whip of the majority party and cautioned members not to cast aspersions on the integrity of other members.

Having now had the opportunity to study the Hansard transcript of the proceedings, I realised that during the prevailing disturbance in the House at the time, there may have been confusion amongst members as to exactly what my ruling was. As hon members are aware, rulings by the Presiding Officers are important sources of procedure and must always be clear and unambiguous. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to set the record straight and rule as follows.

20

Members attending remotely may under no circumstances unmute themselves for the purposes of interjecting, but rather use the chat facility to raise their hands if they want to raise a point of order or draw the attention of the Presiding Officer. It is clear from the record that the hon Windvogel, in her interjection, referring to the Premier who was speaking at the time, said, and I

quote:

“He must stop lying then, he must stop.”

Close quote. Hon members are well aware that we enjoy freedom of speech in this Chamber, but I appeal to members to not abuse this freedom and to refrain from making remarks which could be regarded as offensive, since such remarks are neither worthy of the dignity of the House, nor conducive for orderly and effective debate. The remark by the hon Windvogel was directed
 10 at the Premier and cast aspersions on the Premier by implying that he is not honest.

This was clearly in contravention of Standing Rule 59. A member wishing to bring improper or unethical conduct on the part of another member to the attention of the House, must do so by a substantive motion. In the absence of the latter, I rule that the comment made by the hon Windvogel is unparliamentary and I accordingly request that the hon Windvogel withdraw her remarks unconditionally. I so rule.

20 Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I withdraw, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. We will now proceed to the business of the House, and I recognise the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP: Good afternoon, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as proposed in the Parliamentary Programming Authority by the hon Sayed, the Leader of the Opposition, and agreed to by members of the Programming Authority, I move:

10 That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 204, that Questions to the Premier without Notice will stand over to the next opportunity for questions to the Premier. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, are there any objections to that motion?

No objections. Hon Leader of the Opposition?

20 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Chair, I just wanted, I had my hand up just after your ruling, and it was not a point of order, it was just, and I think we had a, and I am not sure whether the ruling was supposed to come today or it is going to come in another Sitting. I had requested clarity and there was a remark made by the hon Meyer. I requested that clarity even at the end of the last Sitting about members on this side of the House not having brains. I asked for a ruling on that. So I am not sure whether you are supposed to give the ruling now or whether that is for, there is still research

being done. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: So we will come back to the House with that ruling. So that is the last of the rulings to be delivered today. So I will double check that with the Table Staff. Also, members, just out of, for your noting also, rulings can only be delivered when the member who transgressed is in the House. So normally after the second attempt, we will inform the hon members of the intention to deliver the ruling. Hon members, can I just, for the record's sake, put the motion moved by the Chief Whip. Are there any objections? No
10 objections agreed to.

Hon members, also on the Order Paper, we will then move to Interpellations as printed on the Order Paper in terms of Rule 197. I just want to, for record purposes, the first Interpellation was withdrawn. So we move on to the second Interpellation, and that is the Interpellations by hon Ngqentsu. So before I see the hon Mackenzie, Minister Mackenzie, hon Minister Londt, is that a point of order?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: I just want to congratulate
20 the Leader of the Opposition. I mean, it is really a sign of a maturing democracy when a ruling gets given and you do not walk out of the House, so big kudos to you, Leader.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, do you need the podium? Then I recognise the hon Minister Mackenzie.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr M B Ngqentsu to ask Mr R D Mackenzie, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport:

In the light of the recent racist incident in Knysna:

(1) Whether his Department is implementing any measures to combat racism among the youth;

10 *(2) How is his Department strengthening programs that promote cohesion and non-racialism in the province?*

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, hon member for this question and the Interpellations. The recent incidents in Knysna is a stark reminder of the challenges we face as a nation, and it underscores the urgency of our collective efforts to build a truly cohesive and non-racial society. In response to the first question regarding the measures our Department is implementing to combat racism amongst the youth, I can report that our strategy is multifaceted and proactive
20 through other various components of the Department. It is anchored in our vision of creating an inclusive and equitable environment through sport, recreation, arts, culture, and heritage.

Our approach is preventable and developmental, using sport and recreation as a vehicle to promote respect, inclusion, and non-racialism. All departmental

sport development programs are designed to bring young people together across racial, cultural, and socioeconomic divides, creating safe and structured environments that actively discourage discrimination and inclusion. Specific measures include, for example, the Department is anchored in our Provincial Strategic Plan, identifies cohesive communities and youth agency as critical levers for reducing polarisation by strengthening social cohesion and non-racialism on Mandela Day.

10 Practical example, for example this year we were in Caledon where young people were encouraged to plant trees on Mandela Day with the Premier of the Western Cape, practically acknowledging and celebrating their diversity. Our national and provincial mass participation events, for example, the big walk is coming up on the 2nd, and I urge all members of this House to please participate in that activity.

20 But more importantly, it deliberately encouraged inclusive mixing of urban and rural communities and exposing youth to the richness of our South African sporting and cultural diversity. Through our shared and multi-code facilities, such as our facilities in Levendale, Beaufort West and George, we are intentionally designing those spaces as common grounds where people from diverse backgrounds come together. As part of our youth agency, young people from diverse backgrounds came together this year to participate in the National Winter Schools Championship where, by the way, we won gold.

It is a powerful example of how young people from different communities

come together, united through sport and shared goals. Our indigenous games and heritage-linked sport events promote cultural pride and mutual respect by celebrating traditions of different communities in a non-racial and inclusive manner. For example, in Oudtshoorn I myself participated in an indigenous game where, sadly, I did not win in *Drie Klippies* and *Klip-Klippie*, but I participated with the young people in bringing them together.

Our pathways for sport are explicitly aimed to foster inclusive communities, enhance social bonds, and expand access to safe spaces where youth interact
 10 across historical divides. Through our managed network model, we bring together federations, NGOs, municipalities and community organisations to co-deliver programs. This model strengthens trust, accountability, and shared values across society.

There, for example, I have signed an agreement with [Inaudible – 0:19:07] Colleges, which comes into our schools, so we bring those young people, who go to higher education, into communities where we come from. Our club development programs support local clubs, leagues, and festivals to integrate youth across communities, building peer networks through fair play, respect
 20 and teamwork.

This, along with our support with federations and athlete development, where transformation targets are built into agreement with federations, ensuring that teams and opportunities reflect the diversity of people across the province. Our MOD Centres, which are now at 315 across the Western Cape, create

inclusive environments where diversity is celebrated and racism is actively
...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please conclude.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Deputy Speaker,
our timer is off there.

The SPEAKER: We are aware. I was not going to interrupt you in the middle
10 of it, but that was your first opportunity.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Okay, thank you,
Speaker. I conclude with the next one, but can we please get our timer up?
Thank you.

The SPEAKER: We are busy dealing with a technical issue. Hon members,
there is a – we are dealing with a technical issue. Can I just get confirmation
from the Table Staff that that has been dealt with? We are still busy with that
technical glitch, sorting that out. So, hon Ngqentsu, you will not see the
20 clock on the timer, but you have three minutes for your first opportunity.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Speaker, we reject the shallow measures as
tabled by the ANC for Sports, as it fails to appreciate that the entrenched
racism in this province shows the persisting legacy of centuries of colonialism
of a special type and decades of apartheid. Speaker, as long as majority

Black people remain landless, dispossessed and reduced to scrap collectors on their own land, as long as they are forced to live in squatter camps, White supremacy will persist and inevitably racism is going to continue.

What we see at Knysna High and York School is not an apparition. It is a deliberate reproduction of racist ideology in the minds of the young, imposed by the current liberal curricula. Instead of schools liberating our children, they have become chains of mental enslavement. As forces of the liberation struggle headed by the ANC, and including our splinters, must wake up and
 10 smell the coffee. Wittingly or unwittingly, we are complicit and some amongst us think that our struggle was about participating in these bourgeois institutions or about †abantwana bethu, [our children,] going to the schools of the Black elite, their former Model C.

Maybe that is why racism in this province has become emboldened. For all to know, the essence of our struggle was and remains about fundamental transformation. That transformation means changing property relations so that land and wealth are shared equitably in this province. We must intensify the fight for the redistribution of land and wealth. In this province, the DA
 20 has normalised and trivialised racism.

The youth have watched how the White political elite that side promote racism even in this House and labelling some as refugees. What are Black people? It is the same elite that denies ...[Interjection]

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

Mr N P MASIPA (ANC): Yes, it is a point of order, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr N P MASIPA (ANC): The hon member on that side is really screaming. We cannot hear actually what he is saying. Can you just ask him to speak
10 softer?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. That is not a point of order. Hon Member, you may continue.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Speaker, I understand the apologies of the apartheid. Compounding the problem further, the children born post the 1994 democratic breakthrough are inheriting this toxic ideology. Thus, schools that should nurture democratic citizens, are instead producing learners who reproduce prejudice. Let us face it, Knysna High is not the first and it will
20 not be the last, unless we act decisively and alter property relations.

Therefore, I put this question to hon MSC, what concrete measures is the Department implementing to combat racism? What plans does the Government have to transform property relations so that the majority of Black people gain access to land and wealth? Unless racism is tackled at its

systematic roots, it will multiply ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please conclude, time has expired.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): [Inaudible – 0:23:10] ...that still define this province, racism will continue to poison our schools and the MSC, we could not refer to him ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member, you are going to get
 10 another opportunity. You are going to get another opportunity. I recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, I rise today to express deep concern over the recent racist incident in Knysna, where the use of an illegal and purgative racial word was used. This kind of blatant racism has no place in our province, in our communities or anywhere else in our democratic society. However, in this House, we have a party whose leader has been accused of using the same word.

20 Being a leader means you must be held to a higher standard. When that standard is violated, there must be consequences, not just to punish but to set a precedent that no one, regardless of position or power, is above the law. At the same time, hon Speaker, I find it rather ironic that the member of the ANC, a party that has been championing BBBEE for years in the name of redress and transformation, now stands here questioning the impact of racism

and social inequality.

The question we should be asking, how has BBE, as implemented, truly contributed to social cohesion? Has it united our people or deepened the divides through elite enrichment and political favouritism? Hon Speaker, if we are serious about building a non-racial, inclusive society, then we must ensure that racist behaviour, whether by a child, an adult, a student or a politician, is met with swift and meaningful accountability.

- 10 Only then will we show our young people that racism has consequences and that our Constitution is more than just words on paper – it is a living promise of dignity, equality and justice for all. Considering this, can the genuine Minister Mackenzie expand on the measurable steps that the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport is taking to actively promote social cohesion, particularly in historically divided communities? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. Hon Sayed, is that a point of order? What is your point of order?

- 20 Mr M K SAYED (ANC): My point of order is on the issue of relevance. BBBEE is not relevant to this particular debate. I do not know where the hon Van Minnen came with that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, honourable ...[Interjections] Order, members, there was a point ...[Interjections] Order! Order! Order! Hon

members, there was a point of order. Hon Leader of the Opposition, I listened to that contribution and it was very relevant to the contribution. So that is not a point of order. We will continue. [Interjections] Order! Hon Ngqentsu, your second opportunity for three minutes. Members, we are trying to sort out the digital clock, so I will inform you as soon as that is done, but in the meantime, if you can please just also put your own timer on.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, Speaker. Claims by the MSC that there are proactive measures, are baseless and unfounded, evidence
 10 of our claim that the racism is entrenched in this province is found in countless reports by the Human Rights Commission. One report revealed that between April 2022 and January 2023, the Western Cape received about 123 cases of racism, whilst KZN 78 and Gauteng 73.

Just five months ago, another racist scandal erupted at Pinelands High, learners filmed a mock slave auction, selling off their Black classmates. As if that was not enough, in Table View, a White substitute history teacher used the K-word during Grade 12 lessons. All this happened here in the Western Cape. Thus, the question: what is the DA Provincial Government doing to
 20 deal with this question?

Because racism is part of the core values of the DA, we must not expect meaningful response, but let me speak directly to hon Mackenzie, Sileku, Masipa, Baartman, Philander, Booysen, Bob, do not delude yourselves, †Nihleli ngentsula enye, kwaye kulendawo nihleli kuyo. [You are seating on

one bum and where you are seated.[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, please take your seat. [Interjections] Order.
Hon ...[Interjections] Order members, there is a member on the floor. Hon
Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, hon Speaker, if the hon Ngqentsu can please speak to
our members through you as per the Rules.

10 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Chief Whip, that is indeed
correct. Hon member, please address the Chair.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): You remain political ornaments and tokens
wheeled out to soften the DA's racist image and harvest Black votes, while
real power continues to sit comfortably in the hands of the ...[Interjection]

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

20 The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Yes, Chair, in terms of Rule 59, I would like
to know who the member is referring to when he is calling 'ornaments'.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister, I do not know. Hon
member, did you refer to any member of the House as 'ornaments'?
[Interjections] Order! Hon Ngqentsu? [Interjections] Order! [Interjections]

Order! Hon members, there was a point of order, I am giving the member an opportunity. Hon member, did you refer to any member in the House as an ornament?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Theories in politics are constructed ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Just answer my question. Did you refer to anyone in the House as 'ornaments'?

10

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): A political statement was advanced to make a particular political point in a political institution.

The SPEAKER: Order. Hon... [Interjection]. Order! I do not need assistance to the Chair, I really do not. Hon Ngqentsu, can you just ...[Interjection]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Speaker!

20 The SPEAKER: Order! No, hon Ngqentsu, I am not done with the point of order! Can you just answer me? Did you refer to anyone in the House?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I advanced a political argument about the existence of political ornaments.

The SPEAKER: Okay, perfect. And in that case, I cannot, I have given the member an opportunity, I will refer to Hansard and come back to the House with the ruling. Hon Chief Whip, is that a new point of order? [Interjections] Order.

The CHIEF WHIP: No, hon Speaker, it is not.

The SPEAKER: Hon Leader of the Opposition, is that a new point of order?

10 The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: No, Chair, just a point of clarity, Chair, I mean, my understanding is ornaments, is not a negative term, I mean, I love ornaments, I have got ornaments in my office as well.

The SPEAKER: Order. Hon Chief Whip. [Interjections] Order. Order!

The CHIEF WHIP: Hon Speaker, in terms of parliamentary practice and in terms of the practice of our Rules, an ornament is classified as an item that is useless and of no value and if the hon Sayed feels that indeed he has ornaments in his office, that is something that he needs to internalise. But
20 unfortunately, he cannot refer to other members ...[Interjections]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP: ...as being ornaments.

