
THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2022

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Temporary Chairperson took the Chair and read the prayer.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You may be seated. Good afternoon, members. Order! Before we proceed, I would like to remind members about some of the logistical arrangements. As has been our practice to date, hon members will be participating in this sitting of the House both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table staff, and via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid sittings of the House. The hon members, who are experiencing challenges in connecting to the sitting, are requesting to please make contact the WCPP ICT colleagues who will gladly assist them.

If a member of this Provincial Parliament elects to participate virtually and not from the Chamber, it is such member's responsibility to ensure that he or she has good quality data connectivity for good quality audio and video and that there are no disturbances. The hybrid system has been functioning well and poor audio and/or video are not attributed to the system but rather, members, please check your data connectivity.

Hon members are reminded that no interjections are permitted during the hybrid sittings and in this regard I draw the attention of hon members to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. Thank you very much, hon members, and kindly do note accordingly.

I recognise the hon Chief Whip.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Madam House Chairperson. I give notice that I shall move:

That, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 20(1), precedence be given to the Subject for Discussion in the name of hon C Dugmore.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Are there any objections to the motion? I do not see any. No objections? Motion then accordingly agreed to.

Members, we will now move over to the Subject for Discussion. We will now deal with the Subject for Discussion in the name of the hon Dugmore as printed on the Order Paper, and I now recognise the hon Dugmore.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

The commitment to a non-racial and united South Africa.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. Greetings to the Premier and all other hon members.

It is a privilege to introduce this discussion today, Chair, on the commitment to a non-racial and united South Africa on this day, which in fact marks the 54th Anniversary of the death of the academic states person and freedom fighter, Professor Z K Matthews. It was Professor Matthews who actually at the ANC's Cradock Congress of 1953, said, and I think it is a very significant quote. He stood up and he proposed actually:

“...that a national convention of all races be convened to draw up a Freedom Charter for the democratic South Africa of the future.”

Amongst our scholars, I believe there is consensus that the Freedom Charter would go on to play a leading role in shaping the ANC's vision from 1955...
[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members online, will you please

ensure that you are muted. Thank you very much. Please proceed, hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you, that the Charter would play a leading role in shaping the ANC's vision from 1955 and which will eventually lead to the drafting of our Constitution of the Republic, which all of us in this House have pledged to defend, to uphold and to respect.

While we must acknowledge that our Constitution has indeed come under scrutiny in the last year or so, the values and ideals enshrined in this document must be espoused and defended by all of us, especially us as public representatives.

Our Constitution, like the Freedom Charter did before that, declares emphatically that "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, united in our diversity." Sorry. The Constitution says: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity." The Freedom Charter talks about the "black and white" but that is the diversity we are talking about. Two days ago, we commemorated the 28th anniversary of the inauguration of our country's first democratically elected President, comrade Tata Nelson Mandela.

On that day in the presence of all South Africans and the leaders of many nations, Madiba stood tall and said:

“The time for the healing of the wounds has come. The moment to bridge the chasms that divide us has come. The time to build is upon us. We have at last achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.”

And that is what comrade Nelson Mandela said.

“We enter into a covenant...” – he continued – “...that we shall build the society in which all South Africans, both black and white, will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of the inalienable right to human dignity, a rainbow nation at peace with itself and the world...”

Chair, 28 years after these words by President Mandela, the wounds of our country inflicted by the past remain open. However, it is clear that 20 years after freedom the majority of the people in our country and this province continue to suffer under the bondage of poverty, deprivation and other discrimination. However, today through this discussion, the ANC in this House calls upon all parties present to actually commit themselves to the words that were uttered by comrade Mandela, and that is:

“To build bridges and not to widen the chasms that divide us; to continue to build, and to continue pledging ourselves to that covenant, which is to build a society in which all South Africans, both black and

white will be able to walk tall, without any fear in their hearts, assured of their inalienable right to human dignity.”

There should be little doubt that at the very heart of this right to human dignity is the defeat of poverty, of inequality and unemployment. We can debate and discuss economic policy and economic emancipation, but that is for another day.

The ANC is open to debating and discussing policy failures of the last three decades, and successes, but that too is for another day. We are open to discussing the corruption and the recently released Zondo Commission report, but that too, House Chair, is definitely a debate and a discussion for another day.

In this week and in the memory of a great states person such as Z K Matthews and Nelson Mandela, can we in this House pledge to working towards a non-racial and a united South Africa. This is my call today and I ask the Premier and his Government as well as all colleagues in this House, to defend the integrity of our Republic and to commit to do away with all forms of racism. I thank you, Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore, and thank you for sticking to your allocated time. I now recognise the hon Minister Tertius Simmers.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you, hon House Chair, can you hear me clearly?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: We can. Thank you very much, Minister. You may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, Deputy Speaker, hon Premier, fellow Cabinet members, hon members of both sides of the House and also honoured guests who are logged on virtually. A few weeks ago, we celebrated 28 years of democracy in our beloved country. Thus, before I begin, I would like to quote the founding father of this nation, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who once said, and I quote:

“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.”

The injustice of the apartheid era cannot be ignored or discounted. Hence, we, as the Western Cape Government have a concerted effort to transform the spatial planning regime. Across the board as the Western Cape Government, we have engrained and championed the whole of society approach in all our Departmental Development Programmes. As the Western Cape Government, we also pride ourselves as being the leading province in prioritising and accelerating the delivery of non-racial human settlement developments by promoting social inclusion through the development of integrated resilient safe and sustainable human settlements in an open opportunity society for all.

One such example, hon House Chair, is the Conradie Park Housing Development, which is one of the best examples of our commitment to building a non-racial and united South Africa. This development is in the heart of one of Cape Town's most sought-after suburbs. This project was identified as one of the catalytic developments. Its objective is to provide affordable residentially mixed income, mixed use development, optimising land use, including predominantly grant-funded social housing to realise a live, work and play environment for all of its future residents.

We launched this noteworthy project in February 2022 with the completion of Phase One, which to date has yielded 180 social units out of a possible 432 once complete. Not only is this development enabling a non-racial and integrated human settlement; it is also unlocking economic opportunities for the previously disadvantaged group use. Through it, 1 232 job opportunities have been created to date; 86 SMMEs were afforded economic opportunities – just another example of how this Western Cape Government is improving the lives of citizens, but also showing its commitment to non-racialism in South Africa.

The fully integrated precinct development includes early childhood development in primary schooling, at the sports field, where all races will play. There will be retail and commercial space as well as a managed landscaping recreational park, where all these races will mix together and play together.

Upon completion, House Chair, this project will consist of no less than 3 500 housing opportunities or just more than 10,000 people living in one development precinct.

Madam House Chair, such developments are not only limited to the Cape Metro. If you look across the Garden Route in Mossel Bay, we have the Mountain View Housing Project. This project will create 1 006 housing opportunities of which to date 757 units have been completed on all the sites. Once again, this will integrate citizens and qualified beneficiaries from various backgrounds, once again, a tangible commitment by this Government to non-racialism in the post-1994 era.

Madam Chair, once again, this project will not only benefit those who will be assisted with a full State subsidy. We will also focus on those who wish to have State assistance, no matter their colour or race, but they just need that push for this opportunity in life in terms of the Help Me Buy a Home Programme or FLISP as it used to be called.

But what are the immediate economic empowerment opportunities of this project itself that are also created in the broader aspect, Madam House Chair? This specific project has created nine local SMMEs, some of them women leaded companies who were appointed, they render a service, but they are also being empowered to ensure that they unlock further opportunities in the non-racial way for other small to medium enterprise owned companies who wish to be part of the infrastructure or construction sector. So, Madam

House Chair, you see, we do not only talk about creating an integrated human settlement or to build a non-racial South Africa. We, as this Provincial Government, can show brick and mortar, road by road, that we are delivering on this mandate in the Western Cape. The envisaged Department of Infrastructure, hon House Chair, will aim to develop a long-term vision of a holistic infrastructure plan for our province, including social, economic, environmental, energy, and technology infrastructure where all of its citizens must benefit from. So once again, in conclusion, this Provincial Government remains committed, like it has been since 2009, to building a united and non-racial South Africa for all, because ultimately we are delivering for you – all of our citizens. I thank you, Madam House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers, and I see that all members are very much disciplined this afternoon. I do recognise the hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, House Chair. In November last year, two learners, one African and the other one of Indian descent, were racially abused by a white Grade 12 learner at Camps Bay High School, who called them by the K-word. The perpetrator was taken for a disciplinary hearing then subsequently found guilty as charged. However, what is interesting is that when the victims approached the principal regarding the punishment imposed upon the perpetrator, they were told that the sanctions remain a secret due to provisions of the POPIA Act.

It is further interesting that no provisions of the POPIA Act relied upon were outlined by the school. When the EFF intervened in the matter we were informed by the principal of the school that it is policy of the Western Cape Education Department that when people are inquiring about punishment resulting from disciplinary hearings, the schools must just blindly vaguely hide behind the POPIA Act, even in cases where it does not apply.

The facts of the above case are not peculiar to what black people experience on a day-to-day basis when they deal with Government departments and other private institutions. The *modus operandi* of all this is to entrench and institutionalise racism. In this way, learners are taught in their teenage age, that it is fine for them to racially abuse others, and that there will be no punishment and consequences for such heinous conduct.

In Milnerton High a black learner was instructed by teachers to kneel and bow down to a white learner following their physical altercation. These instances of racism are not only found within the Education Department as they cut across all Government departments. That DA-led Government sees nothing wrong about not having a working and implementable Spatial Planning Policy in the province. When opportunities arose for this Government to finally build inclusive social housing in the Tafelberg property for those who are less fortunate and address the longstanding spatial planning issues within the inner City, this DA-led Government refused to do so and instead turned to the courts.

After more than 20 years into the new dispensation, Western Cape has still not committed to any form of non-racial society. The question which must still be asked, is how many African and people of colour were assisted by the Government for purposes of restitution to get their land back within the borders of this province, how many emerging black farmers are assisted annually to obtain land? What is the commitment to end mass killing in the congested black townships? What is the Government doing to eradicate the racism in schools and beyond the education sector? There are some preliminary questions which must be asked if we are to continue speaking about non-racialism in this province. We cannot forget that it is the very same DA Government that failed dismally to give people in the informal settlement water during the COVID-19.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, member Xego, member, can you please finish your sentence.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you very much, House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, member Xego. I now recognize the hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, House Chair. House Chairperson, the ANC has today called for a debate on a commitment to non-racialism, a commitment which was made in 1994, with much hope.

Fast forward to today, and the same ANC that was entrusted with moving our nation forward following the scourge of apartheid, has shown little progress in realising this commitment.

Let me tell you about the reality of what the ANC National Government calls a commitment from a caring government. Let me tell you about the story of District Six restitution. To date, the ANC – five Presidents have failed in their promises to the people of District Six, who were forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act. Now even Deputy President Mabuza went there recently to make promises, the people of District Six have 28 years of broken promises. Of course, the National Ministers in charge of this project have also carried on the ANC's empty promises year after year.

Many claimants pass away with the hope that they will live to see the day when they would return to the home they were forcefully removed from. More than R300 million has been spent on this project, but claimants are still waiting, waiting for the National Government to show that they are serious about restitution and their commitment to a non-racial and united South Africa. This mess is just one non-committed ANC that claims to care about correcting the spatial legacy left by apartheid.

House Chair, let us talk about a government that cares, a government that goes beyond all expectations to give hope to all in this country. This DA Government introduced the Inclusionary Housing Policy Framework as an innovative tool for fostering social cohesion and for redress that stimulates

the upward mobility of previously disadvantaged communities. This framework also addresses inequalities in existing spatial planning that left many of these communities far from quality services and economic opportunities.

The Inclusionary Housing Policy Framework will make sure that affordable housing opportunities are constructed as part of private property developments in high value locations. With every new investment our Government makes in infrastructure, including roads, public transport, and public amenities, property values go up. This can have the unintended effect of pricing lower income citizens out of housing in the most sought-after locations.

House Chair, this policy will therefore work to fix this problem and claim back some of that value that was created by Government for the public good. The inclusionary housing requirement means that certain private projects will be required to provide a number of affordable housing opportunities alongside more expensive real estate it is constructing. This requirement will be imposed as a condition of planning approval for selected projects.

House Chair, this affordable housing opportunities will enable people to live, work and play in their own neighbourhoods without having to spend an unreasonable amount of their income on rent and transport. Living where you have access to schools, shops, jobs and healthcare allows you to worry less about the basic necessities of life and focus on your own ambitions.

Increased upward social mobility is one of the main benefits of this policy, and in a country where so many of our citizens still struggle it is of the utmost importance. When you are living in a hub of economic activity, you have a much greater chance of finding a job in the formal sector with all of the accompanying securities and benefits it brings.

The DA is committed to integrating people from different social backgrounds. House Chair, it is through living together as friends, as neighbours, that the true civic education takes place. It is crucial that people experience firsthand that we are first and foremost, all people, regardless of our race or socio-economic standing, a society united through understanding and shared mutual respect, rather than divided by superficial differences which can focus its energy on the betterment of society as a whole, rather than fighting each other over what little there currently is.

By engaging with the private sector to provide affordable housing opportunities in new developments, we are further emphasising that a whole of society approach with Government and the private sector working together is necessary to achieve great spatial justice. We are committed to encouraging the private sector through incentives and mutually beneficial deals to do their fair share in creating affordable housing opportunities.

With Government putting the necessary infrastructure in place to enable fast development, they can leverage those investments to ensure that this investment benefits our diverse populations through effective spatial

planning. The Western Cape Government can only do so much with its available resources. What is needed to implement this policy to the benefit of everyone is centrally located land. In Cape Town alone, there are numerous parcels of land owned by the National Government that are suitable for housing, such as Ysterplaat Air Force Base and Wingfield Military Base.

To address this, the ANC Government must actually release suitable land to municipalities or the Western Cape Government so we can construct more inclusive housing projects according to the Better Living Model, like Conradie Park. This will serve to show if they really are committed to fostering a non-racial South Africa. It is clear that through a non-racial approach to housing based on social responsibility and the economic upliftment of lower income individuals, the DA is doing more to address the legacy of apartheid spatial planning in this province than the ANC ever has.

Our Inclusionary Housing Policy will change lives for the better on an individual level and it has the potential to have a far-reaching impact on society as a whole as well. The DA believes in an open opportunity society for all and that means persons' future prospects should never be determined only by their current social status and location. I thank you, Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Maseko. I now recognise hon August.

Mr S N AUGUST: Hon Chairperson, South Africa's democracy was achieved through bloodshed, sacrifice and tears, the pain of it being felt by our countrymen and women to this day, and it still affects every part of our lives. The new dawn promises to bring down inequality, access greater opportunities, and build a nation that reflects the aspirations of our people.

Chair, a united South Africa will not use service delivery as an enabler for discrimination; not distinguish between the haves and the have nots on the allocation of municipal budgets and resources; not use poverty to determine to what extent citizens need Government support.

DA-led municipalities in this province make achieving a non-racial and united South Africa a pipe dream as their budget and IDP sow further division, entrench poverty and criminalise not having.

How many citizens in this province experience double standards when it comes to service delivery? How many rural municipalities see growth in their affluent areas and the poorer communities are left behind? How many areas in the City of Cape Town are falling apart; thinking about Langa, where concrete roads are still being used by the community, and Gugulethu, where dilapidated infrastructure has been in use for decades? Homelessness is criminalised by this very city the DA uses as its benchmark for good governance, a city where call prayer is considered noise pollution.

Hon Chair, when it comes to unity and non-racialism, we need to accept cultural, religious and traditional differences, build tolerance and explore our diversity. DA-led municipalities have shown that sowing seeds of division is far more accepting the unifying differences. For South Africa to unite, DA municipalities in this province should commit to a budget that reflects the needs of the have nots, deliver equal services and not discriminate against the majority... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please finish your sentence, hon August.

Mr S N AUGUST: Thank you, Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. I now recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Our leader of the ACDP present, Dr Kenneth Meshoe, once said:

“A piano keyboard cannot function optimally if you use only the white keys, nor can it make sweet music if you only use the black keys.”

There is a song, *Ebony and Ivory*, released in 1982 performed by Paul McCartney and Michael Jackson. The words of the song are:

“Ebony and ivory live together in perfect harmony.”

The moral of the story is that we need to work together to be harmonious and attuned with one another [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, members!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: We are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally in the country of our birth. However, peace and harmony and prosperity... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Christians, please take your seat. Members on my right, you are being disruptive. Will you please allow member Christians to – do you raise a point of order, member, what is your point of order?

Ms L M MASEKO: A point of order, because that song is by Stevie Wonder, not Michael Jackson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: That is not a point of order, thank you, member Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Oh, I am sorry.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please allow member Christians. Please proceed, member.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I cannot understand the interjection in such an important speech. We are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally in the country. [Interjection.]

However, blessings that bring peace, harmony and prosperity we can only achieve when we work together to improve the lives of all South Africans. This beautiful country that we so love, have the potential to go to even greater heights. John Donne said:

“No-one is an island entirely of itself. Every man is a piece of a continent and part of the main.”

Dr Martin Luther King, leader of the Civil Rights Movement in America said:

“The world is a neighbourhood, but not a brotherhood.”

As a devoted Christian, my reference point will always come from the Word of God. Revelations 21 verse 5:

“He was seated on the throne and said: ‘I am making all things new’...”

Only when we let go of the past and move ahead for a better future, we will see things change in this South Africa.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Will you please conclude, member

Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you very much, Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. I recognise the hon Minister Mitchell.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you very much, House Chairperson. Chair, it is my pleasure and honour to address this House to reaffirm to you the DA Government's commitment, as well as our crucial mission to improve the lives of the people of the Western Cape.

Chairperson, the political landscape has dramatically changed in South Africa in the last few years, affecting the lives and livelihoods of the people of the Western Cape. This Government, Chair, has always been committed to and has been at the centre of building a non-racial and united South Africa.

Chair, we do so because we are a caring Government that puts the people first in everything that we do. As the members already know, the DA-led Western Cape Government is the only government with programmes and support to the previously disadvantaged communities through the empowerment initiatives in the transport sector. Chair, since the pandemic the Western Cape Government, through the Department of Transport and Public Works, has made remarkable progress in building new and stronger partnerships with the minibus taxi industry. Chair, I specifically mention the minibus taxi industry

because it is the only mode of public transport that is not supported by the National Government, not even Chair, in ANC-run provinces.

Chair, this mode of transport is mostly used by previously disadvantaged citizens and connects them with economic opportunities. As the Premier announced, my newly established Ministry of Mobility will, among other things, be tackling the challenges of a failing transport system that hurts our economy, undermines our safety and prevents the realisation of the dignity our residents deserve.

Chair, as part of this effort to address the ongoing transport challenges in the Western Cape, we are working towards establishing the Western Cape Transport Authority, which will work to significantly improve public transport by developing a safe, reliable and affordable system for the citizens of this province. It will drive integration between rail, busses, the minibus taxi industry and other modes of public transport, working with local authorities and public transport operators to achieve this.

Chairperson, this Government has been investing in technology for a number of years. Through focused efforts and the use of technology, we were able to transform the way provincial traffic, for example, works. As many of you would recall, Chair, it would normally have taken an officer up to 40 minutes to complete a vehicle inspection and to issue a fine in the past. Now Chair, it takes a traffic officer around six minutes to do so.

Our technology has improved the way traffic officers work and has led to improvements in both efficiency and effectiveness. We are not only improving the lives but also the working conditions of the people of this province. We were, however, pushed further by the very trying circumstances of the pandemic to improve the lives of the people through empowerment programmes. We have repurposed our technology to enable the Red Dot Light Service to transport health workers from hospitals to their neighbourhoods in the evenings and Red Dot Service to transport people from and to isolation and quarantine facilities.

Chairperson, this service was used by people who are depending on public transport to travel to and from work. This technology enabled us to launch the Blue Dot Taxi Service Pilot. As tabled in the House, Chair, during my Budget Speech in March, Blue Dot provides an amount of an additional R70 million for the undertaking of a collaborative and an orderly winding down and evaluation of the Blue Dot Taxi Pilot.

Over the last year, Chair, we have worked tirelessly with the minibus taxi industry, and we will continue to do so to change behaviour, service quality improvements and formalisation in the interest of the citizens of this province.

Chairperson, I want to speak about transport arrangements that do not have to be in large scale only in order to make a difference in the lives of the citizens. The Provincial Sustainable Transport Program that was identified by

the Department to support the development and the implementation of sustainable transport systems in the Western Cape is the bicycle project. This programme, Chair, aims to develop transport systems through forming partnerships with key stakeholders, including with local municipalities, communities and businesses.

I personally, Chair, have handed over bicycles in areas and communities such as Grassy Park and other communities across this province. The first such partnership, Chair, was established between the Department and Stellenbosch Municipality as far back as 2016. We currently have similar partnerships with the Overstrand and Swartland Municipalities.

Chairperson, this focus is on improving the conditions for walking and cycling. Within the Western Cape non-metros, Chair, 35% of people walk to work as their primary mode of transport and 46% of learners walk to school...
[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Minister, may I please ask that you conclude?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: In closing, Chair, I want to thank every single person and every single stakeholder that makes sure that we change the lives of the citizens in this province. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Minister

Mitchell. I recognize the hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, House Chairperson.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you House Chairperson. †I-ANC ithabatha eli thuba ukwenza ilizwi lombulelo kumalungu ale Ndlu athe ayinxalenye yezi ngxoxo. Namhlanje sibonile ukuba amanye amalungu ame phi kwikamva lelizwe lethu elimanyeneyo nelingenabuhlanga. Njengamalungu eANC, sihlala sizingca ngembali yethu. Siyazi apho sivela khona yaye siyazi apho sifuna ukuya khona. Xa uJohn Langalibalele Dube, uPixley kaSeme kunye noSol Plaatjie phakathi kwabanye babedibene kwindawo eyaziwa njengeMangaung kwiminyaka eyi-110 eyadlulayo, babesazi ukuba iinjongo yabo yayikukujonga umanyano kubantu boMzantsi Afrika.

Noxa nje ngenene lo mbutho wawusekwe ukuba umele isininzi sabaNtsundu, ezi nkokheli zabantu bakuthi zazisazi ukuba, xa zidibene namaNgesi awayebhengeze imanyano yoMzantsi Afrika kwiminyaka nje emibini edlulileyo, kwakunye namaBhulu awayefikelele kwisivumelwano nelizwe laseBhritani ukuba kunye namaKhaladi namaNdiya, ama-Afrika nawo kwakufuneka abe nombutho ekufuneka ube lilizwi labantu baseAfrika. Esinye sezigqibo eziphambili zaloo nkomfa yokuqala eyayiseMangaung, yayikukuthumela igqiza kwiKumkani yaseNgilani ukuya kuchaza umba wokuba uninzi lwama-Afrika lwalufuna ukwakha isizwe esinye ukuzinzisa ilizwe ingakumbi emva kwemfazwe yeAnglo Boer War. Oku kumelwa kwabantu baseAfrika kwakuza kufikelela kuvuthondaba xa ngo-1955 umbutho

wenkongolo, owawuquka iintlanga zone, wathi wadibana eKliptown waze wabhengeza ukuba uMzantsi Afrika ngowabo bonke abantu abahlala kuwo, abaNtsundu nabamhlophe. Isizathu sokuba sithanda ukuphinda-phinda le mbali kukuba, kukuba xa ungayazi imbali yakho, awufundi kuyo, yaye kungenzeka ukuba uyiphinde... [Audio connection lost.]

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follow.]

[The ANC takes this opportunity to thank members of this House who have taken part in this discussion. Today we took note of the stance of some members with regard to the future of a united and a non-racial country. As members of the ANC, we are proud of our history. We know where we come from and we know where we are going. When John Langalibalele Dube, Pixley kaSeme and Sol Plaatjie, among others, met at a place called Mangaung in the past-110 years, their aim was to foster unity among South Africans.

Although this organisation was founded to represent the majority of the citizens of this country which are Africans, these leaders knew that when they met White people who had declared Union of South Africa in the previous two years with Afrikaners, in an agreement with Britain to foster unity with Coloured people and Indians, Africans also needed to have an organisation that would be the voice of the people of Africa. One of the key decisions of that first conference that was held in Mangaung, was to send a delegation to the King of England to inform him that, majority of Africans

wanted to build a united country to bring stability into a country that had been affected by the Anglo Boer War. The representation of Africans reached its climax when in 1955, the Congress that was inclusive of all four nationalities, met in Kliptown and declared that South Africa belongs to all that live in it, Black and White. The reason we repeatedly tell this history, is that, when you do not know your history and do not learn from it, you are likely to repeat it...] [Audio connection lost]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Lekker, we have lost you.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We have come from Bantustans; we do not want to go back to it. Today we have people in this province who are pushing for federalism and independence because they want to take this country and this province, in particular, back to a racist past. We therefore welcome the commitment made by those who spoke here today to ensuring the non-racial and united South Africa we wish to build for our own children.

House Chairperson, it would be remiss of me to also not mention that the understanding of the name "African" in the minds of our leaders meeting in Mangaung in 1912 went well beyond the borders of our country. The ANC was to be understood and continues to be understood as an African organisation, furthering the dreams and aspirations of all African people on the African continent. Yet, it is ironic that the first African liberation movement to be founded on the African continent was the country in which liberation would be tasted last. When President Thabo Mbeki therefore

promoted the African Renaissance, he did so fully aware of the historic mission of the ANC to unite the peoples of Africa. In the light of this, the xenophobia and hatred shown towards fellow Africans in our country must be condemned as much as this racist push to separate the Western Cape from the rest of South Africa and indeed, Africa.

The Western Cape based on this history of the indigenous people of this province was and will always be part of Africa.

†Ayisiso isiqithi saseYurophu kwilizwekazi laseAfrika. Siyawancoma amaqela kunye nabantu abakhoyo namhlanje abathe bazibophelela ekuqinisekiseni ukuba siyawakha lo Mzantsi Afrika ungenacalu-calulo nomanyeneyo owawucingwe zinkokheli ezazihlangene eMangaung ngo-1912. Kwiminyaka eyi-110 emva koko, thina sisesi sizukulwana, kufuneka siqinisekise ukuba siyaqhubeka sisilwela uMzantsi Afrika omnye, omanyeneyo yaye asinakuthethela iiBantustan ezazisekelwe kwaye zihleli zisekelwe ubuhlanga. Enkosi kakhulu kubo bonke abantu abathe bathabatha inxaxheba kule ngxoxo namhlanje. Ndiyabulela Sihlalo.

[Translation of isiXhosa paragraphs follow.]

[It is not a European island in Africa. We applaud the organisations and groups as well as people who are here today who have committed themselves to build this united and non-racial South Africa, a concept born by our forebears who met in Mangaung in 1912. One hundred and ten years later, as

this generation, we have to ensure that we continue to fight for a one and an undivided South Africa and we cannot support and justify Bantustans which were based and continue to be based on racism and ethnicity. We thank all the people who took part in today's debate. Thank you Chairperson.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: †Enkosi kakhulu ke [Thank you] member Lekker. I now recognise the hon Brinkhuis.

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you very much, Chairperson. Chair, it is absurd that in 2022 we still must debate for a commitment from this DA-run Province for a non-racial and united South Africa. We are confronted with concerted efforts by the DA in the Western Cape to take the province back to the brutal system of apartheid. By saying this Al Jama-ah does not insinuate that we will have notice boards up stating, "whites only / net blankes". No. These discriminatory boards are already in other forms, such as no integrated spatial planning, farm workers evictions, which is different as the DA demonstrated recently in support of Ukraine.

The shameless efforts by the DA Province to separate the Western Cape from the rest of South Africa is an insult to our forefathers who were brought in chains as slaves and have fought colonialism. It is an insult to our freedom fighters who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives for a just, liberated, anti-racist and united South Africa.

We take note, with deep concern that Cape Town is already known to be

South Africa's most segregated city in terms of social stratification and spatial developments. This Province has proved that it lacks the political will to rid the city from the apartheid legacy, to effectively tackle the problems of crime, gangsterism and drug dens on the Cape Flats, its failure to accommodate unplaced learners at former Model C schools. In fact, the Education Department rather returns R400 million to the Provincial Treasury instead of spending it on education. Considering the high housing waiting list, unemployment and the increasing rate of inequality and poverty, this province is not well governed. It is far from economic independence and even if it was so, it remains part of an anti-racist and united South Africa. Thank you, Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis.