The SPEAKER: Order! [Interjections] Order! [Interjections] Order, hon members! Order! Hon members, I have made a ruling, and that is why the pretext, context, and post text of all rulings are very important, hon Sayed, so that will be taken into account. With that being said, hon Ngqentsu, my apologies, can we just get an indication of how much time is left? You have 1 minute 40 seconds left.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The demotion of the competent Professor Mbombo and hon Regan and that too is enough evidence that the DA has no
 10 genuine space for Black leadership. That is racism. Refuse to be kitchen girls, and garden boys, not the † ‘baases’ [bosses] on this side. Look at even how ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon members, I ...[Interjections] Order! Hon members ...[Interjections] Order! Hon Minister, is that a new point of order? What is your point of order?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Speaker, in terms of Rule 59, a new matter has arisen. The member Mbombo was referred to, and after being referred to
 20 in terms of demotion, people were called kitchen girls. I want to know whether the member referred to anyone in this House as a kitchen girl. It is inappropriate. [Interjections]

The SPEAKER: Order, members. Order. Hon Ngqentsu, did you refer to anyone in the House or any hon member as a kitchen girl?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): A political statement was made to advance a political theoretical argument.

The SPEAKER: No, no, no, on a serious... [Interjections] Order, members!

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): The Prof to help us, maybe. Let us ask the Prof, the academic Prof to help us.

10 The SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, did you refer to any member, on a serious note, as a kitchen girl and a garden boy in the House?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): A political statement was made to advance a political argument about the existence of kitchen girls and garden boys.

The SPEAKER: So am I correct by saying, you did not refer to anyone in the House?

20 Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): A political statement was made to advance a political theory, as theory is a product of one's observation.

The SPEAKER: All right, in that case, I will refer to Hansard and come back to the House. Hon members ...[Interjections] Order! [Interjections] No, that is un-parliamentary. You cannot sing in the House. Hon members, can I please refer, can I please remind you that we are all hon members in this

House and we must respect one another and treat each other with the respect that comes with the decorum of this House. The citizens that are watching the Sitting, and before we lose the decorum of the House, that we please just also be mindful that we are dealing with very important matters.

While freedom of speech is absolutely protected and you have the absolute parliamentary privilege inside the House, that we also are just mindful of how we engage one another. But that being said, hon Chief Whip, I am not going to entertain any further points of orders, because we need to get through the
 10 business of the day. [Interjection] What, what is your new point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP: The hon Benson Ngqentsu is also in violation of Rule 59. So when you do make your ruling and study the Hansard, please take that into consideration because the hon Benson Ngqentsu did impute an improper motive on a member of this House, i.e. the Premier of the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, I have already ruled, the Minister rose on exactly that rule. So I will, okay, I will ...[Interjections] Order! Hon Ngqentsu, can I, before I recognise you, how much time is left from the Table
 20 Staff? 1 minute 23 seconds. You may continue.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Racism manifests itself in different forms. Even how we approach debates, even how we do Sitting arrangements, bracketing Black leadership with White leaders is part of racism. Anywhere, whether in the House, in cars, or what have you. Speaker, condemning racism

without action is meaningless. What we need is bold interventions, altering with property relations. Chair, Speaker, alongside structured, when racist incidents occur, restorative justice must be prioritised.

Offenders must be compelled to confront the harm they cause, reflect on history, and make amends. Schools must become spaces of rehabilitation, not prejudice. Teachers and leaders must also undergo comprehensive training to dictate this thing. Lastly, permanent anti-racism desks must be established in schools, in partnership with civil society, courses, and Human Rights
 10 Commissions, to provide advocates monitoring and employing these measures.

[Inaudible – 0:36:03] Knysna and George and every town in this province deserve to inherit dignity, equality, and hope, not hatred. It is only ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Order, member there, hon Minister, there is a member on the floor. No, the time has not expired. The hon Member still has 10 seconds left and, hon Minister, if you want to address the Chair, please rise and then address the Chair, you cannot be shouting from your bench. Hon Ngqentsu,
 20 you may continue.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, Speaker. It is when important issues of this kind are raised, when racism tends to disrupt so that society and our people cannot hear what is being discussed. As the ANC, we hate racism. We died, others exiled in the fight against racism

...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, please conclude, your time has expired.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Racism was at the heart and centre of our struggle for national liberation. Racists must fall ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Ngqentsu.

10 Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...and racism must come to ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you very much.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...an end in this House and in this province.
Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order. Before I ...[Interjections] Order! [Interjections]
Order! Order! Order, members! [Interjections] Order! Members on both
my left and right-hand side, hon ...[Interjection] Members! Hon members!
20 [Interjections] Order. Hon Mackenzie, Minister Mackenzie, I recognise you.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon
Speaker. Hon Speaker, the Oxford Dictionary defined racism as:

“The inability or refusal to recognise the rights, needs,

dignity or value of people of a particular racial or ethnic group or the belief that some races or ethnic groups are inherently superior or inferior to others.”

So, by calling people ‘ornaments’, calling them names, referring to them as ‘tea girls’, that is the definition by the world's greatest dictionary, the *Oxford Dictionary*, of defining racism. Actually, it is quite sad.

The hon member took the debate to the land issue. Let me tell him quickly
 10 something that I just picked up from a note I made three months ago on my notes, I was thinking about it when I was walking my dog, it is about the land issue. The hon Member must join me one day in District Six, because that is the day I walked there, to see how people are being deprived of their original land.

Now, that is the ultimate *Oxford* definition of racism – depriving people of their dignity, of their land. After 30 years, the people of District Six still do not have their land and the party solely responsible for that is the African National Congress. That is blatant racism! That is unconscionable. The hon
 20 member talks about not promoting racism. Of course, no one in this House promotes racism. We want to be dealing with it, we actively allocate funding to what they are not doing.

We just translated the Tennis Rulebook into isi-Xhosa. We are bringing people together, social inclusion. Google the other provinces, where have

they translated to other languages? Nowhere, because they do not like bringing people together. It suits them to keep people divided. The Western Cape Government does not take this lightly. We use public funds to serve the public good.

We put strict checks and balances in place to ensure funded organisations remain accountable, deliver measurable outcomes, and align with our vision to promote social inclusion, to cultural expression, and community building. To this day – I was a member, Chairperson, of the Standing Committee on
 10 Cultural Affairs, where the Traditional Courts Bill was in front of Parliament. Six years ago, the San and the Khoi people had zero recognition.

Who was responsible for that? †Tot vandag [Until today], what is today's date, 11 September, the African National Congress. Using the *Oxford* definition of racism, depriving people of their dignity, of their land, is the ANC. The Khoi and the San have not been recognised to this day by the African National Congress. †Dit is 'n skande! [It is a disgrace!] That is the true definition of blatant racism by the African National Congress.

20 It is hypocritical that a member of the Communist Party raises this, because for decades, they were in this Cabinet when two key things were not done. The people of District Six do not have their land, the Khoi and the San do not have the recognition, but in other cultures, in KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, †almal het alles [everyone has everything.] That shows their hatred for the people of this province, their hatred and denialism. That is

what it shows ...[Interjection.].

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members! Minister, please take your seat.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: They must give the people their land, they must give the ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. [Interjections] Order!
 Before I recognise the hon Leader of the Opposition. [Interjections] Order!
 10 Order, members. Hon Sayed, can you please rise? [Interjections] Order!
 Order, there is a member on the floor. Hon Sayed, what is your point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can I ...[Interjections]

The SPEAKER: Order! Both sides, members on my left and right-hand side, there is a member on the floor. [Interjections] Order! Hon Sayed, I recognise you.

20 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, we need to be consistent. I rule, I mean I rise, I am not ruling, you are there. In terms of Rule 59, the hon MEC referred to the hon Benson as a racist. Now, that is casting aspersions. I would like you to, if you cannot rule on it now, I would like you to refer to Hansard and come back for the ruling. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: All right, perfect. As part of being consistent, hon Minister, did you, in fact, refer to hon Ngqentsu as a racist?

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, hon member, I was reading out the definitions of a racist.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

10 The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: No, I did not refer ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: In the ...[Interjections] Order! I will revert to Hansard and then come back to the House with the ruling. [Interjections] Order. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. I was reading the definition, the *Oxford* definition, around it. But the Western Cape Government takes this matter very seriously. That is why
20 we have funded programs in the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport in building social inclusion, building social cohesion. So, the big walk is in October and, Speaker, if it is a ruling by your choice I would appreciate it, that all members must come and participate so we can build social cohesion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order. Thank you very much, hon members. That brings us to the end of Interpellations number 1. We then move on to Interpellations number 2. Before I recognise you, hon Minister, do you need the podium? I then recognise hon Minister Bredell.

2. Ms T Lithakong to ask Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

- 10 (a) *What are the current challenges faced by hung municipalities across the province and*
- (b) *What interventions has his Department initiated to resolve these challenges?*

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member for the Interpellation. What are the current challenges faced by hung municipalities across the province? The problem with hung municipalities, normally the pursuit for power by the various political parties instead of serving their communities, so it becomes a system of power. The

20 changes as a result of political parties' alignments, so we speak to king-making politics.

So, one member in a council tried to become a kingmaker and, again, it is the power of politics and not the power of service delivery. Then, motions of no confidence, primarily against the Executive Mayor, the Deputy Executive

Mayor and the Speaker, cause instability within councils. Then, there is also the situation where the resistance by the current political party in control, that has lost the majority to call a meeting, to elect the new Mayor or Deputy Mayor and Speakers and then that leads to court cases and unnecessary waste of taxpayers' money.

The election of a new Executive Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Speaker, this filters down to the administration whereby disciplinary actions are instituted against Senior Municipal Managers and often led to the resignation of Senior
 10 Municipal Managers. Causes of elections and new elected Mayors lead to the new Mayoral Committees, that also causes instability within the council. The resignation of the Executive Mayor that leads to the Deputy Executive Mayor taking over the roles and responsibilities and functions of the Mayor and then the Mayoral Committee collapses.

And then, if the Deputy Mayor is there long enough and they institute a new Mayoral Committee, then we elect a Mayor and then the new elected Mayor must then fire the Executive Committee and then elect his own Executive Committee. At the election where the Mayor gets elected, they must then also
 20 elect the Section 80 Standing Committee members, Chairpersons. So, that is also a process because, as you can imagine, that is also firing previous Mayors' Section 80 Committees, or they lapse when the Mayor vacates office.

In the absence of formal legislation regulating coalition politics, that creates a lot of tension within municipal spheres and that also makes it very difficult

to attract competent, and especially it is very dangerous for young people to enter that space, because of the uncertainty.

Then, the second part of the Interpellations, ‘what interventions has his Department instituted to resolve these challenges’? The Department contributed to the legislative framework process, in particular, the various proposal amendments to the Municipal Structures Act, the Coalition Bill, as well as the review on the new White Paper for Local Government and within these three pieces of legislation, hopefully, we can build in a system of
 10 stability for long-term sustainability.

When there is a resistance by the current political party in control that has lost the majority to call a meeting to elect a new Executive or Deputy Executive Mayor or Speaker, my Department has invoked Section 29(1)(a) of the Municipal Structures Act to call and chair such a meeting and monitor the election ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, your time has expired for your first opportunity.

20

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Please conclude. I recognise the hon Lithakong.

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thank you, Speaker. The 2021 LGE in the Western Cape provided us with a synopsis of what the phrase ‘blowing winds of change’ entails. It was in that year that we came to realise that these winds have now reached the shores of the Western Cape Province and that people of this province are too eager to see changes in governance from that point and going forward.

Speaker, the reason for the changes in voting patterns is a result of the masses realising that political parties which they had entrusted in the past to solely
 10 run this municipality without right majorities, in the last three decades or so, no longer have the capacity and the capability to provide them with proper governance and lead them to prosperity so far as the service delivery is concerned.

Speaker, moreover, the reason why this province is currently sitting with 16 hung municipalities, is because people feel that the DA failed them in the past and now people are searching for alternative political parties to lead them. The challenges currently facing some of the hung municipalities in the province, were worse under the DA governance compared to present.

20

Furthermore, Speaker, politically, the existence of these hung municipality structures should be seen as a transition from the old order to the new order. It is a passing phase, as our people are still searching for a stable political party that will lead them to prosperity going forward and that party, Speaker, is the Economic Freedom Fighters. I will pause there so long, thank you.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Speaker, members of the Infrastructure Committee recently visited Knysna Municipality, where we were briefed by officials and embarked on a number of oversight visits under the leadership of our Chairperson, the hon Dirk Wessels. It is well known that Knysna's residents have been grappling under basic service interruptions, unaddressed infrastructure issues and a general lack of accountability from local
 10 leadership under a series of dysfunctional coalitions, particularly under the ANC and the PA.

This dysfunction not only impacts the quality of life for residents, but it also undermines overall trust in local government. We cannot ignore the reality that when municipalities like Knysna fail to deliver due to these chaotic coalitions, it is the people who suffer. Whether it is delayed waste collection, unreliable water supply, deteriorating roads, or as we saw in Knysna, sewerage spilling out of manholes, the effect of bad governance is wide ranging.

20

And this is exactly why the new Western Cape Monitoring and Support to Municipalities Bill should be seen as a beacon of hope. The Bill offers a vital framework for monitoring municipalities' performance and providing targeted support where necessary. It aims to ensure that local governments, like Knysna, are held accountable and operate transparently. The Bill will

empower the Provincial Government to step in and provide assistance to underperforming municipalities, preventing them from spiralling into deeper dysfunction.

Importantly, it is a proactive measure, enabling early intervention to address problems before they become crises. But most importantly, the residents of Knysna have learned a very hard lesson – that becoming complacent about local politics can lead to chaos in a municipality and very serious long-term consequences. Thank you.

10

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. †Die agbare Stoffel, [the hon Stoffel,] do you need the podium? Can I get the podium, please? [Interjections] Order! Thank you very much, hon Stoffel. There is a member on the floor, hon members.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Speaker, the ANC has consistently warned that the Department of Local Government under the MEC Bredell has become the source of instability in our municipalities. His powers are being weaponised to purge and destabilise non-DA municipalities, and the Western
20 Cape Monitoring and Support of Municipalities Amendment Bill is the latest tool designed to tighten this political stranglehold.

Hung municipalities remain one of the most urgent governance crises facing our province. In Theewaterskloof, Knysna, Beaufort West, Kannaland, Laingsburg and many other municipalities, MEC Bredell's fingerprints are

visible in the destabilisation and has led the council meetings to collapse into walkouts, endless disputes and revolving door leadership. This leaves residents with collapsing water infrastructure and uncollected refuse.

Toxic political battles suffocate administration, leaving no consistent service delivery program. These municipalities are paralysed by instability and residents are the ones who suffer. Hon Speaker, our question to the MEC is that, what are the interventions that he has, that the Department put in place to stabilise governance in these dysfunctional municipalities? How is the
 10 Department ensuring that municipalities or municipal officers are supported to deliver service under the conditions?