I now recognise hon Marais, *agbare* Peter Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: I am just trying to put off this thing. Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus commits itself to uphold the Constitution in its entirety, but the Constitution is not the panacea for all our political ailments and problems. The constant plea for non-racialism is proof that even after 28 years of ANC rule, they failed to achieve it. The ANC has failed to win the hearts of all South Africa's people because its focus is only to keep the hearts of the blacks. The ANC failed to win the hearts of the other people. The ANC blacks fill the Cabinet, nobody else, BEE, sport quotas, Africanisation of the civil service feed racism and highlights it in big alphabetical letters, creating anger and social disputes.

I want to remind the hon Lekker and the ANC satellite, Al Jama-ah...

[Interjection.] ...the Freedom Charter adopted by the black people...

[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, members!

Mr P J MARAIS: ...Coloureds, whites and Indians, it is not the ANC's Charter... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Marais, please take your seat.

Mr P J MARAIS: Ah, stop this!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Sayed, is that a point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, no, it is a request. Is the hon former Premier willing to take a question there? [Interjection.]

Mr P J MARAIS: If I have time.

An HON MEMBER: [Inaudible.] is the satellite of the DA. Leave the satellite of the DA.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Sayed. Hon members!

Mr P J MARAIS: Let us quote the Freedom Charter. The Freedom Charter was adopted by blacks, Coloureds, Indians and whites and it says:

“The rights of all people of Africa to independence and self-governance shall be recognised and shall be the basis of close cooperation.”

I am sure nobody will argue that whites, Coloureds and Indians are not people so they do not have those rights. Let us go for it. Free the Cape! The people of the question ... Western Cape demands it! Freedom is not something... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Marais, please conclude, finish your sentence.

Mr P J MARAIS: What? It cannot be!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes, sir. That is the case, hon member. I will allow you to finish your sentence.

Mr P J MARAIS: This is disgusting. Kwame Nkrumah said, of Ghana:

“Freedom is not something that one people can bestow on another as a gift. The people claim it as their own and no one should keep them from it.”

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Marais. Please take your seat. I now recognise the hon Minister Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: I do not believe this.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, House Chair. It has been widely shown that both arts and culture and sport have the ability to create social cohesion to bring dignity and hope and to foster a culture of respect towards others.

Our Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport has done much work in both these spheres to ensure that we promote a non-racial and united province and ultimately South Africa. Theatre brings diverse audiences together to share in storytelling and practice various arts. Theatre can also be a space of great healing as people are given the opportunity to tell their stories and process their trauma. We are committed to supporting spaces where artists can grow and share their talents. Our Department presents drama workshops throughout the province, where young, aspiring actors, directors and writers are mentored and given the opportunity to showcase their work to actors currently in the industry. The winners of these showcases are then given the opportunity to present their work to a larger audience as part of the Zabalaza and Suidooster Festivals. Through this we support our youth from various areas across the province to grow and develop their talents, to network with others in this environment and to meet their heroes. We simultaneously support economic growth in the province through partnering with these

important festivals, which provide job opportunities as well as encourage tourism.

Chair, we saw the enormous impact of the Rugby World Cup in 2019 in uniting the people of our country and we supported the Springboks in their journey to win the cup. People across South Africa united to support the team and to eventually welcome them home as champions. Sport has the ability to unite people across race and social groups. Sport also teaches important values of respect and fair competition. Belonging to a team gives individuals a sense of worth and that they are contributing to something bigger than themselves.

Our South African Women's cricket team's recent milestone of reaching the semi-final of the Women's Cricket World Cup, also showed how playing as a team can bring a diverse group of people together to achieve great success. It is crucial that we continue supporting all sport in our country as it is one of the most important tools in bringing people together.

Next year we will host the Netball World Cup in Cape Town. Over the past three years, our Department has been providing financial support to municipalities across the province to upgrade their netball facilities and to encourage the growth of the sport. The hosting of the Netball World Cup next year will not only bring enormous economic benefits but will also encourage our youth to take up the sport and become the stars of tomorrow.

Chair, we believe in the power of communities telling the stories and having the voices heard. Our Museum Service has recently launched a few exhibitions that tell the histories of communities that were previously not shared. It is essential in moving towards a united country that we ensure that all people can see the history of the communities reflected in our country's museums. We are also building up a collection of recorded oral histories which are being recorded in communities across the province. This collection of video recordings tells the stories of all the people of our province. By doing this, we are ensuring that all the voices from our communities are heard, and these stories are preserved for generations to come. It is essential that we listen to all the voices of the past so that we can do better in the future.

Language is also one of the most powerful tools in crossing divides and empowering people. Our Department is committed to ensuring equal representation for all languages through our Western Cape Language Policy. We have produced three rule books for sport in isiXhosa for the codes of chess, cricket and netball. These rule books were the first of their kind and created more accessibility for these codes.

In addition to that we have recently worked with the University of the Western Cape to support the development of the First Trilingual Kaaps Dictionary.

Our Department has also supported the Khoi and San communities in projects

aimed at promoting and preserving these important indigenous languages. In supporting the development of various languages, we are ensuring that we make our services accessible to all the people of our province and that no person is left behind in accessing opportunities due to a language barrier.

Our Department is also committed to close the opportunity gap for youth in our schools. Our after-school program is not only working to ensure that learners get extra support academically and emotionally, but it is also offering employment opportunities for youth who are just out of school.

Chair, I have only given a snapshot of the work that we are doing towards fostering social cohesion in our province. Our Department is working across various spheres to ensure that we create a society that is non-racial and united. The power of sport and the arts to connect people cannot and should never be underestimated. We also should not underestimate the value of these spheres to the mental and physical well-being of all the people of our country.

Franklin Thomas said:

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

Thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear–hear!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much hon Minister Marais. I now recognise the hon Marran.

Mr P MARRAN: Chairperson, can you hear me?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes, you are audible member, please proceed.

Mr P MARRAN: Good afternoon, Acting Speaker, House Chairperson, and Premier, Leader of the Opposition. Chair, before I get into my speech, let me quickly respond to some of the issues.

The hon Simmers, Chair, mentioned and made it clear that the DA is the only party basically that speaks to the spatial injustices of our people. In 2021 there was a study, and people of Blikkiesdorp made it clear the hellhole that they are living in, which is known for crime like drugs and your gangsterism. Those are basically when the MEC speaks about the social injustice, what they deliver to people of the Western Cape.

The hon Maseko, Chair, speaks about a promise to the people of this country and the DA the only party that can deliver that to their province. Just

yesterday we visited Drakenstein, houses that belong to this Province, and a fight between the Drakenstein Municipality and this Province about who should come and relieve the circumstances that those people are staying in, no water and no toilets, toilets still far away from their houses.

Chair, the hon Christians, you are correct when you say that the song by Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder, *Ebony and Ivory*, where the hon Maseko contested by saying it was Michael Jackson. It was not, but again, it shows you how the DA wanted to twist the history of our people. It was indeed Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

The hon Mitchell spoke about taxis and how this province is the only province that cares for the taxi industry. The Hon Mitchell must thank the hon Fikile Mbalula who last year came to his rescue, where he ran, Chair, up and down like a headless chicken, not knowing what to do when people were killing each other in this province. He must thank the hon Mbalula.

Also, Chair, the hon Marais, I have listened to him when he spoke last week and where he basically indicated the support for the Cape Forum and when he basically makes it clear that he supports that particular forum, it reminds me of the Tricameral System †wat daar was, en waarvan die agb Peter Marais deel was, gewoond aan krummels – gewoond aan krummels wat van die tafel af val. [that had been there, and of which the hon Marais had been a part, used to crumbs – used to crumbs that fall off the table.]

The same here now with AfriForum, where they said that “you are going to create your own table as long as you are not sitting next to our table”, so it was not strange when the hon Marais made it clear that they are supporting the Cape Forum that is basically going to target Coloured people.

†Voorsitter, net soos die agbare Dugmore wens ek ook vandag om op te staan om hulde te bring aan die voormalige President Nelson Mandela, en Professor Z K Matthews. Dit is hartseer dat saam met hulle herdenkings in die maand van Mei, is dit ook die herdenking van die tertafellegging van die Presidensiële Raad se eerste verslag wat gelewer is, onder voorsitterskap van Denis Worrall. Dit was in Mei 1982 die eerste keer dat die Regering van P W Botha aangebied was met 'n verslag wat voorgestel het 'n stelsel van demokrasie vir wit, Kleurling en Indiërs waarvan die *hon* Marais deel was. Die Tricameral System het sodoende 40 jaar gelede in hierdie maand begin, en wat hartseer is, is dat sommige mense in hierdie Huis nog steeds vasgevang is in hierdie rassitiese denkwysie waarop die Tricameral System gebaseer was. Die Tricameral System was so wreedaardig dat tot vandag toe daar sekere Kleurlinge en Indiërs is wat nog steeds dink hulle is beter as ander swartmense. Die Tricameral System was so wreedaardig dat tot vandag toe daar sekere Kleurlinge en Indiërs is wat nog steeds glo dat hulle minderwaardig is teenoor witmense en moet daarom regeer word deur witmense. Die Tricameral System was so wreedaardig dat tot vandag toe glo sekere wittes dat hulle die eienaars is van swartmense in hierdie land. Dieselfde mense wat nog steeds ly onder die wreedaardige breinspoeling van die verlede, bevordering van federalisme en hulle gaan nog verder om 'n

onafhanklike Wes-Kaap te bevorder.

Die Wes-Kaap was en sal altyd 'n integrale deel wees van Suid-Afrika, en ons sal baklei teen onafhanklikheid soos ons baklei het teen apart [Onduidelik.] van apartheid. Dankie, Voorsitter.

[Translation of Afrikaans paragraph follows.]

[Chair, just like the hon Dugmore I also wish to today stand up to honour the former President Nelson Mandela, and Professor Z K Matthews. It is sad that along with their commemorations in the month of May, it is also the commemoration of the tabling of the President's Council's first report that was delivered, under Chairmanship of Denis Worrall. It was in May 1982 the first time that the Government of P W Botha was offered a report that proposed a system of democracy for whites, Coloureds and Indians, of which the hon Marais was part. The Tricameral System therefore had started 40 years ago this month, and what is sad is that some people in this House are still caught up in this racist chain of thought on which the Tricameral System was based. The Tricameral System was so cruel that until today, there are still some Coloureds and Indians who think they are better than other black people. The Tricameral System was so cruel that until today there are still some Coloureds and Indians who still believe that they are inferior to white people and should therefore be governed by white people. The Tricameral System was so cruel that until today certain whites believe that they own the black people in this country. The same people who are still subject to the

cruel brainwashing of the past, promotion of federalism and they are still continuing to promote an independent Western Cape.

The Western Cape has and will always be an intergral part of South Africa, and we will fight against independence as we had fought against apart [Inaudible.] of apartheid. Thank you, Chairman.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: I was going to say now three minutes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I now recognise hon member McKenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, House Chairperson, and thank you, hon member Dugmore for bringing this very beautiful debate to the House.

Hon House Chairperson, in considering my words today, I have asked myself a simple question. What can be done to unite this nation that so often finds itself divided? I came up with some immediate answers: love, tolerance, empathy, loyalty and patriotism, but not blind patriotism. I think these are the basic fundamentals to ensure that South Africa succeeds, but I took my question further and I found an article which actually detailed the debate that hon member Dugmore put on today, to ask various social media users the same question.

One person by the name of Gökay Mareka said, and I quote:

“Tolerance is key. We must learn to understand each other; one must not hate or belittle the next person based on his or her heritage.”

Hon House Chairperson, I could not have put this better myself. We must work together not to see our differences, but to embrace the undeniable potential we have when we work together, and the values that will unite us require a commitment from each and every member of society to make this country better, but sadly, as we heard from now hon member Marran, many members have demonstrated, and hon member Lekker and as hon member Marais indicated the satellite station of the ANC, hon member Brinkhuis, that they are not yet ready to unite South Africa, based on the input that they have said.

They are not heeding the call of tolerance and not belittling the next person, that Gökay Mareka said on social media. Let us speak to hon member Dugmore, hon member Chairperson.

It is common cause ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, can you take your seat? Is that a point of order, hon member?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, is the hon member Mackenzie willing to confirm if the EFF is the satellite station of the DA? Thank you.

[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

Let us just, hon House Chairperson, can you protect please?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member ...[Interjections.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: He just wasted 30 seconds of my time.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Mackenzie, you may continue.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Let me just speak to hon, via you, House Chairperson, hon member August.

The call to prayer as the Muslim Judicial Council has themselves issued a statement, but the Good Party, another satellite of ANC, continues with their, and not true narrative, it is not considered noise pollution. The MJC and [Inaudible.] did not even make an issue because they fully understand the issue, but the non-Muslims, hon member August and the satellite station, are

making an issue out of it. It is bizarre.

Hon member Dugmore, I love the fact that you quote Z K Matthews, but interesting, hon members of this House, hon member Dugmore was very quiet when the son of Z K Matthews, which was the CEO of PRASA, was dismissed by the ANC for standing up for corruption. The values that Z K Matthews ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Mackenzie ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, it is out of order for the hon member McKenzie to address the hon Leader of the Opposition directly. He must address through you, thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay, I will make sure that I listen attentively ...[Interjections.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Okay, thank you, sorry, House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Mackenzie, just tread carefully. I will listen to you. You may continue, hon member.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, House Chairperson, via you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, it is a point of order?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Point of order, hon Chair.

Hon Chair, could you make a ruling on whether it is parliamentary to refer to another member as an inanimate object like a “satellite”? I mean, hon member Brinkhuis is a person, but he is being referred to as a “satellite” which is an inanimate object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, I will have to go back to the Hansard. I did not hear that one. I will come back to rule on that one. Let us allow hon member to continue. Hon [Inaudible.]

The CHIEF WHIP [DA]: [Inaudible.] refer to you as an inanimate object, it is “Chair”. So it should be acceptable, thank you. [Applause.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, you have been going on so nicely debating. So let us stick to that so that we can continue with the Order of the Day. Hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, House Chairperson.

Yes, so it was, so hon member Dugmore, via you, House Chairperson, should

have continued in the spirit of Z K Matthews, and should have stood up when the son of Z K Matthews was removed by the PRASA Board for standing up for corruption.

The reason the trains in the Western Cape are still standing, because the Chairperson of PRASA, of which the whole PRASA Board, including Leonard Ramatlakana of the ANC support, has removed a man that could have gotten our trains back. So he just continued in the spirit.

Secondly, Z K Matthews in a speech he delivered the 1972, and I quote him, he said:

“I was not opposed to Africans buying a farm, Africans buying a house, and Africans cultivating a garden to profitability.”

The ANC wanted to expropriate land without compensation, how do you support the vision of Z K Matthews if you are diagonally opposed to his vision, his policies and his values? That is absolutely bizarre, hon [Inaudible.] and the EFF, the less said about, the better. They themselves want to expropriate land without compensation, and consistently, [Interjections.] consistently go against ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members!

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ... the values of commitment to rationalism

...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, you sit down. Hon members, I think those members that are online, they cannot hear anything that the hon member has said, and I hope that maybe, if possible, we do not interject, because immediately if we do and we make noise so that we drown out the speaker, it means we have to stop and allow the hon member to repeat what he said for the sake of the members that are listening.

So let us try to be mindful that the members that are online can hear what the speaker is saying. You may continue, hon member.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hon Chairperson, I have been stopped, I hope my time is being kept, and going back to the EFF and the Good Party, Chairperson.

The DA maintains many homeless shelters, including the revamped former Robbie Nurock site, which is currently being revamped, and coming to the EFF, hon House Chairperson – not the EFF, the ACDP, it bizarre.

In the hon, the ACDP's speech, he talks about people must be treated equally and fairly, but we know their disgust for homosexual individuals. We know he talked about it in this House by the way. So it is bizarre that he uses such a statement, "We must be treated equally, except certain people." That is what they have in brackets in their policy. So I would not use them as a beacon for commitment to [Inaudible] racialism and sexuality.

Hon House Speaker, this debate talks about complete commitment. And I want to raise the issue that member Marran raised. It was the DA member [Interjections.] Daylin Mitchell ...[Injections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, you may sit down.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Just a point of order, hon House Chair.

The hon member Mackenzie was addressing, through you of course, the hon member of the ACDP, but the hon member of the ACDP was not paying attention at all, and I do not think he actually heard what [Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: [Inaudible.] Hon, I think, hon member, it is not necessary for you to be a spokesperson, he would have raised a point of order if it was necessary.

So we are going to continue.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. You have to protect me because this is becoming frivolous now, hon House Chairperson.

Hon House Chairperson, it was hon member Mitchell, if it was not for his hard work, and we appreciate the support that Minister Mbalula has given, but to this day we have 5% conviction on the 88 murders that had taken place

last year, which is led by the ANC, the Department of Justice. That is the travesty of building a non-racial and non-committed South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, by not allocating resources we cannot prevent what is happening in Khayelitsha, the ANC, right now we are talking about 20% under-resourcing of police. You cannot build a society of non-racialism and of commitment if you do not allocate the right resources.

By not stopping from stealing from the people of the country, you are not committing to a non-racial South Africa. By not having stable and economic policies; by not dealing with exclusionary housing, which the DA Western Cape has done, if you look at Erf 694 in Mitchells Plain, you are talking of 50% of people from Khayelitsha; 50% of people from Mitchells Plain, who are going to occupy the land.

That is how you deal with non-racialism and commitment, and none of the ANC countrywide has any of these policies. By not dealing with the failing State-owned enterprises – SAA, PRASA – that is not how you are committing to building South Africa, and I have to repeatedly bring up the National Museum Policy, hon House Chairperson.

Since 1996 the policy has not been completely finalised to deal with all our cultural and heritage institutions, and that is how you build a non-racial South Africa and a united South Africa. Thank you, hon member Dugmore, because via you, hon House Chairperson, the ANC likes to scapegoat

minorities. The ANC likes to blame everything that is wrong in this country on minorities. It is the DA that consistently looks at things that can unite us as a country, but the ANC does not want to go that way.

Just in this week they announced another R22 million on building a flagpole. A flagpole. That should be spent on policing, on housing for the poor, that is how you unite South Africa.

Hon House Chairperson, I would like to close this debate on a more positive note, by highlighting some of the things that we have done as a government. The hon member Simmers spoke earlier on about inclusionary housing, shared by my colleague Mahlodi Maseko, who you are now the House Chairperson. That is how you build [Interjections.] built a united and committed – finish off?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Ja.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Chairperson, I will finish.

We have allocated billions of rands to that, hon Chairperson. That shows the DA difference. It shows our commitment to building an open united ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: ... and non-racial South Africa. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

That concludes the debate on this subject. Hon member?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon House Chair, I just want to ask a question of clarity, and perhaps the Table staff can look at it and you can consult them, just in the context of fairness.

The hon member Marais was not very happy when his time was cut. Now I just wanted to, because I picked up, did the, if it could just be stated to us, did the clock start for the hon former Premier when his name was called out? Or when he started speaking? I just wanted to get that sense. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

I think we will try to get, to send you the Hansard, and I think the Table staff they will do that so that we can check everything from their Hansard. I know we, as all members, we do receive it.

Hon member Marais, I recognise your hand.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

To add to that, I feel disgusted because I also started my clock, and I told him I was fiddling because my phone was ringing, and I tried to switch it off when my name was called.

I timed myself. There was, it was only about one minute 30 seconds that I spoke, and every time when that person, the hon member is in the Chair, this happens, and I want to lodge my complaint and my disappointment that every time when the hon member is in the Chair, my time is cut, and I would like to also thank the hon member Sayed for bringing it up.

How can my clock show 1:30 and their clock shows 2 minutes?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member, I do hear you. Like I said I will give the same response. We will look at the Hansard. It will be sent to you, and then you will see the Presiding Officer, as always we get the guidance from the Table staff with the time. They do have that log in front of them.

So as per the record it will say three minutes and it is then that we can take it from there, after you listen to the Hansard and then you have seen if that was three minutes as it was stated, by the two minutes, ja, as it was stated.

If we can agree to that, that will be the ruling for now. We cannot continue, we have to continue with the business of the day.

Hon member Sayed, is that ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Hon Chair, can it maybe just be made a bit clearer as to how exactly will the Hansard assist us?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay, there is a ...[Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: Because I mean I am – ja.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: ... timing – okay. Hon member, so usually in the Hansard, when you listen you will see the time. So, from when the persons speak until when they end their speeches, you will see the time, how many minutes have gone through, and that will be assist – and I tend to believe that already I have done the ruling on that, if there's anything, I tend to believe that already I have done the ruling on that. If there is anything, I tend to believe that Whips can sit to check if there is anything untoward concerning the time that is allocated to different members of the parties.

Hon member Sayed?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: [Inaudible.] and I hope that I am not, I do not think I am holding the session back unnecessarily. Just in the context of fairness. We are all equal in this House regardless of the number of seats we have, but in the instance that the Hansard indicates, or through the Hansard reading, that hon member Marais was actually cut short, will he be

given that extra time in another speech? Because that is the point here, that is why we are ask it now so that – because the hon member clearly in his perspective did not get to complete his speech within the time.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Hon member, let us not make assumptions of what may or may not happen. Take the time and listen to him when you have the timing clock, and then we will take it from there. Let us continue with the business of the day.

The Interpellations are to follow. We now proceed to the interpellation as printed on the Question Paper, and I recognise the hon Minister of Health and Wellness, Minister Mbombo.

INTERPELLATIONS

COVID-19 fifth wave

1. Mr M Xego asked the Minister of Health and Wellness:

How prepared is her Department to deal with the possible fifth wave of COVID-19?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you, House Chair, can you hear me?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes, we can hear you, hon [Inaudible.]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Because I have got loadshedding here. I would not be able to use the camera. Thank you Ngconde.

Relating to the question about the preparedness. As always in the past of other COVID waves we have always been prepared, and during the Ad Hoc Committee for COVID we are always presenting this.

Just a quick one: our Department has established a clear monitoring and trigger system to track, which is based on our past experiences in relation to hospitalisation and oxygen. The key triggers are based on admissions and oxygen use, which are both well below where they were during previous waves.

COVID cases and also the people that are under investigation currently make up only 7% of all available acute general hospital capacity, which is in both the Metro and also in the rural regional hospital drainage areas.

Our past experience has also enabled us to acquire additional oxygen where needed, for which we have agreements in place with the necessary service providers.

We also have any [Inaudible.] to have opened additional bed capacity at our

intermediate care hospitals, such as Mitchells Plain, Hospital of Hope, in case we need those.

And also a third one is about appointing additional staff on contract where required.

So those three are in place just in case. COVID will not go away anytime soon. So to eventually defeat it, we must eradicate it. The same as with polio; same as with TB, we must continuously work against these viruses.

Our main aim remains to ensure we have as many people as possible vaccinated and then get boosted with additional doses. Of course, we do know that vaccination would not prevent for you to be re-infected or to be infected, but at least the evidence is there, it reduces hospitalisation, and also deaths.

The booster vaccines increase our level of immunity, making us more resistant to contracting and transmitting the Coronavirus. Whilst we are expecting a fifth wave this winter, it is impossible to predict how severe it will be. Vaccination and natural immunity are protective, but the big unknown is a new variant and whether it will cause severe disease or not. There is much we can do as individuals to keep healthy and prevent transmission to others.

To date we have administered about 5,3 million vaccines, with more than

2,5 million people already receiving their full primary series, and almost 3 million people having received their first dose. To add further protection, more than 450 000 people have taken up the opportunity to receive their booster dose, along with the 61 500 healthcare workers and 9 850 people living with immunocompromised conditions, have received their additional dose.

Although we no longer have a State of Disaster, as you are aware, it is very important to continue protecting ourselves and others. We have also heard about long COVID. It is real; it is there, the long overhaul. Long COVID is very rare. Many people who experience mild infection, suffer from fatigue and cough for many weeks to months afterwards, impacting their quality of life. This has long and personal implications on one's health. We can be able to avoid it by getting the vaccination. Thank you, hon Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much hon Minister. I now recognise the EFF, hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Ja, thank you, House Chair, and thanks for the response from the hon Minister.

Ours is that I will say that there have been complaints recently amongst the residents of Macassar regarding the treatment of patients by staff members at the Macassar Day Hospital. This is as a result of long queues and as well as the treatment of physically impaired and the elderly, and as well as children,

that are they are subjected to by staff members, and this leads, also results in alterations that are taking place there and patients fighting among themselves, and sometimes harassing the staff members of the Health Department.

So now what we want to understand is what is the Department's policy with regards to giving preference to the elderly and the disabled, and those in wheelchairs, especially, and the children, and also is there a customer care number training that is provided to healthcare workers? And those working within the precinct of these health institutions in order to do away with the challenges that they are facing, such as agitation and aggression that patients result in? And also, what is the Department doing to make sure that the online appointment system in community health care centres operates optimally? Thanks very much, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the DA, hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson, and thank you to the hon Minister for providing clarity on the matter.

Here in the Western Cape we know that our province has the leadership to ensure proactivity against future COVID-19 waves. Already for this year, hon Chairperson, the Department of Health and Wellness has been allocated R777 million for the continuation of the COVID-19 response. This is in

addition to the more than R198 million which will be used for the vaccination programme.

Hon Chairperson, more after centralising the procurement of PPE in 2020/21, the Western Cape was able to set up a complete warehouse with PPE valued at R80 million, so we know that we have the capacity and the resources to effectively deal with future waves, but as the Minister said, COVID will be with us for the foreseeable future, and will require us to continually work in order for it to be defeated and eradicated.

Hon Chairperson, our efforts must be focused on everyone receiving the lifesaving vaccines, which have proven to prevent high degrees of hospitalisations and deaths. This requires every one of us to get fully vaccinated and to convince those who are still sceptical about the vaccine. Only then will we be completely safeguarded against the virus. I thank you, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. I now recognise the ANC, hon member Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Can you hear me, hon House Chairperson?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You may go on, hon member.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you so much. Hon House Chairperson, there is every indication that the province will reach the first wave soon. The positivity rate is increasing. The province now has over 10 000 active COVID-19 cases. It is only a matter of time before people start experiencing severe symptoms and will be in need of hospitalisation.

The Provincial Government is yet to relocate thousands of informal settlement dwellers it was supposed to move in 2020 already. There are no basic services in many informal settlements that were established during the pandemic. These will add to the risk of rapid spread. MEC, what are the plans to mitigate the spread in informal settlements?

Hon House Chairperson, there is no sense of urgency on the part of the Provincial Government to put mitigation measures in place to deal with this resurgence. In the 2022/23 Budget there is R200 million of COVID response reserve. In addition to these funds, the Department has also been allocated over R777 million for continuation of COVID-19 response, as well as over R198 million for vaccination programmes.

Hon House Chairperson, when will the funds in COVID response reserve be released? What is the over R975 million spent on when the Department has been closing down field hospitals and vaccine sites, and laying off staff?

The HOD must not allow these funds to be wasted on quick fixes and agency personnel, they must be spent to improve the public healthcare system and opening vaccine sites in poor working-class communities. Our public healthcare is in shambles. It is only through the full implementation of the NHI that we can address a lot of issues ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member ...[Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: ... a healthcare system. When will the MEC stop its opposition to NHI? I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the EFF, hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thanks, hon House Chair. It is now clear that a huge bulk of the 2022/2023 Budget allocated to the Provincial Department of Health will be spent on infrastructure. So we would like to know what is the scale of the infrastructure project taking place in both Groote Schuur and Tygerberg Hospitals? And are there sections of these hospitals that are still cordoned off as a result of these developments? And if any, how will they affect service delivery in these hospitals should these hospitals experience pressure-related increase in numbers of COVID infections? Thanks very much, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member.

I now recognise hon Minister Mbombo.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Thank you colleagues for the input. Ngconde, the question you asked was about how prepared is the Department to deal with a possible fifth wave of COVID.

Now it becomes a challenge for me to respond to others that are not within this question. For example, about the infrastructure related to Tygerberg, and also the issues that you also alluded to in terms of the queues.

However, in terms of the linking, I could be able to say that indeed we are integrating the COVID and non-COVID services, as we have seen already that we are busy with, and also it is not only at a clinic or at a health facility, but also we still provide others outside, for example, through the Vaxi Taxi, so that we try to avoid a situation where there are many of these long queues.

Unfortunately, the long queues will still be there because we cannot put everyone in the waiting room, because of not knowing how the variant will be, and also because there is evidence that COVID is spread airborne. So we cannot be saying that you should avoid gatherings, overcrowding, and yet within our health system we encourage overcrowding.

So the open air system will still remain, but we appeal to other sectors, like

the municipality ward councillors and anyone, the businesses, to assist us with an *afdak* in some of these areas because especially now it is winter, it is raining.

From our side, in response to the appointment system, we are actually encouraging the people to use the appointment system when it is not an emergency, but people must not come, all of them, 6 a.m., 7 a.m., everyone is there because it is still that traditional thing that, “I want to be there first.” Those who have to spread it like others must come at 10, others at 12, others at two, until it closes so as to avoid those kinds of the long queues, and on the issues of how do we – yes, indeed, hon member Windvogel, the issue of a fifth wave, technically speaking it should be, we are supposed to be somewhere nearer.