And as local government election approaches, what long-term plan exists to prevent this cycles of chaos from repeating? Speaker, our citizens deserve stability, not political gains. Unless decisive interventions are made, the people of the Western Cape will continue to pay the price for the DA engineered instability. In closing, Speaker, the MEC must stop his political games that are destabilising our municipalities. [Interjection]

20 The SPEAKER: Hon Stoffel, please conclude. Your time has expired.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Mr MEC Bredell, as we speak, Calitzdorp, sewerage is all over, Laingsburg ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): No, the ANC is not in charge!

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): The ANC is not in charge, it is you
...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon ...[Interjection]

10

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): ...who must stop destabilising municipalities.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you. [Interjections] Order.
[Interjections] Order! Hon members ...[Interjections] Order! Order,
members! The next speaker is hon Lithakong. Hon Lithakong?

Ms T LITHAKONG (EFF): Thanks, Speaker. It is indeed true that hung
municipalities in the province have challenges in certain respects, more
especially when it comes to service delivery. But these challenges are not
20 only applying to hung municipalities, they are also prominent amongst the
same municipalities run by the DA in the province, which also include the
City of Cape Town Metropolitan Municipality.

One does not have to look far on that score. The City has deliberately
neglected the people of Kraaifontein, who must continuously navigate through

permanent sewerage spillage as a result of non-service sewerage infrastructure that is old and dilapidated. The reason why there is an escalation of crime in the area is also a result of lack of maintenance of streetlights, making it difficult for the police to navigate their way at night.

However, Minister, you are too quick to send intervention letters to municipalities that are not run by the DA, such as Knysna, due to a reason that it is no longer run by your party, but run by a multi-party governance coalition that is made up of all the parties. Yourself and your own party, the
 10 DA, happen not to like it.

In conclusion, the second part of my main question dealt with the kind of intervention which your Department has initiated against hung municipalities which are facing challenges. Now, my question is the following. How does the Minister exercise executive restraint in making sure that party politics does not cloud his judgment and when dealing with municipalities not run by the DA in the Western Cape? Thanks, Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, thank you, hon Speaker. Did not expect much from this Interpellation, to be quite honest with you. Hon Speaker, we sit with a democracy and it is people's choice who they vote

for and then we need to deal and manage the outcome of that. Obviously, coalitions are not ideal and it is very difficult, that is something new for all of us, so we work our way through that.

There is no political interference from our office, because, and I understand the ANC, where they are coming from and other parties, because they do not operate like us, they do not have systems in place. For us, it is all about the residents and how do we get good governance there, even if they did not vote for us. So, the Knysna example, hon Dave, thank you for putting that on the
 10 table, or pulling that out, but I really cannot understand why the member of the EFF is mentioning Knysna, because they are in coalition in Knysna.

The municipality where sewerage is running into the lagoon, where they in court – where they in court, and it is a disgraceful comment, that we sabotage that. It is a lack of infrastructure, lack of investment in infrastructure. If the hon member will go there and walk the pipes, they will see that it is vandalism through their own parties. It is infighting. That is the cause of that.

20 They cannot provide water to the residents because of a completely irrational design of the water system. They connected all the reservoirs onto one another, so if there is not water in the first reservoir, all the others also run dry. So, it is a complete, just silly design, but that is the kind of people they employ to do the work there, because it is cadre deployment. So, the whole municipality is busy collapsing, and if they want to dispute me trying to put

them under administration, I will invite them all for a swim in the lagoon.

We can go and swim in the lagoon after I give them the E.coli counts and see to it if they will come out of that. So, hon Chairperson, to bring politics in this is just silly, to actually be quite honest with you, because it is not about politics, it is about governance. It is about failing to service the communities, and 90% of the municipalities, all of them that was mentioned, is either ANC controlled or we took them over now from them.

- 10 Now, you see, and that is the misunderstanding of government, give them money, because that is exactly what Kannaland is also asking for. Just give us money, just give us money, so that we can steal more money from that municipalities, that is what they want. So, we do not have a budget to just go to municipalities. When ...[Interjection] Hon Chair?

The SPEAKER: Order!

- The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: When we intervene in municipalities, it
20 is our Department who is keeping the taps open. If we did not invest in the water system in Knysna, and in the sewerage system, it would have been chaotic a long time ago. The same with TWK, the same with Beaufort West that we need to try and fix now and we will keep on trying to fix those infrastructures, because we speak to the lives of people at the end of the day.

And hopefully, come next election, the people will realise that there is only one party that they can trust with their lives, and that is the Democratic Alliance. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Interpellations in terms of Rule 197. We now move on to Questions for Oral Reply in terms of Rule 202.

I wish to advise the hon members that once the hon Minister has concluded
 10 the first response to the question, then you can put up your hand. I know that in the past we used to do it when the hon Minister or the hon Premier starts to speak, but logic dictates to me that you need to hear the answer first before you can determine if you have a follow-up question or not.

So once the hon Minister has concluded that first response, the first opportunity will be provided to the questioner and thereafter three additional follow-ups per question.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

20

The SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister Meyer.

*South African Tourism Board: promotion and development of tourism in the
 province*

1. Mr N P Masipa asked Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

What financial or strategic support has the South African Tourism Board provided for the promotion and development of tourism in the province?

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister Meyer – hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, I am not sure whether hon Minister
10 Meyer's office engaged with the questioner, but there was a conversation that I was part of, via email, where it was asked for the question to stand over as hon Minister Meyer submitted an apology today because he is attending NAMPO, but I will just double-check whether there was a conversation and I do ask that that question perhaps stand over until hon Minister Meyer is back in the House.

The SPEAKER: Perfect, hon Chief Whip. Hon Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, hon Chair.
20 Maybe could hon member – I am not sure whether this is for hon member Masipa or the leadership of the DA, because they are both in the same party. I would have thought – just want to – if they would have had a – or not unless there is some other tensions between the [Inaudible 1:03:05]

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Hon Speaker, through you ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...I would be more than happy to respond to the hon member Sayed. Unfortunately, we do not practice ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: No ...[Interjections.]

10

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): ...the same ill-discipline.

The SPEAKER: You do not need to respond, hon Chief Whip. Hon members, there has been an apology submitted for the hon Minister Meyer and therefore I will move on to the second question on the Order Paper. Hon ...[Interjections.]

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, hon Chair.

20 The SPEAKER: ...Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Okay, thank you very much, hon Chair. No, we are not sure – is he not in Taiwan maybe?

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. I recognise the hon Minister.

CapeNature: death of young leopard in Heidelberg

2. Mr D W Bryant asked Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:

With regard to the recent death of a young leopard in Heidelberg after being caught in illegal gin traps:

- 10 (a) What is the latest update on CapeNature's investigation into the incident and (b) what further steps are being taken to prevent similar incidents?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Speaker, thank you to hon member Bryant for the question.

CapeNature has concluded the investigation, and the case has been registered with the National Prosecuting Authority. It is expected to proceed to court
20 shortly. Please note that the name of the accused cannot be made public until the formal plea has been entered.

The (b) part. CapeNature continues to work proactively to prevent similar incidences through the following approaches:

1. Community engagement and awareness. CapeNature works with partners in the landscape to engage the farming community through awareness workshops focused on predator management. As part of these efforts staff distribute informal booklets titled *Guide to Damage-Causing Animal Management* to support knowledge-sharing awareness to the community.
2. By extension services. Off-reserve extension services regularly interact with farmers regarding the control of damage-causing animals, including protocols to follow as a CapeNature policy or legislation and hunting proclamation requirements. Communication with farmers around the specific challenges of managing leopard damage-causing incidences is ongoing, and CapeNature regional officers and personnel in the landscape are known to the neighbouring farming community and they interact and communicate on a regular basis, especially on ethical issues within this domain.
3. Stakeholder collaboration. CapeNature partners with non-profit organisations who play a pivotal role in raising awareness through various platforms, including social media, helping to reinforce legal and ethical wildlife management practices. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon

Minister for the response. It is very heartening to hear the swift action that has been taken by CapeNature as an entity of the Western Cape Government.

In follow-up I would like to ask how broad an issue and how big an issue is poaching in general within our CapeNature facilities, and is this something that the hon Minister believes they have a handle on?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I wish to caution hon members that you are allowed one follow-up question. Hon Minister, I am not going to
10 dictate how you respond to that question.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Ja. Thank you and thank you to the hon member. Ja, to be quite honest I think I share his worry about poaching in general and it is wide, especially these days our plant species, our biodiversity gets stripped and CapeNature is very much hands-on, but we do have limited resources and it is a big province that we need to cover.

They manage a million hectares of biodiversity. You can just imagine to
20 manage that and to control that, but with new technology, camera footage, partnerships helping to keep an eye on things, it helps a lot.

On these kinds of things that happen with the leopard is very sad and especially the way it happened, and obviously – but what I can also pick up it is where a lot of farmers and people work with us to protect the species,

because in the West Coast now there is a leopard and they will share the photos and the video material and ask people, “Please keep safe and do not harm this animal,” because they want it in the area and they want to protect it.

So overall I think we have got a handle on it, but with limited manpower and limited resources it can get out of hand, and we must especially keep an eye on our biodiversity. Thank you.

10 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? Can I just get an indication from the Table Staff if there is no questions online.

That brings us to the end of Question 2 as printed on the Question Paper. We move on to Question 3 and I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Bredell.

Hunting permits: threatened and protected species

20 **3. Mr D W Bryant asked Mr A W Bredell, Minister of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning:**

- (1) What steps does his Department take to ensure that hunting permits issued in the province are aligned with the national threatened or protected species (TOPS) regulations;
- (2) Whether the Province formally recognises and applies these

regulations when making permitting decisions; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to hon member Bryant for the question.

CapeNature is committed to ensuring that all biodiversity conservation activities within the Western Cape are managed responsibly and in accordance with the broader national conservation framework. While the Threatened and Protocol Species (TOPS) Regulations, under the National Environment Management Biodiversity Act (NEMBA) are not directly implemented in the Western Cape, CapeNature regulates hunting and related activities under and in terms of the Provincial Nature Conservation Ordinance, and make every effort in administering the Nature Conservation Ordinance. This is done to ensure consistency, coordination and alignment with all national legislation, including, but not limited solely, to the TOPS Regs.

To ensure alignment with the national objectives, CapeNature, in cooperation with the national conservation principles, our permitting system takes into account the intent and conservation objectives of TOPS, particularly where threatened and protected species are concerned.

Within CapeNature operations are aligned so that:

- The manager overseeing the permit processing coordination, also drafts the annual hunting notice, including responding to public comments.
- Applying street permit conditions, hunting permits are evaluated carefully with additional restrictions or refusals applied where species of conservation concerns are involved.
- Coordinates with national authorities where activities involve species that are listed under TOPS, or where interprovincial movement is proposed, applicants are guided to obtain the necessary NEMBA or TOPS permits from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.
- Uses scientific assessments and CapeNature based its decisions on current population status, ecological sustainability and conservation science to ensure that hunting activities do not negatively impact species at risk.
- Also monitoring compliance and enforcements, dedicated conservation officers conduct regular monitoring compliance and enforcement activities to ensure that permits are used responsibly and that national conservation priorities are upheld in practice.

20 Thank you.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you again to the hon Minister for the comprehensive response.

Hon Minister, you have answered one of my questions already, but in follow-up I would like to ask in terms of public interaction how can the public engage if they feel that there has been a transgression or if they would like to make any inputs in terms of the process of granting these permits?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
 10 AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: They can call directly CapeNature, they can go to the nearest conservation agencies, because CapeNature has got a very good on-the-ground operations working with SAPS, Green Scorpions, etcetera. They can contact any of those institutions and they will guide them and they will help them, and definitely a CapeNature official will assist them. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any further follow-up questions? Can I get an indication from the Table Staff if there are any questions online?

20

Thank you very much, hon members. That brings us to the end of Question 3. We move on to Question 4 as printed on the Question Paper for oral reply, and I recognise the hon Minister of Infrastructure, Minister Simmers.

Social housing: Sea Point

4. Ms P Z Lekker asked Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

- (1) How far is his Department with the plan for a social housing project in Sea Point;
- (2) Whether his Department has appointed a contractor for project; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether his Department has started with the stakeholder engagement project; if so, what are the relevant details?

10

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. The hon member poses three sub-questions through to me. She first asks how far is my Department with a plan for a socialising project in Sea Point?

So (1) is that it is now called 353 on Main (formerly Tafelberg) in Sea Point Project is in the enablement phase. The preliminary stakeholder engagements were concluded in July 2025. Three concept development scenarios were presented to stakeholders for inputs. Our professional team is in the process

20 of refining the concept development scenarios with the preferred feasible and viable concept scenario being aimed for release to all stakeholders by October 2025, and the target for submission of the relevant statutory applications is March 2026.

The second component is whether my Department has appointed a contractor

for the project, and if so, what are the relevant details? Again, this project is in the enablement phase, so no, if the question relates to the appointment of a construction contractor. However, a multi-disciplinary professional service provider team has been appointed to assist the Department with the required enablement work to secure the appropriate rights for the development.

The third component is whether my Department has started with the stakeholder engagement process, and if so, what are the relevant details? Indeed my Department and the professional team activated preliminary stakeholder engagements in May 2025. The preliminary stakeholder engagements concluded with a feedback session which was held on 31 July 2025.

The professional team is currently in the process of considering all comments, input, ideas and thoughts shared by the stakeholders during this preliminary process, and we are refining the concept development scenarios.

All information made available to the stakeholders, including the baseline assessment reports, presentations and notes of the discussions or meetings or sessions, have been published on the dedicated webpage for this project.

The next opportunity for stakeholder engagement will be within the relevant legislated provisions linked to the heritage and land use applications, which will be communicated to the stakeholder communication list or database. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Can I get an indication if there is a follow-up question? I recognise the hon member Wessels.

Mr D J WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thanks, hon Minister, for that comprehensive answer.

Hon Minister, we understand that the processes between the different spheres of government are sometimes lengthy, but I know the Department still aims to
10 ensure and restore the dignity to our communities. Thus my question, while these processes take place, we still need to ensure that our informal settlements are also upgraded.

So is the Department receiving sufficient budget from National and does it keep up with the demand in the Western Cape? Thanks.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Hon Minister, before I recognise you, I just wish to caution hon members again that you are allowed one follow-up question. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you
20 respond to that questions.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and through you to the hon members, thank you for the question.