We have seen the high numbers in Gauteng and KZN, we are the third when it comes to the cases, but the question about how do we ensure we avoid the transmission in the overcrowded spaces. That is a question that actually I need to ask you, as well as a community leader and also a constituency member, because the infections are not happening within the clinical area within the hospital. It is happening there outside, and secondly the Omicron, as you know that it is highly transmissible, but some people actually do not even show symptoms.

So it can happen anywhere, whether it is in the overcrowded areas, wherever it is even in the not so overcrowded areas, because it is airborne, just like

TB. We will never know where are you getting it from.

So that is why the national policy has been, they introduced a policy regarding the quarantine and isolation; that needs to be reviewed, especially for those who are asymptomatic.

So the whole aspect [Inaudible] which is I agree with you that with the social ills, with the high densities and overcrowding, with crime, and with poverty, all of those, these are social determinants of health, that need to be worked on by other sectors because at the end it is the health system that absorbs them, and when there is COVID it does have a huge impact, I agree, on everyone, especially for those who have got existing chronic conditions, like those who have immunosuppressed conditions. That is why we encourage them ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister? Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ... to get immune boosters.
Thank you, hon Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Minister. That concludes the first interpellation.

We are going to continue with the second one, and I recognise Minister Mitchell.

Minibus taxis: operating licensing process

2. Mr L L Mvimbi asked the Minister of Mobility:

With regard to the operating licensing process of the Provincial Regulatory Entity (PRE) for minibus taxis:

(a) What challenges are experienced by his Department and (b) how has this had an impact on and/or contributed to the challenges facing the taxi industry in the Western Cape?

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson, and thank you very much to hon Mvimbi for the interpellation. Hon Chair, I think it is important to understand that the Provincial – can I go?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Oh, sorry. It is important to understand that the Provincial Regulatory Entity must monitor and oversee public transport in the province, and receive and decide on applications relating to the operating licenses for interprovincial travel.

In performing these functions, the PRE must exercise independent discretion, and I also want to point out that the regulation of public transport services is

a concurrent function of all spheres of government.

At present the PRE is performing the functions of the National Public Transport Regulator insofar as interprovincial transport services are concerned, and transport planning is an exclusive Local Government matter, as set out in Schedule 4 and 5 of the South African Constitution.

Hon Chair, every municipality is required to produce an integrated transport plan for its area, and the ITP must be updated annually to respond to the changes in the demand and supply of public transport services. The PRE, hon Chair, is dutybound to refer applications relating to operating licenses to the municipality for direction, based on its ITP.

In disposing of such applications, the PRE must act according to and may not grant, and I want to repeat this, the PRE must act according to and may not grant an operating license contrary to the direction of the municipality and the ITP for the area.

Hon Chair, I want to go on to the second part of the question that was posed under the challenges, but perhaps the greatest challenge, hon Chair, within the public transport environment is the indiscriminate recruitment of new members by taxi associations. These members, hon Chair, are charging exorbitant joining fees and are allowed to operate on the network of routes served by that particular association.

In most cases members are recruited in excess of the passenger demand. In essence, associations create a parallel regulatory system and which most taxi operators, I say “most” not all, do not understand the concept of regulated competition and that the need for the service must be demonstrated. These applications, hon Chair, are therefore referred to the affected municipality for directions in terms of its approved ITP.

The City of Cape Town has on numerous occasions indicated that most of the routes in its area are significantly overtraded in respect of legal operating licenses. The PRE, hon Chair, cannot therefore grant an application where the municipality has indicated that the need for the service is already adequately served by other public transport services of a similar nature, standard or quality. As a result of these constant recruitment drives, the PRE is inundated with applications for operating licenses on routes that are already overcrowded. These have futile applications.

The second one, hon Chair, is that unfortunately not all municipalities have the capacity to perform its statutory functions as set out in the National Land Transport Act, and in some cases, the ITP has not been updated as required by the municipality to carry out further inquiries or investigations before directions can be provided to the PRE. Can you just let me know how much time I have left?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You still have about 21 seconds.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Okay. Okay, I will respond in my second [Inaudible.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Okay, thank you very much, hon Minister of Mobility. I now recognise ANC, hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. Can you hear me?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes, I can hear you loud and clear. You may go on.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much once again, hon Chairperson, and also to the hon Minister for the input.

Hon Chairperson, I think when it comes to this issue, I think it is a question of planning versus operation, but also we must agree that there is a serious challenge with the operating license regime, which is the function of the Provincial Government, as compared to planning, which is the function of Local Government.

Secondly, we must agree that there is an insufficient number of valid operating licenses in the province. In this regard we welcome the commitment by the National Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula, to refine the operating license regime and work with municipalities to ensure that their integrated transport plans are up to date and form the basis for the issuing of

any new operating license.

Between the Fourth, the Fifth and the Sixth Administration, the Provincial Regulatory Entity issued only 12 081 operating licenses. In total in the province are only 12 149 valid operating licenses. We must agree that this is not enough for a rapidly growing province like the Western Cape because we keep on saying that the province is growing. Therefore, that means that even the demand for public transport is going to grow.

Despite this growth, the Provincial Government has between the Fourth and the Sixth Administration rejected a total of 3 176 applications for minibus taxi operating licenses. We want to know why and which routes were affected, as you might be aware, hon Chairperson, it is not every day that I will agree with the former DA provincial leader, Bonginkosi Madikizela, who is the predecessor of the Minister, but our views are in sync regarding the failures of municipalities, especially the City of Cape Town, to plan accordingly and include integrated transport plans in their IDPs.

While there are many newly established settlements in the city and province, the Provincial Regulatory Entity and municipality have failed to establish new routes. This rejection of operating licenses vindicates your former predecessor, hon Minister, who said that municipalities do not have the capacity, nor the appetite to do due diligence to properly ascertain supply and demand in order to recommend to Provincial Regulatory Entity to issue an adequate number of operating licenses.

This creates an environment where many public transporters who are serving the demand, are penalised for not having an operating license. In other words, we are actually systematically [Inaudible.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member?

Mr L L MVIMBI: There is clearly – eish, how much more time do I have, hon Chair? How much time?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: Shall I finish up?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member?

Mr L L MVIMBI: There is clearly a shortage of operating licenses in the province, and we need the MEC to intervene.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Okay. Thank you, thank you, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the DA, hon member America.

Mr D AMERICA: Thank you, hon House Chair, and thank you, hon Minister, for creating context and setting the scene for this interpellation.

Hon House Chair, while we recognise that there are some challenges which exist in relation to the processing of operating permits by the Provincial Regulatory Entity, we must also commend the Department of Mobility's efforts to alleviate the challenges and ensure that licenses to operators are issued on a fair, equitable and efficient basis.

The Department of Mobility, in cooperation with various stakeholders, has gone above and beyond to secure a safe, reliable and affordable public transport system. However, we must acknowledge there are elements within the taxi industry that are sure to hold the Provincial Regulatory Entity and the Department of Mobility to ransom over the issuing of licenses, by way of needless violence and blatant thuggery.

Hon House Chair, this violence has a direct impact on all road users, particularly commuters. This type of conflict in the taxi industry has existed for a long time. It is a stain on our society and must be condemned.

Hon House Chair, lastly I strongly encourage all stakeholders, including the Department of Mobility, taxi associations, the Provincial Regulatory Entity, as well as the South African Police Services and other law enforcement agencies, to work together to develop long-term solutions for the industry and most importantly for the safety of our commuters. I thank you, hon

House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the ACDP, hon member Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Hon Chairperson, with the routes being overrated, it is a huge problem when you in the morning see the taxis racing like at Kyalami. I just want to ask the Minister, and he can answer it, if not, with the lack of trains that we have, the rail system, will that – are you in discussion with the National Minister to get our trains back? I think it will solve a lot of the problems we have.

So, hon Minister, we see you are busy, and I think I need to compliment you for the job you are doing, you are doing a good job, but we have enormous problems when it comes to taxis. People's lives are in danger. So, are you in talks with the National Minister when it comes to the rail service? Thank you, hon Minister.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the EFF, hon member Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon House Chair, greetings to the hon Minister. Hon House Chair, last week when I posed a question regarding the latest developments about the Mbekweni and Bellville route, which is currently suspended for taxis, and when exactly will the suspension be lifted, the

Minister replied by saying that he is still applying his mind on the matter. It has now unfortunately become clear now that the taxi industry has no time to wait for the Minister while he is taking his time to apply his mind.

Currently, hon House Chair, there are reports of taxis that are operating illegally on that route, and it is just a matter of time before another taxi war breaks out because it seems like the Minister rules with an iron fist, and without engaging all the parties that are involved.

Is the Minister, hon House Chair, going to be held liable for a taxi war that is looming in that route or in that area? The problem is that those who are currently operating illegally on that route have grown impatient with the conduct of the Minister in keeping them in the dark, whilst allowing the Golden Arrow Bus services to gain the sole monopoly on that route.

It comes as no surprise why recently when taxi owners are protesting, they will start by torching and burning Golden Arrow Buses. It is due to the long distance anger amongst taxi owners which is created by the Minister, between taxi owners and the Golden Arrow Bus services. The Minister, hon House Chair, must swallow his pride and engage all the stakeholders involved in order to find long-lasting solutions. If that is not done timeously, then taxi wars will continue in the province and more lives will be lost. Thank you, hon Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member

Makamba-Botya. I now recognise hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: [No audible response.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Mvimbi, are you there?

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. I thought that by the time I am coming again, the Minister would have already maybe an indication on responding to some of the issues I raised previously, but okay, if they are giving me the time, no problem, hon Minister.

I also want to say – sorry, hon Chairperson. I want to say, hon Chairperson, that there are good men and women in the taxi industry, and there are a lot of them, and I will actually advise against a blanket approach of referring to the taxi industry is committing an act of thuggery.

So, because I know there are a lot of people who are people of integrity in the taxi industry.

Now, hon Chairperson, the minibus taxi industry is among the oldest, well-established and most fast-growing in South Africa. It is an integral part of the transport system and economy, which continue transporting millions of commuters daily and creating employment opportunities for hundreds of thousand of drivers and vendors in the informal economy.

The 2020 National Travel Household Survey proves this by showing the increased usage of minibus taxis from 9,8 million in 2013, to over 11 million in 2020. Yet the industry is frustrated, undermined and targeted by various municipalities, especially the City of Cape Town, which generates millions in revenue through impounding taxis and issuing of fines due to operating in illegal routes.

A case in point is one of SANTACO provincial leaders who shared with me recently that his taxi was impounded and fined R9 000, only for it to be impounded again a few days after he released it, and charged another R9 000. This is not only unfair, but it clearly shows unfair targeting and purging of the taxi industry, but what gives rise to this illegality that characterise the industry?

We need to look at the memorandum of the Dunoon Taxi Association given to the Provincial Minister on 16 March 2022, where a number of serious issues were raised and remain unaddressed to date.

The Association alleges that it is denied access to lucrative routes in and around the area, which are reserved for the MyCiti. Despite there being a higher demand and the number of commuters who prefer taxis over MyCiti, we must always emphasise that not everybody will always be wanting to use MyCiti as a mode of transport. So we must give commuters a variety of choices. The MEC must tell us what are the updates regarding the renewal of existing long-distance operating licenses for the Dunoon Taxi Association

...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon [Inaudible.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... what is the [Inaudible.] of the new route application that was submitted in November 2021?

In conclusion I want to commend the National Transport Minister for his commitment ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member ...[Interjections.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: ... to introduce a subsidy policy. Thank you very much, Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Mitchell.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Hon Chair, I think it is important to give the facts because, and this happens time in, time out, especially from hon member Mvimbi.

Currently there are 5 863 operators, legal operators. There are currently 2 851 legal routes. Hon member Mvimbi just said that over 12 000 operating licenses were issued. So that is roughly two operating, or legally operators

per route. On 25 March, 533 new routes were published for comment, that closed on 8 April, the public participation was closed on 8 April.

The City of Cape Town, which he is criticising, is saying in that same public participation period that they are willing to approve 1 431 operating licenses on condition that the supply and demand and the public participation process happen, and the public says yes.

So hon member Mvimbi must not come here again and again and mislead without the facts. Did hon member Mvimbi, did he even participate and all these people from the industry that approaches him, did they actually take part in this public participation space of the 533 additional routes?

Then hon member Makamba-Botya is speaking about B97. Yes, I am still applying my mind. I have until 26 May to apply my mind. If hon member Makamba-Botya thinks that the illegal operation is happening only now on that route, I hate to break it to her, it happened since the day the route was closed, and because it is adding ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister Mitchell, will you please take your seat. Hon member Dugmore, can I please ask you to refrain from passing comment across, and allow Minister Mitchell. Thank you. Hon Minister Mitchell.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: Thank you, hon Chair.

Hon Chair, B97 and the illegal operation on that route continued even after the first closure, and that is part of the reason that route is still closed, but I want to take it a little bit further.

Hon member Makamba-Botya is saying that in the minibus taxi industry, the operators are saying X, Y and Z. For that first part of the closure, it was part of the arbitration process that the associations agreed upon. The arbitration award was submitted and discussed with both associations. They are in agreement that it must still remain closed.

So again, I do not know who hon member Makamba-Botya is engaging, but the leadership of SANTACO and the leadership of the associations that I am engaging, has got a completely different view on the situation, but just for the record, the route is legally closed until 26 May of this year.

Then there was, I take note of the comments made by hon member Christians, and if I had the legal mandate to take over rail tomorrow, or the Province, I would do so in a heartbeat, but with that being said, with the direction and the vision by the Premier and the new department, we can no longer wait for National Government to intervene. The National Minister is here today to engage on removing people from the Central Line. He is here today, but the bottom line is it is a pipe dream. It is not going to happen. The Western Cape Government has provided assistance in the support of land for the relocation, that has been [Interjections.] the power of attorney has been signed over to the [Interjections.] HD – excuse me?

No-no, the power of attorney, it was Government land. The fact that the HDA ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon member Dugmore ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ... did not do it or cannot do it – no-no-no, no ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: The first offer was made by the Department of Transport and Public Works, and the power of attorney was signed over.

So that is the reality, those are the facts. So in the absence of a functional rail system, and in the absence of the ANC-led Government ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Minister ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ... actually doing what they are supposed to do ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Minister Mitchell, can I ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ... we will do what we need to do in order to

get commuters from point A to point B ...[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Mitchell.

The MINISTER OF MOBILITY: ... in this province. Thank you, hon Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you so much, and that is the end of interpellations.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Hon Chairperson? Hon Chairperson?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Who is trying to get my attention? Hon member Mvimbi?

Mr L L MVIMBI: Ja, but it is fine, hon Chairperson. My hand has been up, but you did not give me a chance, but it is fine, thank you, Chairperson, no problem.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Mvimbi. I checked the screen about a second ago and your hand was not up, but – yes, we have concluded with Interpellations now.

Hon members, we are moving on to Questions. We will now deal with

Questions as printed on the Question Paper, and I wish to advise, hon members, that once the hon Premier or the Minister has started the reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility for this sitting of the House, to indicate that they want to ask a follow-up question. So you need to be quick, hon member Mvimbi, and there are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper, will have the first opportunity for a follow-up question. Thereafter other hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask a follow-up question.

I now recognise the hon Premier, Questions in terms of Rule 202. You might proceed, thank you, hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

New questions to the Premier:

Cabinet Ministers: appointment criteria

1. Mr M Xego asked the Premier:

- (a) What criteria does he use when he appoints Ministers to his Cabinet and (b) what informs his decisions?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Chair, and thank you very much to

the hon member Xego for the question.

First of all (a), or (a) and (b), the powers and functions that have been entrusted to me through the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, provide me with the executive authority in which to appoint, assign powers or dismiss members of my Cabinet, and then the second part. First of all it is given to me by the mandate and the will of the voters in this province.

Secondly that gives me a list of members that are represented in this House, a majority list of members that are represented in this House, and then of course it is risks, needs and aspirations of the citizens.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Premier.

I do not see any hands online. Hon member Xego, you do not wish to pose a follow-up question?

Mr M XEGO: I do, I do.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: You did not raise your hand.

Mr M XEGO: Oh, sorry, I thought you will automatically give to me.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed, hon member.

Mr M XEGO: Alright. Thanks, hon House Chair, and thanks to the hon Premier's response.

The reason for this question, hon Premier, is that in the past the Premier appointed individuals in the Cabinet, in his Cabinet, with questionable morals and ethics, who either lied about their qualifications, or sexually abused their junior staff, or who were either incompetent, such as the one who previously held the Education Department, and as well as the Local Government in the recent Mobility Department.

So in the departments such as Education, why did the Premier not look for someone who has a background in education and understands the environment and concerns in which teachers and learners operate? Thanks very much, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Xego. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Chair, and thank you for the hon member Xego for the follow-up.

I think first of all, obviously if things happen during your tenure and an issue comes up, I think what I have shown is that I deal with these issues decisively, unlike what I see in his own very party.

So absolutely, I deal with them decisively if and when anything comes up. Of course when I also apply my mind, and I mean he used the opportunity, or he used this opportunity to talk about a new Cabinet member that will become the Minister of Education as of Monday next week, and of course, I think the best opportunity ever is understanding our education system right now, and producing skills for the youth of our province for job opportunities into the future, and the Minister that has been appointed now, can you imagine now when we actually start to bring business and education together in understanding that whatever we are learning, the subject choices we are making, are for a future job. Whether we are doing it through the academic process post-education, or whether we are doing it in a dual system where we start to look at technical skills and partnering with businesses, just as we have just launched or opened an amazing skills school in Struisbaai, getting that alignment right between business and education, I can think of no better appointment.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Premier. I recognise the hon member Sayed and hon member Baartman. Your hand was also up. Oh, my apologies, hon member Botha, and that concludes the four questions.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP [ANC]: The new Chief Whip should sit that side. Thank you very much, hon House Chair, and thank you to the hon Premier, and thank you to the hon member Xego for the question.

Just as I ask the question, I think we must just note here as members and there are former members, we must say “alleged” so we cannot accuse people of certain things without there being clear charges and people having been found guilty in the court of law. I think it is very important, because some have been former members of the House, but I think just to state that so that we need to be responsible, but I think just to indicate, just to ask the Premier then what are some of the non-negotiables when the Premier appoints, that if one MEC, for example, was to break them, he or she will be shown the door, and whether they include any findings by the Public Protector, or any Chapter 9 institutions against the MEC, as opposed to mere allegations? Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member Sayed. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much and first of all to the first part, which was not really a question but just alleged, thank you. I think that is exactly how we need to be treating each other. We are called honourable members and we need to do exactly that and when these things come up, they are alleged until he says as proven in a court of law. Exactly the same thing applies to the Public Protector and that is why when certain issues come from the Public Protector we will deal with it, we respect the office of the Public Protector but when that finding comes, if we do not agree with it, we will challenge it. As the hon member knows, there are a few cases that are being challenged right now in the High Court or the Constitutional Court against those rulings of the Public Protector. In actual fact it was not so long ago

that a previous ruling of the Public Protector against the previous Premier, was found to be incorrect, the Public Protector had to carry costs etc., etc so of course the Public Protector again is not the supreme outcome; it can be challenged.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Premier. Hon Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you Chairperson. Premier speaking to the criteria that are applied, does the criteria used change for different portfolios or is it the same for all appointments to the Cabinet?

The PREMIER: So obviously the criteria are how you apply your mind and of course you cannot have a one size fits all; you have got to apply your mind because you are dealing with human beings, you are dealing with people who have shown how they behave or react or their portfolio that they hold or the compassion that they may have and you have got to take that and look at, as I said, the risks, the aspirations of society where we find ourselves as a community, understanding the position that this province finds itself in as a province within a country. You have a look at the current issue at failing infrastructure and a National Government that does not really look like they care and you have got to make your mind up in that context and understanding that we have been given a mandate by the voter and you have got to do the best that you can, with making sure that we can make the biggest difference we can, for the citizens of this province. That is why we

are here, across both sides of the House, to make a difference in the lives of the citizens of our province.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Premier. The last question, follow-up?

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much Chair of Committees. We have noted that the question has specifically talked to a criterion and I would like to ask that given that our province has dropped to number three in terms of the Education matric results, given further that Education budgets were not spent by the previous outgoing MEC, given further that the take up amongst black, by black I mean broadly African and Coloured learners in regard to science, in particular; given all those failures, would the Premier be prepared to acknowledge that the criteria he applied last time in appointing MEC Schäfer were either faulty or was it just a question that she disappointed you ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, members.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITON: ... in terms of her actual performance and has this become an embarrassment to you and your Government?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Chair and to the hon member of the Opposition, Leader of the Opposition, I was going to say no and just sit down but I have decided not to say no and just sit down because he cannot come here with his half truths and misleading statements without backing anything up.

First thing he says is 'number three', but he does not talk about number one in university passes, he talks about number three because all the ANC does is they determine it by the number outcomes. They do not care how many young people they ditch along the way before they get to matric. That does not count in their analysis. That is the point that he is making here: we do not care how many young people get to a matric that can actually get a job in an economy.

They fail the citizens from the first thing they do to the last thing they do, and they have been doing that for 28 years. Now exactly the opposite has been happening in this province, exactly the opposite. The best opportunity for a young person going through an education system is in this province and not in any of the other ANC run provinces whatsoever and Minister Schäfer for the last eight years ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Sorry Premier, to interrupt you. Will you please take your seat. Member Sayed, member Dugmore has posed the question and now we have to afford the Premier opportunity to answer that question. Can I please ask that you refrain from interrupting? Thank you very

much, member. Please proceed Premier.

The PREMIER: Unfortunately, I lost my track because I was really - but anyway ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I am so sorry.

The PREMIER: [Laughter.] Minister Schäfer, for the last eight years ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, members.

The PREMIER: ... has dedicated her time, day and night, to improving the opportunity for a young person in this province to get an education that gives that person the best opportunity for a future in this very country. Her work that she has done stands out amongst every single other province in South Africa. So what he is saying is exactly the opposite to the real outcome and this House should owe her a huge debt of gratitude as all the citizens of this province do, as the messaging we are getting back from schools and learners who have had opportunity in this province, not the kind of opportunity that an absolutely failed ANC Government has done for us as South Africans in the last 28 years. It is disgusting how the ANC have really let citizens down in South Africa whether it is energy production, rail which we have just spoken about, opportunities to get to work, you name the infrastructure. They have failed dismally, they failed in education, health; I mean look at the health disaster that this COVID-19 pandemic has shown how [Interjection.]

really *swak* it has been under ANC rule in other provinces across South Africa.

So in actual fact, it is exactly the opposite to what the hon Dugmore says, and we want say to the hon Debbie Schäfer, thank you very much for your commitment, dedication and service to the citizens of this province. [Interjection.] We wish you well in your next chapter and we thank you for that dedication and the difference that you have made to the learners of this province. Thank you.

Mr P MARRAN: So she is leaving as third best.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Premier. Members online, will you please mute yourselves and can I also just caution you, we do not want to, at this stage, remove you, so please you are well acquainted with the Rules going forward and online engagement, so please be disciplined in that regard. That concludes the first question. We move over to the second question posed by member Dugmore to the Premier. I now recognise the Premier.

Departmental name changes

2. Mr C M Dugmore asked the Premier:

(a) What is the motivation behind the name changes of certain

departments and (b) how has this affected the organograms of those departments and their scope of work?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much Chair and thank you very much to the hon Dugmore for the question. The name changes to certain departments in the Western Cape are motivated by number one, the priorities of our Government to better also reflect the service each department provides to the residents of this province. You know at the end of the day, every single thing that we do, when we are given the mandate after an election, when we put our hands up and swear allegiance to the Constitution, must be to improve life for the citizens that we represent. Every single one of us in this House because we all collectively represent the needs, the wishes, the aspirations of all citizens.

And of course, in this province the name changes which the hon Dugmore is referring to, so let us talk about the first one being the Department of Health and Wellness. This is something that the Department has worked on for a long time. They have spoken about wellness, and they have put strategies in place on how do we get to the causalities of the burden of disease, how do we actually focus on the wellness of our citizens, not only just on the health when they need health care. And so, I think this is really how we are focusing now on that plan and of course this has come, not from me but as I said before in this House, this is actually part of a process within the Department that they have come back and said, while we were setting up the Violence Prevention Unit, they said at the same time as that, can we also then expand

on our name. It is something that we have spoken about for a while, and I really think that puts it fair and square of what this Department wants to do and how they want to bring about change within society.

The second area of course is the Department of Community Safety changing to Police Oversight and Community Safety. This is also critical because it really starts to position what we do in the province. I think everyone knows that I have campaigned, I read some of the articles by international criminologists; in actual fact there is this book here called '*Better Choices*', a couple of papers by a number of experts in our country – when you read that book. Again, it also talks about devolution of power, it talks about how we really need to rethink the policing system in our country.

We always talk about this murder rate in the province of three thousand or more citizens, of course we have the highest per capita murder rate, but many more than three thousand citizens are murdered every year in KZN or many more than three thousand citizens murdered in Gauteng and the problem is the policing system. So while we do not get it right to get devolution of power, our job then is police oversight. Even the police Minister does not understand that. We have just had a terrible, horrendous shooting in Khayelitsha and what does the police Minister say when he arrives in Khayelitsha, he says “the province is not deploying the police officers to the right places.”. That is his job, and he does not even understand that. I cannot believe it. But this is really about signalling that, not only the PNP that we produce which is an outstanding document which is far superior to any of the

oversight documents I see from any of the other provinces, but how do we elevate that even to the next level?

So the name change is about leading a thought pattern and a process of what we are going to be doing so that the Department is quite clear on police oversight. We are going to take it to the next level. It is not only about our piece of legislation that puts an ombudsman in place and a PNP etcetera. It actually is saying we want to lift the level; we want to take learnings from COVID-19 with dashboards and data and evidence led policing.

We are seeing it working in the Safety Plan, so how do we do that to get a message to the National Minister that in actual fact you need to do what you need to do and deploy officers to where those officers need to be. We are deploying a thousand officers where they need to be to change to murder rate, and the data is showing us that it is working. Those twenty thousand officers in the province, where are you deploying them? That is your job, Mr National Minister; that is your job now just do your job, deploy police officers to the correct space. And then of course it is Community Safety, links through the Safety Plan, links through to the health portfolio violence prevention because it is about getting ahead of crime itself; what are the causalities? So of course, that is the thinking behind the name changes and of course I look forward to the follow-ups on this because I do believe that if we keep on doing the same thing over and over again, without changing things, we are not going to get different outcomes. That is what I believe in, and I think these kinds of changes are changes that will lead us to better outcomes and at

the end of the day, for what we are all here for, the interests of the citizens of this province.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Premier. Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much. I seem to think that the Premier forgot to say anything about Mobility and Infrastructure. So have you forgotten about that Department? One of my follow-up questions.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Dugmore. Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I would presume that as a seasoned member of this House, I am not sure how many years altogether you have served in this House, almost as long as I have because you had that little stint off to go and play in the ... [Interjection.] No, no, no, no. That was just to go and play with the Planning Commission for a while – but I mean you have been in this House for a very long time.

Chair through you, I must say before the hon Sayed tells me I am not speaking through the Chair, Chair through you, I want to tell this seasoned member, I do not want to say workshop this seasoned member, I want to tell the seasoned member that his question says, ‘What is the motivation behind the name changes of certain departments?’ Now if he wanted to know about

Mobility and Infrastructure, he would have said ‘what is the motivation behind the new departments that we have announced, not the name changes. He should question what he needs from an answer. They always say in politics, you should know the answer before you ask the question. Well, quite frankly, as a seasoned politician in this House, †nee man dit is ‘n bietjie swak [no man, it is a bit poor.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Next follow-up question.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Member Dugmore, I have not recognised you. Thank you. I recognise the hon Lili. Are you there, hon Lili, your hand is up?

Mr A LILI: Yes Chair, I just wanted to know whether the angry Premier can give me a chance to ask a question on whatever he presented today because he seems to be very angry?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Lili, you raised your hand and you do have an opportunity for a follow-up, is that your question?

Mr A LILI: Yes, I want to ask a question to this angry Premier.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Lili, it seems like you might also

be experiencing some technical difficulties. The Premier's answer was yes so that concludes that follow-up. I do not see any hands online. I recognise the hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much. Arising from the response of the Premier, it would be clear that he or his Department had not read this question because by not mentioning anything at all about the fact that name changes have actually impacted and he has in fact not referred to that particular Department which indicates again, and that is what I want to ask, that we need to focus on the issue of how much has all of this cost?