Given that the ultimate beneficiaries of the social housing component of Erf

353 are those individuals who live in informal settlements currently and who work within the inner City. Indeed there is a worrying trend, hon Speaker and hon members of the House, that over the next three financial years we are actually seeing a rapid decline in the Informal Settlement Upgrading Partnership Grant, which is being provided through the National Department, not only to the Western Cape, but actually ultimately to all provinces, which does pose a bit of a risk and a bit of a concern pertaining to the continuation of the Informal Settlement Upgrading Programme itself.

- 10 Given that the budget, which by year three of this current MTEF cycle, that we will be receiving, as a province, actually a third of the total budget we got, if I look at it historically.

So indeed that is a massive concern, but if I may expand on my question. Similarly there is with the issue of social housing and the grant which subsidises social housing beneficiaries who do qualify through the SHI, that grant in itself is also being reduced over the three-year cycle.

- 20 So indeed we do see from the National perspective the grants being reduced, which is why, as a proactive government in the Western Cape through the Department of Infrastructure and our branch, Human Settlements, we are finding and trying to tailor a specific, unique finance approach through and with the assistance of Provincial Treasury in terms of the alternative blended financing.

Now we will seek to address both these scenarios in a sustainable way, given that national grants are clearly earmarked for a rapid reduction over the next two financial years as well.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Hon Minister. Are there any further follow-up questions? The hon Marais.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, social housing project in Sea Point. In South Africa it is still something new that we
10 are all embracing in terms of inclusivity and in terms of equality.

I just want to know from the hon Minister if he is satisfied that the plans regarding social housing in Sea Point will also address the concerns raised by the affected communities in Sea Point regarding their properties, the valuation of their properties, etcetera? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Again, hon members, you are not allowed to solicit an opinion when you ask a follow-up question, and according to my understanding of the word “satisfied” is soliciting an opinion
20 from the hon Minister. Again, I just want to put it on record. Hon Minister, I am not going to dictate how you respond to that.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and through you to the hon member.

I actually understand what the hon member is trying to ask me, given that there is this misperception of what social housing is, first and foremost, and secondly what its implications are when the Provincial Government actually implements it in areas which previously did not seek to welcome individuals who earn within a specific cohort, which is targeted through social housing, and I will use an example, because Erf 353 on Main is earmarked specifically for social housing, a component of that site, which speaks to workers who ultimately have to travel and work in town.

- 10 The misconception sadly by a number of individuals, not just in the specific project's sub-council where we are in, and I will use Bothasig as another example where there are three phases of a social housing project within a similar type community. It did not affect the value of the housing. Instead our bulk infrastructure investment across all three phases – we have the data to prove this – actually we saw an increase in the housing value of those surrounding communities, because there is a misperception that social housing is RDP or BNG housing, which it is not.

- 20 It is an affordable rental option and the Social Housing Institute, who is then appointed by the successful implementer of the project on that specific site, manages the maintenance and so forth, which is again a third misperception people have pertaining to social housing.

So to bring that back to 353 on Main. Again it is the portion of the site which is earmarked and a portion of that specific site is earmarked for social

housing, and the feedback reports, or the preliminary reports I have received back after the number of sessions that we have had, it is actually very constructive. It is welcomed by the host residents within the sub-council.

Yes, there are a few nimbies who do not want to see this, but the positivity is far outweighed versus the negativity, given that it is their general workers, their gardeners and they are actually going to benefit from this project on 353 on Main. Thank you.

- 10 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any further follow-up questions? Can I just get an indication from the Table Staff that there are no questions online? That brings us to the end of Question 4.

Hon members, as indicated on the Question Paper, Question 5 has been withdrawn. So we move on to Question 6 and I recognise the hon Minister of Education, Minister Maynier.

Matric learners: dropping out and preparation for examination

- 20 6. **Mr M K Sayed asked Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:**

(a) How may matric learners have dropped out of school this year, (b) what programmes are in place to help learners prepare for the examinations and (c) what programmes are in place to prepare learners for life after high school?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to the hon Leader of the Opposition for putting the question, which of course is on learners who have dropped out of school.

It is hard not to notice that the hon Leader of the Opposition appears to have dropped out of the House, unless of course he might well be online.
[Interjections.]

10 Hon Speaker... [incomplete]

The SPEAKER: Order! Hon Minister, please speak to me.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Hon Speaker, [Interjections.] in the nick of time. Hon Speaker, as I was saying, I would like to thank the hon Leader of the Opposition for putting the question which, of course, is on learners who have dropped out of school.

20 I would start by saying we need to be a little bit careful here. We cannot specifically provide statistics on the number of learners who have dropped out of school, as learners may leave school and be deregistered on our system for a whole range of reasons. These include, of course, relocation to another province or country, further study, for example, at an FET college, home schooling options or private institutions and indeed possibly ill-health or even regrettably, death.

So based on our Centralised Education Management Information System, enrolled data from 1 February 2025 compared to current exam registration numbers, there has been a reduction in the number of Grade 12 learners by about 485. However, as mentioned, there are a variety of factors that can of course contribute towards this reduction, and it does not necessarily reflect dropouts.

We must bear in mind, I think, also that this is a relatively small reduction in the number of learners. This year we currently have a record number of learners in Grade 12 registered as full-time candidates to write the NSC Grade 12 exam at the end of November. This year a record number, 67 605 candidates, are registered to write, in comparison with 64 394 candidates last year.

I think another key point, hon Speaker, to bear in mind, is that if a learner has dropped out this is not the end of the road. Anyone who has left school has an opportunity to complete their matric and can obtain support from community learning centres and also access our e-Learning resources which, of course, are available in public.

Now the second part of the question now. Our matric teachers and tutors and officials have been hard at work preparing our candidates for the final hurdle of their school careers. Nearly 22 000 matrices attended our Back on Track winter school during the mid-year holidays, which took place in all eight

education districts in our province.

Revision classes will also take place during the spring school holidays in October, while matrics also have weekend revision classes during the third term through this programme.

Of course, as the hon Leader of the Opposition knows, schools and districts have also run additional preparation sessions, extra classes and tutoring sessions according to the specific needs of their candidates.

10

Our annual matric support booklet has been delivered to schools, which contains past matric papers in high enrolment subjects, administrative details like the exam timetable and pass requirements, study tips and of course advice for post-school studies.

We also provide *Tips for Success*, a booklet that provides detailed advice on how to study effectively, the key concepts you need to know for the exam, guidance on maintaining health and wellness during the exam period, and examples of study timetables and advice, importantly, from former matric learners.

20

I actually would like to show hon members a copy of this booklet, because it really is, I think, an exceptional resource for our candidates and I would really encourage candidates to download a copy of matric support from the WCED's website. These are really, I think, world class documents which

support our matrices to prepare for the exams.

We, of course, have also collected a wide variety of e-Learning resources to support our matrices, including past papers, memos, video lessons, contents summaries and study guides, and of course these can all be accessed on the WCED website and of course on our e-Portal.

In terms of post-school careers, which I think is a very important question and I am pleased that the hon Leader of the Opposition has put it. One of the
 10 key initiatives currently being implemented by the WCED to better prepare learners for life beyond high school, is the Career Clubs Programme, which is embedded within the Life Orientation curriculum.

The Career Clubs are designed to create a dynamic and engaging environment within high schools, where learners and teachers experience Life Orientation as really practical and empowering subject. These clubs serve as a bridge between theoretical careers planning and real-world career exposure, and I have certainly had the pleasure to attend the launch and opening of some of these Career Clubs to see the tangible benefits for our learners.

20

Learners participate in practical career-related activities that stimulate real-world professional environments. This helps them develop a career-focused reasoning, problem solving skills and a much deeper understanding of the various career paths that might be available to them.

Our Department also this year hosted a Youth in Action Career Expo which attracted a record 11 500 attendees earlier this year, which is double the number from 2024.

Our Life Orientation team hosted the event in partnership with the Cape Town International Convention Centre's marketing team, and the event provided a platform for young people to explore career paths and connect with opportunities, and I think this is very important work.

- 10 Of the 171 institutions, 171 institutions participated, offering education, training, bursaries, and employment opportunities. This included institutions even from outside the province: the North West University, the Free State University, Rhodes University and Focus Air, an aviation school in Durban, where they had the opportunity to showcase their offerings to our learners.

The WCED also of course has a relationship with our higher education institutions and Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) Colleges, where learners also attend career exhibitions.

- 20 The National and Provincial Education Departments also promote entrepreneurship through an E3 Programme. The programme focuses on three pathways learners will follow after school: entrepreneurship, employability and of course further education. Entrepreneurial thinking is promoted across subject disciplines, acknowledging that learners may pursue becoming entrepreneurs.

So I hope that hon members in this House will acknowledge, I think, some of the outstanding work being done by our Department to support the matric class of 2025, but also to better prepare our learners for life beyond school.

Hon members would also know that today is 40 days until matric exams begin. So to all our matrices my message is this really is the last stretch and time for complete focus and commitment, and the hours that our matric learners will invest over the next 40 days I am sure will be a great benefit to them during the exams, and I am sure that hon members in this House join me in saying that we are here to support our matric learners and we cannot wait to celebrate with you when the results are finally released in 2026. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon member Sayed, then hon member Bryant and then hon member Van Wyk, in that order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, thank you, hon Speaker, and let me thank my colleague, the hon MEC, for a comprehensive response, quite comprehensive, and I think the spirit within which he responded is also taken very positively.

I mean I would have liked some more detail and just the variants. I think, look, the issue around the matric dropouts, but beyond just matric dropouts, the dropout rate, something we have experienced particularly, yes, in areas

which are gang infested, it feeds into crime, but also schools in rural communities in particular.

The hon member Stoffel is shaking her head because in Kannaland this has been a consistent complaint from parents and governing body members in particular.

I just wanted to know, these interventions, because it seems to me as if for many of these interventions to be activated, particularly when it relates to the
 10 issues around career guidance, it is easier in the Metro or relatively easier in the Metro ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member Sayed, I want to caution you.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Do we have
 ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: You do not need to give an explanation.

20 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay.

The SPEAKER: Please pose the question.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, no, it is a context, but
 ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: The context does not matter now, the context was the answer from the hon Minister.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Can the hon Minister perhaps provide us with a response, or indicate to us within a rural context, how some of these interventions will work within a rural-specific context? Thank you.

10 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister, you got the question?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I do understand the hon Leader of the Opposition's concern about rural areas, but I do want to give him the assurance that these interventions are not confined to rural areas, and in fact the Career Club, which I personally opened and to which I referred to in my remarks, was in fact in the Swartland Municipality.

I do understand the hon Leader of the Opposition's concerns, but I can assure him, and indeed the House, that our interventions are not confined simply to
20 urban areas. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Bryant.

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. The hon Minister has expanded a bit on the dropout rates in the Western Cape. I think we are quite

well-aware that there are other parts of the country that experience severe dropout rates. Comparatively the Western Cape is the lowest, and is there perhaps some lessons that can be learnt, hon Minister, from your Department and applied in some of these other provinces to assist them in achieving the low dropout rate that we have in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. We are of course concerned about the dropout rate, but I do think it is important to remind hon members that we have one of the highest, if you like, retention rates, particularly
10 between Grade 10 and 12 in the country.

That, hon Speaker, is a function not only of course of schools working hard to follow up with absent learners, and indeed in some districts school safety field workers working continuously to ensure that learners who are truant remain in schools, it is also a function of a much bigger investment in retaining learners in our system.

That has a lot to do with providing support and remedial action, particularly to learners that we know are at risk of dropping out from the school system,
20 and what most hon members are probably not aware of, is that each district annually develops an improvement plan where large numbers of learners are not performing academically as required.

These plans contain a number of actions that relate to supporting the children who are at risk of dropping out, providing extra tuition, extra school safety

and offering assessment accommodations.

We also work hard ultimately to really get to the heart of the risk and of course that is in the foundation phase, where we are heavily investing in improving specifically reading and writing and of course mathematical skills, so that learners progress comfortably, so that learners keep up with the curriculum, particularly in the higher grades, and do not then become susceptible to dropping out because they are not coping with the curriculum.

- 10 We also invest heavily, hon members, of course in identifying learners who may not be suited to mainstream education and may be much better suited to technical and vocational streams, and ensuring that those learners, who are at risk, find pathways into technical and vocational streams.

Finally we are heavily focused, as a department, on providing behavioural programmes and psychological support, particularly to learners who are at risk of dropping out, and I think that collective effort goes a long way to explaining why our department has been relatively more successful and has the highest throughput rate, particularly in Grade 10 to 12 in our country.

- 20 Thank you.

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

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Speaker, I think I was covered by the hon

Minister's remarks in what he said, in what I wanted to ask. Thank you.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and thanks to the hon Minister, particularly the aspect around the psychosocial support, that is important.

That takes me then into this particular follow-up. Could the hon Minister
10 indicate what measures are in place to ensure that those writing matric in communities where gang violence is rife – we have been receiving those complaints – that they are able to write in a safe environment? Those writing matric are able to write in a safe environment. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I share the hon Leader of the Opposition's concern of course as we head into the matric exam, where in years gone by the matric exam has been put at risk, not only
20 by gang-related violence, as the hon Leader of the Opposition points out, but also of course by transport-related protests.

So I am sure the hon Leader of the Opposition would agree that last week in this House I provided a very comprehensive, if I recall, 37 minute long response to what our Department is doing in order to support our schools,

particularly in communities where there is a gang-related environment, because of course that climate of fear does put our learners at risk.

I do want to assure the hon Leader of the Opposition, and indeed all hon members of this House, that we work very closely with SAPS and law enforcement and other departments, and we do have contingency plans in place and anticipate how we, as a department, will deal with contingencies that could potentially disrupt our matric exams, including gang-related violence, but also transport disruptions.

10

You will recall that in at least one matric exam we were, I think, as a department, very successful in ensuring that the matric exam was implemented faultlessly in the middle of a quite serious transport-related disruption.

So we are looking forward to – we do anticipate the risk, but I want to assure the hon Leader of the Opposition that we do have contingency plans in place. Thank you.

20 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any further follow-ups? If not then that brings us to the end of Question 6 as printed on the Question Paper.

We move on to Question 7 and I recognise the hon Minister of Finance, Minister Baartman.

Affordability crisis: excessively high tariffs

7. Ms B N Stoffel asked Ms D M Baartman, Minister of Finance:

With regard to the ongoing crisis of affordability in the province with municipalities, particularly the City of Cape Town, imposing excessively high tariffs:

- 10 (a) What measures is her department putting in place to protect citizens from unaffordable municipal tariffs and (b) how is her department ensuring that municipalities balance revenue generation with the urgent need to safeguard residents already struggling with the rising cost of living in the province?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. The Department knows that questions (a) and (b) are closely related and therefore provides the following integrated response.