Also, if we could actually hear from the Premier whether all this talk, and all this spin has actually resulted in the shifting of these functions, different departments having been completed, number one, and whether all the staff have actually been moved to their new directorates? Has that actually happened, or does it remain in the realm of spin publicity propaganda but actually indeed, because to us it appears that those directorates and those replacements of staff have not happened?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Dugmore. Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Chair. That is a whole lot of questions in one and I will deal with them. First of all, as I said earlier, if he had asked

about the new departments, I would have spent some time on the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Mobility. I could stand up now and say that is a totally new question, but I will not. So we have got these two new departments. First of all, why? Why do we actually need a Department of Infrastructure and why do we need a Department of Mobility? I know I have dealt with this probably two sittings ago, but I will deal with it again.

If we understand where we are as a province, now I am not going to talk about South Africa, but that is really the umbrella on infrastructure problems, but let us just talk about the province. What are the big issues that are creating big unemployment levels, youth unemployment levels in the world, one of highest unemployment levels in the world in our country? In this province it is infrastructure. We do not have sufficient energy infrastructure to fuel or to electrify the economy of this province. We have not had it for many years and by the looks of it, we are not going to have it for many years to come and it is going to get worse.

So we need to focus a lot more on energy infrastructure, on water infrastructure. You know we had Day Zero not so long ago. We are sitting already at the start of winter in this province, with very low rainfall up until now. I get worried about that and why? Because what difference have we made in the infrastructure of water supply for the citizens of this province? Nothing. Who is responsible for energy infrastructure? Who is responsible for water infrastructure?

We have just had a whole debate on rail infrastructure in this province, another set of infrastructure that is holding back the citizens of this province in enabling them to get to school, to work, to look for a job, to hospital, just to get around. Our rail infrastructure is messed. Who is responsible for just those three and I can go on for another hour on how many pieces of infrastructure are failing us in this country, all led by the ANC, all supposed to be fixed by the ANC but all broken by the ANC.

So in this province, because that is the problem, because we are citizen focused and we need to make sure that we are dealing with the issues that are facing our citizens every single day, we then realign our Government to be able to take on the issues that citizens face.

So whether it is National infrastructure, provincial infrastructure and up until now, provincial infrastructure is schools, is hospitals, is roads and in South Africa, this province delivers the best roads, the best schools, the best hospitals, we are best at producing infrastructure but in the narrowed sense. We do not produce the electrical infrastructure etc., etc., but we are broadening our mandates, we are pushing the boundaries, we are going to be taking on in a different way just like police oversight in this province, infrastructure. We are going to be – and you have already seen it - the start of enabling our local governments to get off reliance on Eskom. Get off load shedding. Be the first town not to have load shedding. We are going to be enabling infrastructure in this province in a different way. That is the vision and why we need to create a Department of Infrastructure.

The same thing, if you go – and the discussion we also just had and what the Minister of Mobility has just been speaking about is how much it costs for a citizen to get from A to B because of the failings of the transport system led by the ANC. And we do not even talk failure; we are talking about shocking failings. When last have any of these members here raising these questions walked anywhere along the railway line on the Central Line and actually had a look at the disaster, the ...

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Member Dugmore, order. Order member.

The PREMIER: ... disaster that [Inaudible.] infrastructure is in this shocking state, how on earth do people get around? So now you need to focus on that side of the equation. We do this analysis of what is facing our citizens and when you look at that analysis and statistics, you will see that it is either one or two, it varies but it is always up there between one and two, mobility. It costs me more than ever before to get from A to B because now I do not have that cost effective public transport mechanism.

We also know that in this province our population is due to grow by 1,4 million people over the next eight years. We will probably get close to eight million citizens in this province by 2030. If we do not solve the mobility problem, if we do not solve the infrastructure problem, we will not get the investments and we will not create the jobs. But of course, you also then need to ask yourself a question; so why on earth is this population growing so fast? Well of course, it is people fleeing the failure of ANC

government, leaving ANC failure all over South Africa, to come here because we have vision, we change things, and we do not do the same thing over and over and over again and expect another outcome.

Just look at the economic policy of the ANC for the last 28 years and what that has done to the jobs market in South Africa, ANC policy on jobs and the economy and what difference that made for youth unemployment. But what do they do, they do not rethink, they do not innovate, they do not change, they do the same thing, they provide the same policies. This debate that started off today spoke about some issues that were raised in 1954, they keep doing the same thing over and over again without any innovation, without any change and expect a different outcome and then when the outcome is not different, it is worse, they still do the same thing over and over again. I have said it in this House a lot, †hulle moer net aan, [they just *moer* on], just like the Titanic, just going straight down to the bottom. Well, the voters will decide in two years' time, and I promise you there will be a big change in two years' time.

But that is why those two departments were put in place. Now his question is so why has it not happened? That shows you – I cannot believe that he was actually a Minister in a government before – that just shows you how he thinks and understands about structural change in an organisation. You make the announcement, you then have a process and that process of change, the movement of staff, the setting up of a new department is a whole year because there are regulations, there are rules, there are people you must

consult, you must meet with the unions, it is all part of the plan.
[Interjections.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Members.

The PREMIER: You must meet with the unions, which engagements I have already started, we met with them last month. You must engage and build that vision. You must bring the two together and it is a process, it is HR processes. And of course, he makes these snide, jivey comments here from the Opposition but he must just think about the setting up of the Ministry of Small Business and then the Department of Small Business and the Ministry of the Economy and the Department of the Economy and then of course closing it down again and joining it back again, I mean all sorts of nonsense that happened at a national level. They still have not finished that and that has been four or five years, so he must not come here – he must understand that there are proper processes, we stick to the proper processes, we stick to how you should do it – in actual fact the ANC could learn many lessons in this process.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Premier. Members, please, do not disguise your new questions as follow-up questions. I think it is very clear what a follow-up question means in terms of the initial question posed. So once that happens, I would unfortunately immediately ask you to stop and refrain from doing that. Our last member on this specific question is member Peter Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you so much, the Chair. Premier, I have listened very attentively to your replies, also the fact that you say by 2030, the estimate is that we will have eight million people here. Now piggy-backing on the hon Leader of the Opposition, did you ever feel a need and motivated to enlarge your Cabinet to have an extra Minister just concentrating on economic development and job creation? More people mean more demands. We have got to focus on that. That is going to be the big challenge. Not how we feed those that are here already but what about those that are on their way here or those that we were not even aware of that are looking for jobs, and poverty is increasing.

Would you consider enlarging your Cabinet or would you consider changing the portfolios you now have to add on poverty alleviation or relief and economics so that you can create jobs, a direct focus? I know you can tell me that there are other ministries that can see to this, but the focus is not job creation, none of them, not even Public Works. Public Works figures on building infrastructure and a spin-off could be a few jobs but job creation is a much bigger field. Would you consider it, or do you think no? Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, Chair and thank you to the hon member or the question. First of all, the first part of the question I want to say, of course I consider everything but at the end of the day, the answer is

no, I am not going to enlarge the Cabinet. The second part of the question around jobs and the focus, now of course it is in all of our documents, our focus is actually pandemic number two. The focus of this whole Government is on that pandemic, which is poverty and unemployment, and so that is why we have chosen those three focus areas: jobs; safety, dignity and well-being, jobs. And how do jobs come together?

Well, jobs come together within an economic department, an agriculture department whose job it is to grow the economy, both of them. But it also comes together with infrastructure and mobility and environmental affairs and development planning and that is why you will see the jobs cluster and how that jobs cluster comes together, it is those departments whose job it is, to create the ecosystem in the environment to produce and enable jobs, to enable the private sector to invest and create the much-needed jobs that we need.

Of course, it also goes further than that, because in the next component of safety, safety is also about jobs because you are not going to grow employment if you do not get safety right. As I have always said, learners cannot be studying for school exams the next day and be doing their homework underneath the table in the kitchen because of stray bullets. We cannot build safe societies, we cannot build societies that are going to get jobs, societies that have got hope, societies that people want to invest in.

Of course, dignity and wellbeing, that is the biggest component of our

expenditure and that is why we need a well society because that is where health, social development and education sit. We need to make sure our society is well because if you are well you can work, you can get the job, you can compete and partake in society and the economy.

Education is key and I have said earlier in a statement or in a previous question, if we align now, what Minister Maynier's job is, is to bring the economy and jobs and education and the demand for jobs together. If we get that right, we will take education to the next level. So it is key, education in producing jobs into the future. And of course, social development, their job is the net for those that fall out of the process. We want an 80%, 20%, actually we want 95%, 5% and even diminishing the 5% down to 1%. You do not want many people being caught up in that net and of course we have got too many people at the moment because we have got too much unemployment.

For all the various reasons of the initial discussion on how the ANC is failing us and why we need to realign our Government, focus on the infrastructure and mobility but that is how to make a difference for the citizens and at the end of the day, so the citizens can live the life that they value and the life that they value is to have a job, look after their family and see a future for themselves. Find hope for themselves.

So in actual fact the answer to his question is, all of these things are coming together in the best interests of the citizens of which the economy and jobs

must be the driving force that feeds the whole, that is the engine room of the whole ecosystem and so everything must be aligned to jobs and the economy at the end of the day.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much Premier, and that concludes the second question to the Premier. We now move over to the question that was standing over from Thursday, 5 May, in the name of hon Christians to hon Minister Schäfer. I recognise the Minister.

Question standing over from Thursday 5 May 2022, as agreed to by the House:

Western Cape Education Department: derelict buildings

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

- (1) Whether there are any Western Cape Education Department derelict buildings that cannot be repaired and must be demolished; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether vandalised school buildings are repaired timeously; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, Chairperson. It seems like quite a few people in the House today do not read documents. They are

still referring to me as the previous MEC, but I am still here until the 15th, if you had noticed, sorry to tell you.

Hon Christians, the response is that when a school is closed, all buildings are handed back to the Department of Transport and Public Works, as they are the custodians and these buildings therefore become the responsibility of DTPW. The DTPW would be best able to answer any questions regarding buildings of this kind. Where however a school remains open, the school must report any derelict buildings to the WCED as an emergency request on CEMIS, so that an assessment can be made. Each request is dealt with on an individual basis and nine schools have logged requests for this on CEMIS to date and these are being attended to by DTPW.

Part two, major vandalism is repaired by the infrastructure unit of the WCED when schools report it on CEMIS. The time spans for repair are dependent on a number of factors including budget, available resources and materials and procurement processes. Minor vandalism, such as broken gates or burglar bars and broken windows must be replaced or repaired by the respective schools using their norms and standards funding allocation for maintenance. Thank you.

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister.
Hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you Minister for that answer. Just a question. I

have been to Bishop Lavis High School recently and they have asked for one of the buildings that is unoccupied to be demolished and taken off because it is a danger risk – and there are also other buildings in schools where they are not utilised at the moment – and the school asked the Department of Transport and Public Works five years ago, and it is not removed, but I am worried about the safety of the staff and learners for these unoccupied buildings. Thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Christians I do not have any record of such requests five years ago. I know you did send a letter to Minister Mitchell on 15 March regarding the buildings at this school requesting a removal and it was referred to my office for a response which we informed you of on 23 March. At the time of the letter, we had not had any record of such request. The request was subsequently found on the system on 26 March, to be evaluated by the Department which we did inform your office of 31 March, so after the matter was escalated to DTPW, a site inspection was conducted on 6 April and recommended that the building be condemned and replaced and I share your concern about safety, so we have agreed to have the area cornered off and fenced which is currently in process. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I do not see any hands online, I recognise the hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, House Chairperson. House

Chair, as communities we really do need to protect our infrastructure because it does not belong to any one individual, it belongs to the people, all people. And I wanted to find out whether the Minister can indicate actually, as a matter of awareness, what is the financial impact on schools when they are vandalised and what is this impact on the Department, because we are essentially then vandalising our own property as the people of the Western Cape?

THE TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Baartman. Yes, that is very perceptive and a very good question. Obviously, it has a huge impact. We all know that there are many schools in our province that need facilities that they have not yet ever had. There are many schools that do not have halls for example, which we are really trying to ensure that they get as soon as possible. And every time we have schools that are vandalised, we have to then use money that could be used for providing those extra facilities for fixing the vandalism. In the 2021/22 financial year alone, 55 schools reported damages from school vandalism and theft, costing us R6,3 million for repairs and obviously this could have and should have been spent on other infrastructure needs.

We have seen time and time again, where communities are involved via the school and really start taking ownership of their school, it makes a huge

difference in the incidents of vandalism, and we cannot as a government, keep on and on and on fixing things that are broken and stolen when we really need to just take ownership of our schools and enable us to use the money that we do have, to roll out more services and more facilities to the schools that do not have. Thank you very much.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I recognise hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Given that there has been a history of closing down schools that are in a sense, problems, in terms of what has happened to them, in terms of infrastructure and that are not maintained, I just wanted to get a sense from the Minister, let me not say former Minister, but the Minister that will soon be ending the term; I did not say that she is the former Minister. What is the number of scheduled maintenance projects that were missed in the past two academic years and how many are due in this academic year? Let me also thank the Minister for her work and for the manner in which we have interacted and for her service. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you hon Sayed, and thank you for those words.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, members. Please proceed Minister.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: I do not have a list of those maintenance projects that have been listed at this point. I can ensure that the member gets that. As far as a history of closing down is concerned, I do not think that we have got a real history of it, there have been occasions where, the only really one I think in the Metro that I can think of where really, we had to close it because it had literally been carried away piece by piece overnight by the community on a regular basis. I think that was quite a unique situation so I do not think we should call it a history of closing schools for that reason, but we also need to ensure that schools do use the money that they are given for maintenance to actually do the maintenance, because we are finding far too many schools are not using the money they are supposed to be using for that purpose. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, Minister. And the last follow-up question, hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, Chair. Chair, in the past MTEF period we have essentially seen budget cuts from the National Government, in terms of health in the Provincial Equitable Share Formula, and we know that the review of the Education Provincial Equitable Share Formula is coming up and since we are talking about the maintenance and repairs of buildings, and especially with vandalised school buildings, I just want to find

out, what is the impact of these national budget cuts and the possible impact of the upcoming education review on things like maintenance and repairs for vandalised school buildings for the future?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Baartman. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you very much, thank you member for the question. Yes, obviously any cut has a huge impact on us. You are very well aware of my concerns over the last eight years regarding the allocation to Education. I do not believe it has been appropriate and responsive to the needs that we have to provide for. But of course, when you see the impact of the health review, it has been quite devastating for our Health Department and if the same kind of thing happens to Education we are really going to be in trouble and have a lot more problems than we currently have. So I think we all need to be very vigilant and to interrogate that very closely to make sure that that does not happen.