- 20 The Department is acutely aware of the pressures households are facing, and we share the concern about the affordability of municipal tariffs in the current economic climate.

While municipal councils carry the legal responsibility for approving tariffs as part of the budget process, DLG, together with the Provincial Treasury,

actively advocates that tariffs must strike a balance between being cost-reflective, meaning that tariffs must cover the actual cost of providing the service, and being affordable.

National Treasury also maintains this position and has developed a cost-reflective tariff tool which provides municipalities with a structured methodology to set tariffs in a fair, transparent and evidence-based manner, helping to ensure that consumers pay equitably for services while municipalities can recover the costs of provision.

10

In addition National Treasury advocates that municipalities should increase tariffs broadly in line with inflation guidelines, and where this is not possible, councils are expected to provide justifiable reasons.

Every year the Department of Local Government, Provincial Treasury, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and I will use the acronyms going forward, assess the tabled budgets of municipalities to review the extent to which they achieve this balance, providing constructive feedback for consideration and inclusion in the final budget.

20

We also promote cost efficiencies to help municipalities manage expenditure and reduce upward pressure on tariffs.

In addition Provincial Treasury provides guidance to municipalities through circulars on budget processes and unpacking revenue and expenditure items

that impact tariffs.

Provincial Treasury also develops and shares socio-economic intelligence, such as the Municipal Economic Review and Outlook, and the socio-economic profiles to help municipalities better understand the realities faced by their residents, which informs more responsive budgeting and tariff-setting decisions.

10 Municipalities across the province, including the City of Cape Town, make use of the indigent policies, lifeline tariffs and cross-subsidisation mechanisms to shield the most vulnerable from tariff increases. These measures are further supported by the unconditional equitable share allocations, which, together with the municipal indigent policies, ensure that poor and vulnerable households continue to have access to a basket of basic services.

A key focus is on improving public engagement so that all qualifying households are registered as indigent and can access the relief provided, for example, in response to public feedback on its tabled 2025/26 budget, the
20 City of Cape Town increased relief measures to support more residents, demonstrating how engagement and oversight help ensure that final budgets better protect vulnerable households.

It is important to note that municipalities face significant cost pressures largely outside of their control, particularly in respect of bulk electricity

purchases and compensation of employees, both of which are increasing faster than inflation.

Many customers are also partially defecting from the municipal grid through own generation and energy efficiency measures, reducing consumption-based revenues, while the cost of maintaining, upgrading and operating electricity and water networks, remains constant.

At the same time municipalities are under pressure from shrinking tax bases
10 driven by persistently low economic growth and high unemployment, which further constrain their ability to generate sufficient revenues.

These factors make it challenging for municipalities to moderate tariff increases while maintaining service delivery demands amidst a growing population.

Western Cape municipalities generally perform well, compared to the rest of the country, in managing these competing pressures, demonstrating strong financial management and governance while maintaining services and
20 protecting households, wherever possible.

Together with the Provincial Treasury the Department of Local Government continues to engage municipalities to monitor and manage these pressures, encourage transparent tariff setting and safeguard the most vulnerable residents. Thank you.

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

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Let me appreciate the response from the hon MEC.

However, hon MEC, what specific oversight of corrective action will the Department take in cases where municipalities, such as the City of Cape Town, continue to implement tariff increases that far exceeded inflation and
10 place an unbearable burden on low-income households?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Just before the hon Minister responds, I recognise hon member Stoffel, hon member Van Wyk and hon member Nkondlo, in that order. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Speaker. In terms of the question regarding the corrective action. I mentioned it previously, but I will just repeat it quickly.

20 Municipal councils carry the legal responsibility for approving tariffs as part of the budget process. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon member Van Wyk.

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Minister, given the

fiscal pressures facing municipalities, many of which serve communities living well below the poverty line and who struggle to generate revenue, how is Provincial Treasury supporting municipalities to strengthen governance and financial management so that they can leverage alternative and blended finance options to ease the burden on residents, while safeguarding service delivery?

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Minister.

- 10 The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much. Over and above the MERO publication, over and above the socio-economic profiles that between Department of Local Government and the Provincial Treasury that we publish for municipalities, we also support municipalities through what we call a revenue masterclass, which we host every year.

Not only do we host this revenue masterclass every year, but it has actually expanded to other municipalities in the country, joining our revenue masterclass because they find such good benefit from it.

- 20 We also host the Provincial Governance and Budget Forum, which I chair, with all the MMCs for finance in the Western Cape. Usually it is once a year, but we have introduced a second version for this year, mid-year, because sometimes there is not enough time to go through a lot of the strategic items that municipalities need to raise, and obviously municipalities also have different concerns. You will find different concerns from urban versus rural

areas, as well as those that we consider are trying to get to a sustainability in comparison to those who are focussing on economic growth.

In terms of partnership also with the National Treasury. Recently we also had an annual financial statement workshop with the National Treasury, because the annual financial statement consistency workshops in the Western Cape for our municipalities were going so well, it was an innovation that was previously already introduced, that National Treasury actually asked the Western Cape to roll it out for the whole country.

10

So in partnership with the National Treasury, for the first time ever this year we hosted an annual financial statement consistency workshop for the whole country, and that was even with SAICA involved, SARS was involved, the Auditor-General's office was involved, and I saw recently in last month's National Treasury newsletter quite a nice write-up regarding the Western Cape and this particular workshop, which I really appreciated.

20

It is not always easy, for example, the Financial Management Capability Grant. When municipalities are struggling with a particular tool or with a particular matter, they can also apply either to the Provincial Treasury or to the Department of Local Government for grant funding.

In the Provincial Treasury version of that provincial grant many municipalities have applied for funding for things like smart meters and smart water meters, electricity meters, sometimes for long-term financial

sustainability, sometimes they just need a little bit of money for like a feasibility study for a particular project, sometimes they require funding for IT systems or indigent register systems.

So if it supports your financial sustainability then there are particular criteria, and every year municipalities can apply, and I encourage all municipalities to really apply for these grants that are available to them, including the ones that are also in the Department of Local Government that deal a little bit more with things like infrastructure, because sometimes smaller municipalities particular sometimes just needs that R1 million or R2 million to get them over the line in order to gain more efficiencies, or to be able to increase their revenue in this regard. Thank you.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Nkondlo.

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

20 Within this question, hon Minister, of a crisis of affordability, which you recognise, how, as a Provincial Treasury, are you managing the challenge of municipalities' tariff abuse, which is a matter that even, I think, the Pretoria High Court, I think on a case by citizens through OUTA, have actually dealt with?

Because what you are raising, you speak about cost-reflective, and all of these things, and the reality of the matter is that we are dealing with a middle class which primarily would be contributing to tax revenue of the country, but also that is where in the main you draw the rates and services that municipalities must pay.

So at what point in the cost-reflective principle you are relating to, especially as Treasury, ensuring that these municipalities, when they are taking these decisions, credible and transparent information, particularly to those citizens
10 who are the source of municipalities to pay these types of rates?

So I am interested in understanding that particular quagmire, which is what actually is sitting with the City of Cape Town going into court, especially with that precedent of the Pretoria High Court, because one is not sure who is going to pay if they lose that case. Thanks.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker.

I am not sure whether the case has been heard in the Cape Town High Court.
20 Just to note, the different High Courts in the country deal with their respective jurisdictional areas, and to my knowledge the Pretoria High Court, while High Court judgments can be taken as of persuasive value, it is not something that a different High Court has to implement, unless it goes to a higher High Court.

However, in terms of the City that was referred to specifically, and I just quickly pulled up the application form for when you do your income criteria and indigent relief benefits, as well as rates rebates, as well as an extract from the changes that the City, for example, incorporated post the March budget, and, for example, some of the items that were changed from the original budget to the final budget was in water and sanitation. For example, there was a reduced water fixed basic charge, domestic full and domestic cluster, leading to a reduction of revenue of R110 million in 2025/2026. That will be the impact of their budget, by reducing that, and that was supported

10 from spatial planning environment. There was a top up for R350 000, because they needed that in their particular directorate, and that actually came from one of the Portfolio Committees as recommendations, but that is going to be absorbed from the directorate's current resources and not additional on top of that.

Other changes that were brought into the budget. In the Finance Directorate there was an adjustment of the qualifying income threshold of rates rebates, increasing the maximum gross monthly household income from R22 000 to R27 000. So if you have a household that is up to R27 000, then this is

20 something that you qualify for.

This change was applied to residential property owners who rely on pensions and social grants as their primary source of income, and in addition the City will extend the R435 000 rates rebate to properties with a primary residential value, from R5 million to R7 million. The increase in the rebate thresholds

reduces the revenue across the 2026 MTEF as follow:

- In 2025/2026 it will reduce it by R62,3 million;
- 2026/27 will reduce it by R68 million;
- 2027/28 will reduce by R74,3 million.

And the financial impact in the two outer years will also be funded by reductions on expenditure.

- 10 Further another example is in the Urban Waste Management Directorate. In order to alleviate the financial burden on these residential households, the City proposed a reduction in the citywide cleaning tariff for properties valued at R20 million and below, as well as the implementation of a dedicated pensioner rebate aimed at providing targeted financial relief to senior residents. This will also result in the revenue across the MTEF being reduced by R1,5 billion, R1,6 billion and R1,6 billion in the three different financial years.

- 20 Then another change that was brought in the Water and the Sanitation Directorate, for example, the lower water fixed basic charge for residential properties value bands between the R1 million and R25 million. This will also decrease the City's revenue across the 2026 MTEF as follows: R80 million, R119,1 million and R141,9 million across the three years.

So if you have an income criteria of R7 500 or less, then the list of your

indigent relief benefits include:

- Your 100% rates relief;
 - Your 100% refuse relief;
 - 15 kilolitres free water, which is actually above the National Treasury recommendation. The National Treasury part in this, it is almost more than double what National Treasury puts on the table.
 - It is 10,5 kilolitres of free sewerage removal;
 - Once-off write-off of arrears;
- 10 • Prepaid electricity metre will be installed free of charge;
- Your 25 kilowatts of electricity free units received is between 250 kilowatts per hour and 450 kilowatts per hour and free units, 60 kilowatts per hour of electricity received [1:57:26] [Inaudible 1:57:31]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you able to take your seat? Hon member Nkondlo?

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): On a point of relevance. I am the hon Minister if she wants to refer me to all that information that she is reading, she can
20 actually do that.

My question was how is Provincial Treasury ensuring a reflectiveness of those tariffs that gets to be decided by the municipality, especially in relation to the middle income earners? If the hon Minister does not have the answer she can say she does not. She cannot be reading about indigenous and

everything else.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): She must just refer me. I can read for myself.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Nkondlo, as the Chair I am unable to direct the hon Minister based on the reply that is being delivered in the House. We will allow the hon Minister to continue in this regard.

10

The MINISTER OF FINANCE: Thank you so much, hon Deputy Speaker. Part of the question that was asked to me referenced cleaning levy, and I spoke about the cleaning levy so far.

It referenced the Pretoria High Court. I have spoken about High Court judgments and how it works in South Africa so far.

It spoke about protecting the middle class and I am trying to give the average of income that you qualify for indigenous relief and rebates, as well as
20 previously hon members were asking me who decides on the tariffs, and I specifically twice, hon Deputy Speaker, I said municipal councils carry the legal responsibility for approving tariffs as part of the budget process.

I then spoke about two pages of what DLG, [Inaudible 1:59:12] and Provincial Treasury does in supporting municipalities, but I would like to

also just finish off with the rates rebate that I did not get to, that if you qualify for it.

If your income criteria is between R0 and R27 000 a month, depending on whether you are getting a social grant or if you are 60 years or older and dependent on a pension, then your rates relief, it can go anywhere between 10% up to 100%, depending on the income bracket.

10 So depending on which income criteria that you qualify for, for example, some would argue and many people actually would argue that the income R7 500 will deal with the lower income levels, as well as then others would argue that the R0 to 27 000 a month deals majority with the middle-class.

Despite these particular criteria, hon Deputy Speaker, I also mentioned other reductions that the City had to do on their budget in order to reduce the rates relief in their budget, as well as what the impact on their revenue over three financial years would be.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I hope that is in order. Thank you.

20

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I see no additional follow-up. I will now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Londt.

Master Service Agreement cancellation: SASSA and Postbank

8. Ms A Cassiem asked Mr J J Londt, Minister of Social Development:

Whether his national counterpart has informed him of the termination of the Master Service Agreement between the South African Security Agency (SASSA) and Postbank regarding the distribution of social grants; if so, (a) how will this termination affect grant recipients in the province and (b) what will not be utilised by SASSA to distribute social grants?

10 The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The question was whether the national counterpart has informed us of the termination of the Master Service Agreement between the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and Postbank regarding the distribution of social grants.

Now Minister Sisi Tolashe has not informed me, nor my office, of the MSA between SASSA and Postbank that was terminated.

20 As the hon member is aware, or should be aware, SASSA is a national competency and does not fall under the Western Cape Government. My office has been trying to set up a meeting with the Western Cape SASSA management, as we have built up a good rapport with them and have been meeting every few weeks, but since this announcement we have been unsuccessful thus far to set up a meeting.

We thus do not yet know the impact of the termination on grant recipients in the province, nor what SASSA's contingency plans for the Postbank customers are.

It must be noted that our office regularly receives queries from SASSA beneficiaries concerning fraudulent activity on their Postbank cards, as well as payment-related issues. We hope that SASSA will recommit to more frequent engagements to help us resolve these challenges for the citizens of the Western Cape. Thank you.

10

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister Londt. Recognise the hon member that posed the initial question, hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Mine is very short. Will grant recipients not be prejudiced due to this termination? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Cassiem, are you able to repeat your question? Hon Cassiem? If you are able to unmute. Hon Cassiem, the hon Minister was unable to hear your question. Are you able to repeat? I do not want to take
20 the liberty of attempting to repeat the words verbatim.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, you are younger than me and your hearing should be better than mine. So, I would not mind you trying to interpret because I unfortunately, did not hear anything that hon Cassiem said there.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Also, my ears are a bit bigger. With regards to whether it will prejudice grant recipients. That is what I heard. Did you get the question? It is in the chat. I am unable to see it my side. One moment. Yes.

“Will grant recipients not be prejudiced due to this termination?”

Thank you for the message in the chat, hon Cassiem.

10

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Ja, that is the reason why all the Opposition should be in the House. It just helps with engagement, but we do embrace technology. But no, on a serious note, that is a concern and that is what we, when this confusion about the migration to Postbank happened. That is why we went out to the different service points.

We heard the pleas from those people struggling with the conversion. We took it up with SASSA, we took it up with Postbank because it was the residents of the Western Cape that were suffering, and you cannot just sit
20 back. Even though these entities do not respond and have to report to the Western Cape Government, you have to step in and try and fill in that gap where the communication was not made.

It is a concern now because we need to have a clear understanding of how this will implicate the residents of the Western Cape. We did motivate residents

to do the migration. We encouraged many of them to move to private banking institutions and it seems like those that did that, are now not in a concerning situation as those that migrated to the Postbank cards. But we will continue pushing to get answers so that we can communicate that to the residents in the Western Cape and I do hope that we get that engagement soon.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I will not acknowledge the following person due to the fact that the time has expired. That is the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard.

10

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, in terms of Rule 145, there will now be an opportunity for Members Statements, and I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, just recently a primary school teacher, Denusha Nicholas, faced a nightmare on what should have been a routine Uber trip home after the driver diverted from her destination, locked

20 the doors and said:

“You are going to see what is going to happen.”

Close quote. She made a terrifying decision to jump out of the moving vehicle to save herself. The person driving was the not the same as the one in

the photo on the App. The person whose picture is on the App is registered with Uber but had allowed his brother to do the trips. Police have since opened an attempted kidnapping case.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this incident highlights the urgent need for proper safety measures in the e-hailing industry. †Sinegunya lokuhamba ngokukhululekileyo nangokuseleko. [We have a right to travel freely and secured.] Yet concerns about hijacking, robberies, fake driver profiles and dangerous pick-up zones continue to rise. Safety is a two-way street.

10 Commuters are at risk and so, too, are drivers. There are fake driver accounts, passengers targeting drivers and scams involving untraceable profiles. Tragically, a Cape Town Uber driver was killed after being mistaken for a criminal whilst waiting for a passenger.

Hon Deputy Speaker, criminal checks, licence checks and verification that the person driving matches the registered profile must be non-negotiable. †Ukhuseleko phambi kwenzuzo. Safety before profit.

The Western Cape Provincial Department of Mobility, all the municipalities

20 and the National Government as a regulator and also, the ones who are providing licences. It is urgent for them to expedite the e-hailing regulations so that the people can be safe. We call upon Uber, BOLT, and InDriver including the Western Cape e-Hailing Association to make sure that people are safe and also to improve the oversight, accountability and the safety of the people. But this case does show us the time for half measures is over.

†Abantu funeka bekhuselekile. Our people need safety now. Our people need safety now. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Mbombo. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the rising number of young people in our province who are classified as not in employment, not in education and not in training is deeply concerning. According to the latest Quarterly Labour Force Survey for
 10 Quarter 2 2025, there are about 3,6 million young South Africans between the ages of 15 to 24 years in this category, which amounts to about 35,2% of this age group.

This trend has long-term implications for poverty, inequality and social stability. In the Western Cape the picture is particularly troubling. In the City of Cape Town, there are about 112 327 young males and 94 798 young females classified as ‘neat’. In the non-metro areas of the province, we see about 82 116 males and 71 618 females falling into this category. Collectively, this amounts to more than 360 000 young people in the Western
 20 Cape who are disconnected from both the labour market and education.

These figures are not just statistics. They represent the lived reality of thousands of young people across the province. In Cape Town’s townships and rural towns alike, young people are left without opportunities, stuck in cycles of poverty and despair. For young women, the situation is

compounded by gender barriers such as childcare responsibilities and safety concerns, further limiting their access to training and work. The National Youth Policy of the country mandates national, provincial and local governments to ensure the integrated and mainstream youth development to directly respond to the challenges of young people and budget in accordance.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC reiterates its concern that the Provincial Government's interventions are not matching the scale of this crisis. We need bold and targeted action that reaches both urban and rural youth, ensures
 10 gender sensitive approaches and builds meaningful pathways into education, skills and employment. Anything less risks condemning a generation to hopelessness and instability. Thank you so much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Nkondlo. Before I recognise the following political party, I think hon members within this chamber will appreciate me welcoming Advocate Maasdorp to the Table Staff. This is his first sitting, and he has been appointed as Manager Plenary Services. Welcome Advocate. ...[Applause.]

20 I now recognise the Patriotic Alliance.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker and hon members of this House. Hon Deputy Speaker, yesterday, the Standing Committee for Mobility engaged with Golden Arrow Bus Services and while we appreciate the input, serious concerns remain, concerns that affect the

daily lives of thousands of residents. Golden Arrow admitted that the reason behind the low allocation of busses to the northern parts of Cape Town, is funding and budget limitations. Yet, these same limitations have not stopped the Southern Suburbs from enjoying a far larger allocation of busses every single day.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is deeply troubling because the bulk of public transport users come from the Northern Suburbs to areas where taxis are unsafe, unreliable and where PRASA's train services are still not fully operational as they once were. We are, in fact, placing the greatest burden on the communities who need safe, affordable transport the most.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the same pattern is evident with the MyCiTi bus services. This system has been in place for years and while it is proven effective, it still only serves limited parts of Cape Town. If the reason once again is budget, then surely, we must rethink our priorities. Why should only some communities have access to efficient public transport while others are left behind? Expanding MyCiTi across the city is not a luxury, it is a necessity.

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Then, there is the GoGeorge system. We need clarity. Is this a municipal or provincial initiative and if it can be implemented successfully in George, why not in other towns and regions across our province? Why are the people of the other parts of the Garden Route, including another five regions within the Western Cape, not afforded the same dignity of access?

Hon Deputy Speaker, our people are struggling financially. They are facing economic hardships that make every Rand count. Public transport should not be a struggle; it should be a solution. If we can ease their journeys to and from work, we are not just improving transport, we are improving livelihoods, opportunities and safety. Safeguarding communities at the same time in its current chaos.

I therefore urge the Department of Mobility: please make more money
 10 available. Prioritise ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude, hon member.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): ...transport routes and services where they are needed. Expand Golden Arrow allocations, expand MyCiTi in Cape Town. Our people deserve nothing less than fair, safe and reliable public transport. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon member. I recognise the
 20 DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, on 8 September, a powerful act of hope took place in the face of a national crisis. As the newest class of Gender-Based Violence Ambassadors, 138 dedicated volunteers from across the Cape Metro were inducted. This is the Western Cape's 13th such

programme and its work has never been more critical.

The statistics we face are not just numbers: they are a national emergency. Over 198 000 GBV cases reported nationally with Gauteng at 63 000. Here, in our home, the Western Cape, over 43 000 reported cases. Each number represents a person living in fear, in pain and in silence.

This is where our ambassadors step in. They are the frontline of our community-led response. They are the neighbours, the community leaders,
10 the everyday heroes who are trained to break that silence. Their role is multifaceted and vital. They are listeners in a world that is too often ignoring a cry for help. They are guides connecting survivors to shelters, legal aid and counselling. They are educators challenging harmful norms in their own communities and teaching that violence is never a choice.

So, today, we do more than just note their induction. We honour their courage, we commit to supporting them and we call on every citizen to see themselves as part of the solution to report abuse, to challenge sexism and to support the ambassadors who are lighting candles of hope against a very dark
20 tide. They are not just volunteers. They are the guardians of our collective conscience. I thank you.

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

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): The EFF would like to take this opportunity and

condemn the DA-led City of Cape Town over the continued closure of Philippi's Brown's Library. The library continued to be closed since 7 August 2023, after it was vandalised during a taxi strike which was subsequently overtaken by thugs who looted and damaged the library, which includes the damage of books, computers, windows, doors, ceilings, as well as electrical infrastructure.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the City of Cape Town has since been dragging its feet when it comes to fixing the library and often citing budgetary constraints as
10 the main reason as to why it cannot commence with repairs, despite its claims that it is committed to progressing with the work. Before its closure, the library was mainly used by learners, students, community civil organisations, as well as the general public for study purposes, as well as for research. The length of its closure, coupled with the lack of any progress at the site, is causing frustration among residents and the community who regularly used the library in the past.

Moreover, what makes things worse is that the nearest library for the community is kilometres away in Crossroads and it costs one about R20 per
20 day for a round trip, which is not affordable for most learners and the majority of unemployed residents. The reason why there is no progress attempt or a will to fix the damages in this library is because the affected users are from a Black community. So, a White DA-led city like the City of Cape Town, has no desire nor will, to serve our Black communities because they only recognise Black people when it is time for elections.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Black people have been oppressed for a very long time as the city should have long placed security in this library since it is not the first time it was vandalised by thugs. But due to the fact that they do not care about anything happening in Black communities, there can never be an attempt nor a will on their part to safeguard these resources.

In conclusion, hon Deputy Speaker, the EFF calls upon this DA to fix the Brown's Farm Library as a matter of urgency. The people are not asking for a
 10 favour from this DA-led Municipality, they are demanding that they use public funds to do what is right and to benefit the people in the community. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, hon fellow members, I rise to express my deep outrage at the Western Cape Government's self-serving regressive legal challenge to the National Health Insurance Act. On
 20 2 September 2025, they filed papers in the Constitutional Court to baffle a law aimed at guaranteeing the fundamental rights to healthcare, labelling the NHI process as 'rushed through with no meaningful public participation'.

This decision by hon Mr Winde and his Government is a disgraceful, apartheid apologist move and an affront to transformation and betrayal of democratic values. At a time when our people are hurting, forced to spend

days sleeping on the floors in our hospitals and at a time when our hospitals are faced with huge staff shortages, this Government dedicates scarce taxpayers' money to litigation, rather than healing citizens. Their action reveals contempt for both sound financial management and social justice.

Let us not mince words about solidarity and other reactionary organisations challenging the NHI. These are backward, anti-transformation spoilers fuelled by self-interest. They have launched court battles to dismantle pieces of the National Health Act, targeting sections governing doctors' freedom and
10 access, instead of aiding equitable healthcare.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

Hon Speaker, such resistance from allied and privileged institutions only perpetuates inequality. It is disgraceful that in 2025, part of our society still fights against progressive health for reform. The ANC caucus stands firm and says: these 'regressive' must be called out for wasting taxpayers' money, undermining transformation and echoing apartheid exclusion. The NHI Act must proceed as our people deserve nothing less ...[Interjection.]

20

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please conclude.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): I thank you.

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

Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): Hon Speaker, it is widely accepted that South Africa has experienced a remarkable deterioration in economic growth between 2005 and 2025, with annual growth falling from 4% to almost zero over a few years. In a research note published last week by the Bureau for Economic Researchers, Impumelelo Economic Growth Lab, they have analysed how productivity has shrunk, and investment stagnated. They have focused on how growth can be restored through cutting red tape, providing political certainty and driving faster progress on other structural reforms to reignite growth.

10

As hon members of the Provincial Parliament, we experience on a daily basis the levels of unemployment, poverty, the lack of safety and the increasing state of crime. Impumelelo stresses that investment needs to be reignited to unlock growth. Structural reforms are not progressing fast enough. The immediate focus should be on fundamentally restructuring State-Owned Enterprises. Progress has been slow with Eskom not yet unbundled and needing a viable business model. An independent power transmission programme will improve investment.

20

Transnet is making some progress with 11 successful private sector bidders for rail concessions. Increased capacity for ports and 60 million extra tons for the rail freight sector through new investments of R100- to R200 billion will boost export capacity. Water reforms are also needed through private investments of R100 billion in water infrastructure at a municipal level. It is

vital that local government capacity and capabilities are strengthened.

While some 2% growth is expected over the next two to three years, growth could possibly rise towards 3% within five years. The reform process remains very slow and needs to accelerate. From a Western Cape perspective, our ambitions would be to ...[Interjection.]

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

10 Mr L D VAN WYK (DA): ...progress faster so that our citizens can improve their lived experience through skill development ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, as we commemorate Heritage Month and in the next few weeks, Heritage Day on 24 September, we are also in the midst of a season of new beginnings, a season of Spring when new flowers are blooming at botanical gardens. A remarkable beauty to
20 observe.

But hon Speaker, politically speaking, we still have a long way to go to promote our cultural diversity, to promote linguistic diversity and religious diversity. The National Constitution places a high value on our freedom of expression in Section 15, and our freedom of conscience, religion, thought

and opinion in Section 16.

The Freedom Front Plus calls for tolerance during this month where we commemorate our differences, our religious differences, cultural differences. That our diversity can become a national strength if we recognise our common humanity and embrace the values of our Constitution. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

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Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, *Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim*. I would like to remind the House that 6 to 12 September marks BC week in commemoration of the killing and detention of the Black consciousness leader, Steve Bantu Biko. As a result of brutal torture by the apartheid security branch members, Biko succumbed to his injuries on 12 September 1977.

20

The Al Jama-ah party is disturbed by yesterday's stabbing of four learners at the A.Z. Berman High School in Mitchells Plain by an 18-year-old Grade 10 learner. The four learners were stabbed with a screwdriver. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Exactly two years ago, the lobby group Equal Education warned the Western Cape Education Department that schools in the province are struggling with safety issues. Their findings on social ills plaguing learners at schools were

based on inspections at 40 Cape Town schools across different districts. Today, learner safety in the Western Cape continues to be under threat with gang violence, alcohol and drug abuse. According to Equal Education, these are major contributing factors for violence at schools.

The EE then revealed that they found drug use was prevalent at 85% of the schools they visited, and alcohol was used at more than half of the schools they visited. More or less during that same time, the province admitted that there were more drug dens than schools in the Western Cape. Drug dens and
10 shebeens are also in close proximity to schools, places of worship and the isolated recreational facilities.

The Province has no political will to shut down the drug dens because they want to keep vulnerable communities in their state of ...[Interjection.]

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): ...and intoxication. The dop system is illegal although still underhandedly taking place. I thank you very much, hon
20 Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, there is a proliferation of illegal firearms on the Cape Flats resulting in widespread shooting and killing. Shooting and killing in the month of August resulted in 130 people dying. During the five-month period of this year, 63 children and teenagers died from gunshot wounds.

Well, hon Speaker, this is concerning because we know, as I said last week in
10 the House, that in Mitchells Plain, in Mitchells Plain, 15 000 rounds of ammunition were confiscated with 19 guns, but during the intelligence-driven raid in Bellville South and Stikland, law enforcement officers confiscated three AK-47s, one R 5 rifle, [Audio distorted. – 2:28:22] and a hand grenade.

Hon Speaker, this is serious stuff. It seems to us that the Cape Flats is in a war and to take it even further, now we read in the paper that the Namibian Police Force has investigated the smuggling of Namibian state weapons that end up in the Western Cape. This is shocking, hon Speaker. Our people are dying day in and day out with firearms, not even pistols or revolvers, but AK-
20 47s, rifles, hand grenades, Uzzis floating around in gangster's hands and this must stop. My plea to the public is: if you know about gangsters hiding firearms, please report it to SAPS. It must come to an end. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, a recent surge in the number of gang-related crimes led to a flurry of pronouncements by the top police brass this week, including an admission by the Acting Minister that there is no coherent plan to stop it. What was strikingly absent was any discussion about addressing dysfunctional social environments. The level of dysfunctionality was recently illustrated by an MP who felt it necessary to carry a gun on an oversight visit to a Cape Town township and was then called on to use it when his car came under attack. On social media,

10 someone identifying as ‘George’ said,

“If you think you can drive around in a Black area without your weapon, you are surely the dumbest idiot on earth.”

Last week, the global initiative against transnational crime published its quarterly Western Cape Gang Monitor. It highlighted the frequency of gang-related murders in the province from 2020, with the number of deaths more than doubling from 422 in 2020 to 872 in 2024, with 2025 continuing the upward trend. The report noted that the fragmentation of the province’s

20 gangs has increased significantly with the number of gangs constantly influx.

The idea that it is the police who should bear responsibility for this mess is a political charade favoured by the Western Cape Government. The role of the police is to prevent crime through intelligence gathering and community engagement and to arrest criminals, but it is society’s role to develop

children, steer them through difficult social circumstances and create opportunities that reduce the allure of associating with criminals.

In Cape Town, a teenager from the suburbs who experiments with drugs or develops a taste for alcohol, is often identified at school which triggers interventions to get back on track. A similarly experimental teenager from the Cape Flats is more likely to become a crime statistic. Sure, we need better policing, but so too, must the State, including the Province, deliver on its constitutional obligations to develop children ...[Interjection.]

10

The SPEAKER: Hon Herron, please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ...and better prospects. Thank you.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, it is the oldest trick in the ANC playbook, to distract from the facts, emotionally charge such a distraction and repeat the lie as much as possible to the truth can be avoided. In this regard,

20 they are continuously and consciously blaming the Western Cape Government for their own historic failures at a national level over the last 30 years.

This is not just political spin, it is not just the shameless act of deceit, it is not just a deliberate propaganda attempt to misinform the public about their own collapse elsewhere. In truth, it represents a poverty of ideas, a

collapsing organisation desperately trying to gain time in the hopes that they can fool the voters that they betrayed. They know the national mandates, but they rely on the public not to.

So, let us be perfectly clear. When crime ravages our communities, they blame this Province, but policing is a national mandate. The SAPS is theirs and their failure and national murder rate that has sky-rocketed while they underfund and understaff police stations right here in the Western Cape. They criticise healthcare, but public health is their mandate to fund and regulate,
10 and their failure, a province like ours which runs a world class HIV programme and manages over 70% of the country's trauma cases, is hamstrung by their chronic underfunding and dysfunctional National Health Insurance proposals.

They create the queues at SASSA grant offices as we just heard and the dysfunctional bankrupt municipalities, they created under their own feeding administrations and then have the audacity to point fingers at the Provincial Government. In truth, they should not be blaming the Western Cape when this Province picks up the pieces. They should be praising this DA-led
20 Government for picking up the pieces. We are doing their job ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon member, please conclude. Your time has expired.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...the people see through their deception, and they

are grateful that at least one corner of this country ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): ...is actually working for them.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon members, that brings us to the end of Members Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more hon members of the Executive present an opportunity to respond to Members
10 Statements for not more than five minutes collectively if they so wish. I recognise the hon Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, hon Speaker. I would like to be absolutely clear. The Western Cape Government's legal action in the Constitutional Court is not against healthcare reform, nor is it against universal healthcare. It is against the failure of the National Council of Provinces to meaningfully involve the people of the Western Cape in the passage of the NHI Bill. Meaningful public participation should be close to the heart of every hon member in this House, and we should reject lip service
20 to the lawmaking process.

NHI is one of the most significant and controversial statutes in our democratic history and involves a complex restructuring of healthcare services, including those services provided by provincial governments. It directly implicates a fundamental human right, the right to access healthcare,

and therefore required extensive and genuine public participation. Instead, it was rushed through and in doing so, denied the people of the Western Cape their rightful voice in shaping a law that will have profound consequences for their lives.

This, hon Speaker, is about principle. It is about protecting the constitutional role of this House and ensuring the rights of our citizens are respected in the lawmaking process. If we are talking about wasting money on litigation, perhaps the hon member should speak to her caucus colleagues who have no
10 less than 12 advocates, 12 advocates employed to defend the NHI.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, are you? Yes, the hon Minister has concluded. I recognise the hon Minister of Education, hon Minister Maynier.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. On the very serious incident at A.Z. Berman High School, I want to assure the House that a Grade 10 learner was immediately suspended, pending disciplinary action. The injured learners received medical attention and as well as counselling from a social worker. Those learners who witnessed the incident are also
20 being provided with the necessary support, including counselling. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any further hon Ministers that want to make a submission? If not, that concludes Executive Statements.

MOTIONS

The SPEAKER: We now move on to Notices of Motions in terms of Rule 151. In terms of Rule 151, all notices of motions by hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

10 Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I move without notice:

That the House debates the urgent need for an Orderly Urbanisation Plan for the Western Cape, as a response to the many challenges due to rapid in-migration to this province.

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

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

20 That the House debates the smuggling of illegal firearms from Namibia and their supply into the Western Cape.

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

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

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.]

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

10 That the House debates the challenges relating to the conservation of endangered plant and animal species in the Western Cape, and the measures required to strengthen biodiversity protection and habitat preservation across the province.

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

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

20 That the House debates the impact of inefficiency and underperforming national departments on the Western Cape.

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

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

That this House debates the failure of the National Government to

adequately address the systemic issues that are leading to spate of child killings.

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

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

That the House debates the consequences of continued understaffing at SAPS precincts across the province.

10

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

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

That the House debates the impact of reduced funding to national sport federations and how this affects grassroots sporting codes.

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

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

That the House debates the feasibility of the implementation of the National Health Insurance (NHI) and its impact on the most vulnerable in the province.

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

The SPEAKER: We now move onto Motions without Notice 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 and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 9 September 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

10

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 9 September 2025, political parties submitted the names of 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 purpose of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority as follows: hon A P Bans, hon B Ngqentsu, hon M L
 20 Sayed, hon R Windvogel, hon N P Masipa, hon N P Masipa, hon B M van Minnen, hon B M van Minnen, hon B M van Minnen, hon B M van Minnen, hon P Johnson, hon P Johnson, hon N Mbombo, hon P Johnson, hon P Johnson, hon N P Masipa.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

That the House notes with profound sadness the tragic passing away of Mr Sihle Somdaka, a talented executive sous-chef from Cape Town, who lost his life in a heartbreaking electric buggy accident on Richard Branson's Necker Island in the British Virgin Islands; and extends its heartfelt condolences to the Somdaka family.

10

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with profound sadness and outrage the brutal murder of Constable Courtlin Lakay (23) who was stationed at the Beaufort West Police Station; and extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues as they mourn the tragic loss of a young man who dedicated his life to serving and protecting his community.

20

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates the Western Cape's outstanding performance at the 11th National Education Excellence Awards held on 3 September 2025; notes that special praise goes to the Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof, Rhenish Girls' High School and Rustenburg Girls' High School for securing the top three positions nationally in the Quintile 5 category, an exceptional achievement; commends the Vredendal-Noord Primêre Skool for winning the award for best-maintained primary school facilities; notes that recognition is due to our top-performing districts, including Cape Winelands, Metro Central, Eden and Central Karoo, and

10 Metro North, with the province securing 21 number-one awards overall; notes that these achievements reflect the dedication of our learners, educators and communities; and reaffirms its support for excellence in education across the province.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

20 That the House notes and congratulates Cassidy Hendricks, a 10-year-old reading prodigy from Lotus River, currently in Grade 4, who has been selected as the sole finalist representing the Western Cape at the South African Literacy Association's annual reading competition, a remarkable achievement reflecting her extraordinary literary talent and dedication; commends Cassidy's exceptional achievements and poised representation of the Western Cape; and notes that her intellectual curiosity, humility

and devotion to reading truly embody the Province's commitment to nurturing excellence in education and the arts.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

10 That the House congratulates Lindsey Concer, Head of Fundraising at the Animal Rescue Organisation (ARO), for her exceptional dedication to animal welfare and advocacy; notes her inspiring work as a leading voice in combating animal neglect and abuse, including spearheading the ARO's fundraising drive for a new mobile veterinary clinic; further acknowledges the tireless efforts of the entire ARO team and its volunteers who work every day to prevent suffering through community outreach, education and vital veterinary care, often in challenging circumstances; and recognises that their work not only protects vulnerable animals, but also uplifts communities, setting an example of compassion, resilience, and collaboration.

20 *[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Abdul-Khalid Alexander of Kensington for representing South Africa with distinction during an international soccer

tour to Sweden where he scored 26 goals and helped his team to win the Piteå Summer Games and to finish second in the Storsjöcupen international youth tournament; further acknowledges his dedication to balancing sport and academics, as well as the inspiration he provides to young people through his hard work and determination; and recognises the role of Life Zone Soccer International and its founder, coaches and volunteers for creating opportunities that transform the lives of young players through sport and life skills development.

10 *[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House expresses its condolences after the tragic passing away of Mr Hilton Williams, one of two taxi drivers fatally shot in separate incidents in the Helderberg area, as taxi-related violence reached a deadly climax; notes that the escalating conflict stems from an ongoing and deadly feud between rival taxi associations, Cata and Codeta, over lucrative routes connecting Somerset West, Lwandle, Mfuleni and
 20 Khayelitsha; acknowledges Mr Williams' reputation as a loving and caring individual whose legacy will live on through his family; further notes that he is survived by his wife, two children, five grandchildren and his elderly mother who is deeply devastated by the loss of her son; and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the Williams family, friends and the wider community affected by this senseless violence.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Zola Budd on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 18th Annual Sports Awards; further recognises all the nominees and winners from the Western Cape whose excellence they represent; and expresses gratitude for their invaluable contribution
10 to sport, both on and off the field.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Busamed Paardevlei Private Hospital in Somerset West on establishing itself as a leading cardiology facility, significantly transforming healthcare accessibility in the Helderberg region through the provision of world-class care; welcomes the
20 hospital's latest milestone – the introduction of a specialised electrophysiological service led by cardiologist and electrophysiologist Dr Charle Viljoen; notes that electrophysiology is a critical field focused on diagnosing and treating disorders of the heart's electrical system, which governs the synchronisation of each heartbeat; acknowledges that the availability of this state-of-the-art technology represents a major

advancement in local healthcare, bringing cutting-edge cardiac services in line with international standards to the doorstep of the Helderberg community; and commends the hospital and Dr Viljoen for their commitment to medical innovation and improved patient outcomes in the region.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

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That the House congratulates 17-year-old Ryan Ferus from Macassar whose passion for sport has taken him from the streets of his community to the international touch rugby fields of Ireland; notes that Ferus represented South Africa in the mixed under 18 division at the 2025 Atlantic Youth Touch Cup held in Limerick, Ireland, from Thursday 31 July to Sunday 3 August 2025; acknowledges his contribution in helping the SA TouchBoks team secure a sixth-place finish among eight competing nations; further notes the dedication, sacrifice and determination Ryan displayed over 11 months of intense training and preparation to earn his place in the national team; commends him as a

20 role model to young people in Macassar and beyond; and encourages continued support for youth sport development across all communities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the All Saints Rugby Football Club on its 80th anniversary, celebrated with a spirited derby match against Macassar RFC on Saturday 30 August 2025 at the Helderzicht sport ground; notes that the sunny weather provided perfect conditions for a fast-paced and physical encounter, showcasing the talent and sportsmanship of both teams; acknowledges that, despite resting several key players ahead of the upcoming Super League C semi-finals, the All Saints RFC delivered a competitive performance against their Super League B opponents, with the match ending 7–17 in favour of Macassar RFC; further notes that the fixture served as an important warm-up for the “Olla Boys” as they prepare for their crucial Super League C semi-final scheduled for Saturday 13 September at City Park against an opponent yet to be determined; wishes the All Saints RFC team success in their upcoming semi-final; and commends both clubs for their continued contribution to community sport and youth development in the region.

20 *[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]*

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

That the House congratulates the Point High School on becoming a cellphone-free school as of 3 September 2025; notes that the School

Governing Body and management team have introduced a policy requiring learners to hand in their cell phones during registration and to collect them only at the end of the school day; acknowledges that this initiative will strengthen academic focus, promote social interaction and protect the mental health of learners by reducing distractions, screen time and social pressure; further notes that research confirms the negative impact of cellphone use on learning and social connection during school hours; commends the Point High School for creating an environment that prioritises academic excellence, balance and overall well-being; and calls on other schools across the province to consider similar policies in order to foster healthier and more focused learning environments for all learners.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the learners and teachers who participated in the WCED's Provincial Skills Competition held in Bellville this past weekend, and in particular applauds the two Grade 11 learners from the Beaufort West Secondary School who took first and third place in the Civil Services category; commends the WCED for promoting technical and vocational excellence, especially among rural learners; and wishes our winners every success as they represent the Western Cape at the Interprovincial Skills Competition in Johannesburg next month.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N MBOMBO (DA): I move without notice:

That the House conveys its heartfelt condolences after the passing away of Mr Mark Llewellyn Wilkin, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director of Golden Arrow Bus Services, who dedicated 42 years of service to the company and played a pivotal role in the growth and transformation of the company and the transport sector; extends
10 sympathy to his family, colleagues and loved ones; and honours his legacy of leadership and commitment.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Montana Primary School in Kalksteengefontein on the opening of its new library; extends sincere
20 gratitude to The Bookery and all partners involved in creating this beautiful space; and notes that this new library will inspire a love for reading, provide learners with opportunities to broaden their horizons and serve as a beacon of hope and learning for the community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Hoër Meisieskool Bloemhof in Stellenbosch on being named, for the second consecutive year, by the national Department of Basic Education as the Best Quintile 5 High School in South Africa; notes that this recognition reflects the school's consistent academic excellence, the dedication of its teachers and the commitment of its learners; and extends best wishes to the school
10 community as they continue to inspire educational achievement and pride in the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Swartland Show in Moorreesburg on celebrating its 91st year; notes that the show remains one the farmers' largest agricultural exhibitions in the Western Cape, drawing thousands
20 of visitors annually; commends the organisers, farmers, businesses and the community for their dedication to showcasing the best of agriculture and rural life; further acknowledges that farmers are the backbone of food security; and welcomes the continued support of both the private sector and the government in sustaining this vital industry.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections? 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 hon member had read them aloud.

I will now afford the opportunity to hon members to move Motions without
 10 Notice as per Standing Rule of 150(3)(d). This could include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Hon members, I wish to remind you that 30 minutes are allocated as per Standing Rule 150(3)(d), and it will start now. I recognise the hon Constable.

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep concern the recent incident at the Stellenbosch Municipality, where a senior Human Resources manager
 20 allegedly made racist remarks directed at White employees; further expresses that such behaviour is completely unacceptable, divisive, and contrary to the values of equality, respect, and non-racialism enshrined in our Constitution; recognises that no form of racism should ever be tolerated in any workplace, least of all in a municipality that is meant to serve all residents with fairness and dignity; and calls for the immediate

disciplinary process according to the Code of Conduct of the said official pending a full and transparent investigation, and for serious action to be taken to ensure accountability and to send a clear message that racism in any form will not be condoned in our institutions. I so move. Thank you, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I hereby move without notice:

That this House notes the critical importance of conserving the renosterveld, one of the most threatened and fragmented ecosystems in the Western Cape, of which only 5% of its historic range remains; further notes that the renosterveld is home to unique biodiversity,
 20 including the critically endangered geometric tortoise which is endemic to this region; affirms this House's commitment to supporting efforts that protect and restore the renosterveld and ensure the survival of endangered species that depend on it. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, the ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Van Minnen, we, on the list provided to me by the Programming Authority, I have got hon Kaizer-Philander.

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Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon member Kaizer-Philander is currently in a meeting and has requested me to move her motion for her, if I may do so.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA) (On behalf of Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER):
Thank you very much. I hereby move without notice:

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That the House notes that on 8 September 2025, 138 dedicated volunteers from across the Cape Metro were inducted as the newest class of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Ambassadors as part of the Western Cape's 13th GBV Ambassador Programme; further notes that these volunteers have answered the call to stand up against GBV in their communities, contributing meaningfully to prevention, advocacy, and support efforts; acknowledges the success and sustainability of the Western Cape GBV

Ambassador model in mobilising communities and creating localised responses to GBV; and encourages other provinces to consider adopting or adapting the Western Cape's GBV Ambassador Programme as a proactive community-based model to help curb the spread of gender-based violence. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Mr N P MASIPA (DA): Hon Speaker, I move on behalf of the Democratic Alliance without notice:

That this House notes that the Western Cape Blood Service has launched
 a Heritage Month campaign under the theme 'Giving Is in My Blood:
 make blood donation part of your heritage'. This initiative reminds us
 that there is no substitute for blood. It is a selfless act that saves lives
 20 and supports families. As the festive season approaches, with increased
 accidents and emergencies, it is critical that our blood banks remain
 strong. I therefore call on all hon members of this House to lead from
 the front by donating blood and by urging our communities to participate
 in this life-saving campaign. Blood donation takes just 30 minutes, yet
 one donation can save up to three lives. The Western Cape Blood

Service has even created the Extra Drop initiative, where donors may choose to forgo their gift in favour of contributing R15 to the South African Bone Marrow Registry, extending the reach of their generosity.

I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I
10 recognise the hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Hon Speaker, I move without notice on behalf of the African National Congress:

That this House welcomes the firm commitment made by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, to continue fighting Israel's ongoing genocidal actions against the Palestinian people at the International Court of Justice; further notes that South Africa, having endured the brutalities of apartheid, carries both a moral and
20 historical duty to stand with oppressed peoples across the world; welcomes Minister Lamola's strong and principled stance on the global stage, which reinforces our country's leadership in the fight for human rights, justice, and the rule of international law; acknowledges that this unwavering position reflects the enduring values of the liberation movement and the spirit of solidarity that defined South Africa's own

struggle; calls on all sectors of South African society, including this Provincial Government to support the National Government's efforts at the World Court and to intensify solidarity with the people of Palestine until their freedom, dignity, and self-determination are achieved; further welcomes the upcoming mass march for Palestine, to be held on 27 September 2025, from Muir Street to Parliament in Cape Town, organised by a broad coalition of political and civil society organisations; and urges residents of the Western Cape to attend this historic march in large numbers. I so move.

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[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. There is an objection to the motion being moved without notice and also, the motion violates Rule 148, as well as Rule 152(a).

20 The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. So, there is an objection ...[Interjections.] Order, order. There is an objection, so the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. That was the first objection. Then, the Chief Whip is rising on?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Both Rule 152 as well as Rule 158, 148. Sorry, hon

Speaker. Rule 152 expressly states that Motions without Notice are limited to condolences and congratulations that may not cause controversy. That motion clearly does. Rule 148 read with the Provincial Constitution, requires that a motion must be capable of expressing a decision of this House within its constitutional mandate. Foreign Affairs, as argued by the hon member himself in this House, is not a competency of this Provincial Government or this Provincial Parliament as per the Constitution and our Rules.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. [Interjections.] Order!

10 [Interjections.] Order, order! There was an objection, so the motion will be printed on the Order Paper.

Then, there was a point of order. I will consult the Table Staff and if need be, I will come back to the House, but the ...[Interjections.] Order! I have, in the interest of moving forward, I have put the motion to the House. The House has objected to the motion, and we will come back if there is a different ruling to that point of order. I recognise the hon Sayed.

Mr M K SAYED (ANC): Hon Speaker, I move without notice:

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That the House notes with concern the ongoing plight of the residents of the Freedom Park informal settlement in Greyton, under the Theewaterskloof Municipality, who are facing threats of eviction and the continued denial of basic services such as water and sanitation, which are fundamental human rights; the House notes further that many of the

residents of Freedom Park are vulnerable, including elderly people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who are being forced to live without dignified access to sanitation, and who face intimidation from municipal officials rather than support; that the House further notes that the land currently occupied by Freedom Park residents, Erf 595, belongs to the Theewaterskloof Municipality, and had previously been identified and approved for the relocation of Madiba Park residents, but that the DA-led coalition in Theewaterskloof Municipality has refused to implement the decision since it took over, leaving residents in a state of insecurity and hardship; that the House acknowledges that yesterday, a delegation of the ANC visited the community of Freedom Park to engage residents and reaffirm their commitment to upholding their rights and dignity; that the House resolves to condemn any unlawful evictions, to call on the Theewaterskloof Municipality to immediately provide basic services such as water and sanitation to Freedom Park residents, and to ensure that the Council's previous decision on the relocation of informal settlement residents is implemented in a fair, transparent, and just manner. I so move. I wait for objections. Thank you.

20 *[Motion as moved by Member.]*

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Let me first put the motion to the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection!

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

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

That the House notes ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Honourable, please take your seat. Hon Leader of the
10 Opposition, is that a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Speaker. Before the hon Ngqentsu starts, a point of order is on the members. They objected but did not again say I am violating Rules because this motion was very similar to the one I did previously. So, here was also, in their understanding of Rules, that should also have then been a violation. But it is fine, thank you.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon Ngqentsu, you may. Sorry.
20 Hon Walters, is that a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Speaker, I believe that he possibly raised a point of order on himself. Perhaps you should make a ruling.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Hon members, we are nearly at

the end of this Sitting. Hon Ngqentsu, you may continue.

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

10 That the House notes with grave concern the ongoing crisis of violent crime in the Western Cape, which continues to claim innocent lives, destabilise communities, and erode the sense of safety and security that all residents are entitled to; further notes that the Western Cape remains one of the most affected provinces in the country, with gang violence, drug-related crime, and violent shootings having reached alarming levels; welcomes the recent political engagement between ANC structures in Cape Town and the Acting Minister of Police, Professor Firoz Cachalia, where the urgent matter of violent crime in the province was discussed; recognises that this dialogue marks a crucial step towards building collaborative and people-centred solutions, ensuring that the perspectives of communities, structures of the ANC, and the caucus are part of the national discourse on policing and safety; acknowledges the ANC caucus in the Western Cape Provincial Legislature for its proactive contribution in these discussions, bringing forward the lived experiences
20 of communities and championing the urgent need for decisive intervention. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, are there any

objections to the motion being moved without notice?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. [Interjections.] Order, hon members. There was an objection. There is no need for a debate. Hon Ngqentsu, the next one.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): †Ithini ifarm boy? [What does the farm boy
10 say?] I move without notice:

The House notes with grave concern and condemns the alarming spike in violent crime in poor and working-class communities of the Western Cape, particularly in Kraaifontein, where six people, including four women, were brutally murdered within 24 hours; further notes and commends the South African Police Service for the swift and decisive action that led to the arrest of a 49-year-old suspect linked to the Kraaifontein mass shooting, and for the recovery of the illegal firearm believed to have been used in the commission of this heinous crime;
20 acknowledges that this important breakthrough, achieved through diligent investigation and an unwavering commitment to public safety, highlights the professionalism, tenacity, and resolve of our law enforcement officers in the face of rising gang-related violence across the province; further applauds the collaborative efforts of SAPS and Crime Intelligence, whose coordinated work restored hope to a

community gripped by fear; calls for the continued deployment of intelligence-led policing strategies, along with strengthened support for frontline officers, and urges the Minister of Police to ensure that SAPS in the Western Cape is provided with the necessary resources, training, and investigative tools to sustain this level of performance, not only to apprehend perpetrators, but to prevent future tragedies and affirm the rule of law in our province. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): †Mablukhwe anzima yima. [Heavy pants, wait.]
I without notice:

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That the House expresses outrage at the gang-related shooting outside the Athlone Magistrate's Court, where a man was brutally gunned down, hon MEC, reigniting fears of revenge attacks and escalating violence in our communities; notes that this tragic incident is yet another stark reminder of the DA-led Provincial Government's failure to protect citizens, maintain law and order, and provide even the most basic security in high-risk areas; further notes with deep concern that, while residents live in constant fear of gang retaliation, our courts which are

supposed to be bastions of justice, have themselves become dangerous zones under DA mismanagement; welcomes the swift arrest of a suspect in relation to this killing, and commends the SAPS for their diligent work in swiftly apprehending the alleged perpetrator; calls on the Acting Minister of Police to urgently deploy enhanced, intelligence-led operations targeting gang networks in the Western Cape, to strengthen security at all judicial facilities, and to work with national authorities to dismantle these entrenched criminal structures. I so move.

10 *[Motion as moved by Member.]*

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

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise †die agb [the hon] Windvogel.

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

That the House joyfully celebrates September as Deaf Awareness Month, shining a spotlight on the remarkable contributions of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals across the Western Cape. This month is an opportunity to recognise their achievements in education, the arts,

sports, and the workforce, and to champion inclusivity, accessibility, and the promotion of South African Sign Language as a vital tool for communication and empowerment; that the House applauds initiatives that break down barriers, foster understanding, and create opportunities for deaf citizens to thrive fully in society. We encourage Government departments, civil society, and communities to continue building an inclusive environment where deaf individuals are heard, respected, and celebrated; that the House calls on all South Africans to actively participate in Deaf Awareness Month by learning, advocating, and supporting programmes that uplift the deaf community, ensuring that their rights, talents, and voices are valued and visible every day. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

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

That the House notes with grave concern that South Africa carries the highest HIV and TB burdens globally in relation to its population, with significantly higher prevalence amongst people aged 15 to 49; further observes that adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 24 record the

highest number of new infections per week compared to all other population groups; further notes the Deputy President's statement, quoting the Health Minister, "if HIV and TB were a snake, its head would be in South Africa", emphasizing that this is becoming a national crisis; acknowledges that while national frameworks are in place, there is a worrying spike in HIV infections among youth in the Western Cape; particularly in high-risk communities such as Khayelitsha, pointing to gaps in implementation, outreach, prevention, and treatment services locally; takes note of the National Strategic Plan (NSP 2023–2028) for HIV, TB, and STIs, including the related Roadmap 2025–2028, which emphasises evidence-based prevention, community-led responses, removing structural barriers, improving data quality, and ensuring accountability and resource allocation; calls on the Western Cape Provincial Government to take this House into its confidence by presenting a detailed report on how it is implementing the NSP and HIV Prevention Roadmap within the province, with special emphasis on prevention programmes targeted at adolescent girls and young women aged 15–24; HIV testing, treatment initiation and retention strategies; addressing structural and social drivers of infection such as poverty, stigma, education, and Gender-Based Violence; community-led and youth-friendly interventions; and ensuring sufficient resourcing for these interventions; and urges the hon Minister of Health, in collaboration with provincial authorities, civil society, youth organisations, and SANAC, to accelerate implementation of these programmes, ensure alignment with the NSP goals (including the 95-95-95 targets), and

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support the Western Cape in closing the identified gaps; so that the rising tide of HIV among young people is reversed rather than entrenched. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Bans.

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

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That the House notes with outrage the collapse of the Dysselsdorp police station building, a project worth nearly R40 million, constructed by Reder Construction, which came crashing down before even reaching completion; further notes that this disgraceful failure is yet another example of how shoddy workmanship by construction companies undermines service delivery, leaving communities to pay the price for corruption, incompetence, and weak accountability; acknowledges that the collapse affected the charge office, public waiting area, administrative offices, and other critical facilities, rendering the station unfit for service and compromising the safety of residents who rely on effective policing in a province already plagued by high levels of violent crime; laments and condemns the appalling workmanship of the company

concerned; and calls on Government to take urgent steps to hold Reder Construction accountable, to recover wasted public funds, and to ensure that communities are not abandoned without the policing infrastructure they desperately need. I so move, hon Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed
10 to. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

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

That the House notes with grave concern the shocking revelations that police and military-grade weapons are being smuggled from Namibia into the Western Cape, where they are arming gangs and fuelling the bloodshed that continues to devastate our communities; further notes that it has been confirmed that these firearms, including pistols and even AK-
20 47s, are entering Cape Town concealed in trucks transporting fresh produce and flowers, while the DA-led Provincial Government sits idly by, failing to act decisively against this scourge; further notes that this failure has enabled international smuggling syndicates to thrive, placing weapons of war in the hands of criminals who destabilise our society; further notes with alarm that this is not the first time police firearms

have found their way into the hands of gangs, and recalls the 31 missing firearms from City of Cape Town law enforcement officers that remain unaccounted for to this day; acknowledges that this crisis is not merely the result of porous borders, but also of weak governance and a total lack of coordination between law enforcement and intelligence structures in the Province; and therefore calls on the Minister of Police and all relevant national authorities to intensify cross-border cooperation with Namibia and other SADC countries, to urgently close the loopholes in trade routes exploited by syndicates, and to strengthen intelligence-driven policing in the province; and also calls for an immediate audit of provincial law enforcement structures to establish why, under DA governance, the Western Cape has become a haven for gangsters and smugglers, while ordinary citizens continue to pay the price with their lives. I so move. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Objection.

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

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

The House adjourned at 17:16.