It is not only the cuts that are problematic either, it is also the fact that we are having to keep on absorbing more and more things that happen, like droughts for example, where we had to spend R300 million of our own money because there was no other funding from National Government and we had to spend money for COVID-19 relief measures which was another R465 million, almost a third of infrastructure budget, and that is crucial. It is critical because we make plans, generally for ten years as to what we are going to do,

how many schools we are going to build, how many schools we are going to replace, what maintenance we are going to do and when we have to absorb that as well as budget cuts to infrastructure grants for example, and/or equitable shares then that really just scuppers all our plans and then we are accused of not planning when it is just simply not the case. But at the end of the day, the people who suffer are our teachers who have increasing class sizes and the learners who have to sit in squashed classrooms and some schools do really need to be replaced and we cannot afford to have any further reductions in Education. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister and that concludes question two, that stood over from 5 May. Members, we are now on new question number three, and it was a question posed by hon Makamba-Botya to the hon Minister Simmers. I recognise Mr Simmers.

New questions:

Joe Slovo Informal Settlement: fire outbreak

3. Ms M Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Infrastructure:

- (1) What is his Department doing to assist more than 1 200 residents of the Joe Slovo informal settlement in Langa whose 300 shacks burnt down as a result of a fire outbreak in the area;

- (2) whether his Department has plans in place to speed up the provision of housing and to de-densify the most congested informal settlements in the province speedily; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, House Chair and thank you to the member for the question. The first part of the member's question, I will respond as follows: It should be noted that the City of Cape Town remains the first respondent in the event of any fire disasters within their municipal jurisdiction. They undertook to rebuild the affected site; however, land development statutory approvals also need to be in place before any work can commence.

Now with that said, hon House Chairperson, through you to the member, at a site visit conducted three days after the disaster with the National Department of Human Settlement's Deputy Minister, the Premier, myself, the City of Cape Town and also all relevant Government officials, it was quite evident that the affected community was not going to wait for formal services or formal structures to be built, as the rebuilding of the structures had already commenced with about 70% of the affected area already been reoccupied.

My Department is of the view, hon House Chairperson, that we need to educate residents and create an understanding of the need for them to assist officials in creating formal spaces for more frequent access routes which is

also a big problem on a specific site. And the post fire response should be to build these access routes and roads, which was the original plan of the City, to ensure that we create sufficient spaces between houses to, first and foremost, prevent similar tragedies and limit the impact of such events in the future.

The second part of the member's question, through you House Chairperson, which focuses on de-densification of informal settlements, I should state that a total of 33 projects are earmarked to be funded by the Department's 2022/2023 Informal Settlement Update Partnership Grant Business Plan amounting to over R484,6 million. Now these projects are all at different stages of project preparation, planning or implementation. Implementation plans include the installation or upgrading of services to include access to clean water, sanitation and electricity and in other areas, cases that need access to basic services on a shared ratio basis.

Our Department has also identified and categorised each and every informal settlement across our province, based on the settlement count, the level of existing services in these informal settlements, their access to available land for de-densification where possible, the availability of bulk services amongst other elements, and based on the above assessments, each settlement is earmarked for either in-situ upgrading, relocation, basic services or a full upgrade with formal sites.

In some instances, hon House Chairperson, de-densification is difficult due to

a lack of available land next to the settlement or a lack of bulk service capacity where such sites do exist. Qualifying residents are accommodated into either formal housing or service sites which are provided near any affected area that we can utilise to de-densify the settlement. Alternatively, hon House Chairperson, as services are rolled out, the construction of pathways for vehicle usage, fire or emergency access etc. will assist us in the de-densifying of these settlements. I thank you hon House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister and member Makamba-Botya you have just a little over seven minutes left, so I would advise if you want a response, please keep your question to the point. You may proceed member.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Noted and thank you very much, House Chairperson and thank you to the Minister for the response. Minister, I want to say, through you House Chair, that we are fully aware of the Municipality's responsibility that they are the first respondent to these kind of questions, however as a Minister you have a responsibility to exercise an oversight visit in making sure that these municipalities are compliant with these kinds of issues. Now the question that I have for the Minister is how far is the process of relocating people of Greater Kosovo and Dunoon to less congested areas? I thank you, House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, member Makamba-Botya. Hon member Minister Simmers?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon House Chairperson, noting the member's original question, I do see these two questions which she just posed as new questions and accordingly I request that the member put them in writing so I can give them a detailed response on both of the areas as listed by the member immediately after I receive written questions. Thank you very much, House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I do not see any hands online. I recognise the hon Maseko.

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, House Chair. I just want to find out from the Minister, are these IRDPs just a special case or are we expecting to see these projects in years to come, developed in other parts of the province?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Maseko. Hon Minister Simmers?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Hon Chairperson, thank you and to the hon member Maseko thank you for the question that refers to the IRDP, which is the Integrated Residential Development Programme, which basically focuses on developing greenfield projects or in-situ projects in existing communities. So that is linked to another budget which is not ICPG orientated but HSDG or USGD orientated, dependent on the area and the types of projects that we implement, hon Chair. As long as there is sufficient

budget to fund both these grants from the national fiscus, ultimately it will be there, but we do need to get creative in utilising these budgets to deliver on our housing mandate across the province. Hon Chair, that relates directly to Joe Slovo because Joe Slovo was ultimately earmarked [Inaudible.] IRDP project. Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I see hon Lili. Hon Lili are you there?

Mr A LILI: Yes, Chair, thank you very much. My question Chair is in relation to the funding. How much funding did the Province receive therefore for the de-densification of informal settlements during COVID-19 and how much was spent and how many households were relocated? Thank you very much, sir.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Lili. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: I thank you, hon House Chairperson and once again I do welcome the questions by the hon member Lili, but I would love him to put the two questions in writing, then the detail can then be provided formally to the hon member because it is a very substantive list. [Interjection.] [Inaudible.]. I thank you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: House Chairperson?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Minister. What is your point of order hon Makamba-Botya?

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: On a point of order, House Chairperson, the Minister should exercise what we call consistency. He cannot, when it suits him, say that he does not want to answer questions and that he must give written answers when he cannot answer the questions. One of the members previously asked a question that was not in relation to the question at hand, the Minister was able to respond to that. When the Opposition parties ask questions, he has the audacity to say the questions are new, they must be put in writing. He must be consistent, and he must not be biased. Thank you very much.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you member Makamba-Botya, but we cannot determine what information the Minister has at his immediate disposal, that is why the Minister is asking for the question to be directed in writing, not that he does not want to but as we determine what information the Minister currently has at his disposal. Hon members, there is opportunity for one more follow-up question in terms of time allowing us. Hon Marran?

Mr P MARRAN: Speaker, thank you very much. Just in terms of Joe Slovo, Chair, were there any monies over the last two years that were spent for de-densification, specifically Joe Slovo, and if so, whether the MEC can give us figures? Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Marran. Hon Minister?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson and thank you to the member because that deals directly with the Joe Slovo informal settlement and I need to emphasise, hon House Chairperson, that as part of our planning through the IRDP programme, based on the HSDG grant component, Joe Slovo was earmarked to be upgraded for permanent housing solutions to qualifying beneficiaries over a phased approach.

Obviously, the portion of land which was invaded, which ultimately now forms part of the area where the fire happened, was actually where the next phase was supposed to be. The exact amounts, Madam Chair, I will need to come back to the hon member because of this phased approach of a number of years and the member has requested specifics over the last two years and I will just need to get back to the member formally to inform him of the exact amount so that I can assure that I am properly held accountable by giving him the exact amount that has been utilised by my Department at the Joe Slovo site. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Simmers. Members, we at this point have a matter of seconds and we would not be able to start a new question and then have the necessary follow-ups, so at this stage this is the end of Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in the Hansard. Members, we now move onto Statements by

Members in terms of Rule 145 and members will now have an opportunity to present their statements of two minutes each. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (DA): House Chair, last week we debated the issue of drugs and the devastating effect that this has on individuals, families and society at large. The drug trade is often linked to poaching. In the Western Cape, the poaching of indigenous plants and animals has become a pervasive and lucrative enterprise for these criminal syndicates. Though poaching has been ongoing for decades, it has recently made the headlines, not only due to the arrest of poachers in marine reserves, but it also made headlines due to the increasing sophistication with which these syndicates operate.

We must unite all spheres of Government to combat these criminal groups in order to safeguard our biodiversity and to preserve the environment. In relation to succulent poaching, it is not just the Western Cape that has fallen victim to this criminality, but the Northern Cape as well. An inter-governmental approach, of all law enforcement agencies, together with the support of activists and environmental groups, are required to stop the criminal organisations that raid our environment in order to illegally sell these invaluable products.

I commend the efforts by entities such as CapeNature, SANPARKS and the South African Police Services for pulling together their resources in order to apprehend the criminals behind poaching. Unfortunately, just as with the trade in drugs, the risk of being apprehended seems to be too low. It is also a crime that crosses provincial borders. I therefore urge all stakeholders and particularly the National Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries to avail more resources to act against poaching before it is too late. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Van der Westhuizen for sticking to your time. I now recognise the ANC.

Mr M KAMA (ANC): Thank you very much, House Chair. The Western Cape gang infested poor working-class communities, in particular, slowly resemble gang paradises with extortion rings running amok. The latest incident where six people were shot dead in Site C, Khayelitsha takes the number to nearly 600 who have died in gang-related murders. Such incidents render the so-called Safety Plan a big expensive failure.

The Provincial Government needs to look at crime through different lenses and put in place urgent interventions to stop the carnage. In Khayelitsha, where there were three reported mass murders in the past three months, there is a chronic shortage of CCTV cameras. Even the installed ones are broken and not working. If CCTV cameras were functioning it would help improve police responses and conviction rates and this was said repeatedly by SAPS

itself in our committee meetings.

The Khayelitsha Development Forum had a brilliant safety plan for Khayelitsha responding to causative factors and environmental design and CCTVs which was rejected by the DA administration and the City in this province. The DA does not have an interest in rooting out violent crimes in poor working-class communities and that is a fact.

The rising unemployment numbers are bringing more and more young people closer to gangsterism. We need to have targeted approaches to address the pull factors to gangs. Let us come up with programmes to save young men from gang murders. The new MEC must urgently address the challenge of undermining and underfunding of CPFs so they can play their vital role of strengthening relations between SAPS and communities. There is a need for additional police and Leap officers on the ground. In our meeting next week with the Provincial Commissioner, we will raise the challenge of skewed allocations of police resources in the province which I think the Premier does not understand. It might have really ...[interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Kama. Your time has expired.

Mr M KAMA (ANC): ... the Minister around the issue of deployment in the province. Thank you very much, House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, member. Thank you, please take your seat, thank you member. I recognise the EFF.

Ms MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, House Chairperson. The EFF in the Western Cape would like to take this opportunity to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the rape culture that continues to entrench itself in our society. This follows a recent incident which took place in Parklands when an old man preyed on young 15-year-old teenage girls for sexual intercourse in a trade for money and alcohol.

It is important to stress that having sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old is considered statutory rape as outlined in the Criminal Law Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act. This is sad and it coincides with the recent increase in the numbers of under-aged children in our clinics who are found to be infected with sexually transmitted infections as a result of sleeping with older men.

This also speaks to the increasing numbers of teenage pregnancies in society where people drop out of school at an early age as a result of being embarrassed by falling pregnant at a young age. House Chairperson, as the EFF we call upon parents of these teenage girls to work together with schools and the Department of Social Development in identifying these rapists and reporting them to law enforcement institutions for investigation and possible prosecution. We further call upon the Department of Education to teach our learners at a very young age about the dangers related to teenage pregnancies

as well as what constitutes statutory rape and steps that should be taken when an offence of statutory rape has been committed. I thank you House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, member Makamba-Botya. I recognise the Democratic Alliance. Hon August, are you there? It seems not. We are moving onto the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon House Chair. Last week I spoke about the ACDP's rejection of the detestable draft guidelines on gender identity and sexual orientation. I am raising this point again because this may become policy in the next 20-30 days and the majority of South Africans and the Western Cape do not want this policy. The ANC is pushing a similar agenda nationally, with the CSE comprehensive sexuality education, so they will be quiet on this and not say a thing. So, I am asking parties in this House, I am asking parties ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order hon members.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: ...to stand with the ACDP and reject this ungodly policy. Now hon Chair, a serious concern that we as the ACDP have is that the DA Government is taking away the rights and privileges of parents whose duty it is to raise up their children in a godly manner. Let me say why; let me say why because ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order hon members!

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Let me say why, because the point is that now schools have the authority when it comes to when a child wants to be named a certain name – my biological name is Ferlon – but if I want to be called Felicity, the educators and fellow learners must call that person Felicity and the parents do not have a say. My job and your jobs are: yes, [Inaudible.], will you go check the governance, go check the ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, order hon members. Can we please? Can we please provide hon member Christians the opportunity to finish his statement?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: The Bible is very clear and gives us the mandate to train up our children in the ways that they must go and it is not a DA authority. It is not a DA authority and the DA Government is taking that away from our parents. I want to tell the voter today ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude, hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Vote your values, vote your values, voting for a T-shirt – the green one, a blue one, a red one – is long gone. Go to your ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Christians, your time has expired.

Please take your seat.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I recognise the ANC.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. It was Steve Biko who said:

“The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

The legacy of apartheid lives on in many of our people’s minds and lives because the National Party Government was successful in ensuring that their project was propagated through subjects at schools, such as history. The teaching of the subject of history during apartheid was to advance the ideological project of the apartheid regime.

The upsurge in racism and xenophobia in our society highlights the need for us to reflect on our country’s history and where we are heading to as a nation. The efforts of our National Minister of Education, Angie Motshekga, must therefore be commended for wanting to ensure that history is made a compulsory subject for our learners and for the decolonisation of our history curriculum.

The history taught to our learners under the banner of social sciences currently, and which is steadfastly sanitised, is not connected to advancing our democratic and nation-building project in South Africa. It is true, the compulsory teaching of history as a standalone subject, that we can develop a more progressive sense of nationhood from school level. Whilst our high school history curriculum must promote patriotism and advance the democratic project, it must also be infused with a geopolitical global nuance.

African and international solidarity needs to be built in through the teaching of history. This will assist us to defeat the demon of xenophobia and allow future generations to contribute to a more just global order. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms L J BOTHA (DA): Thank you, hon Chairperson. While public focus is often placed on events that take place here in the City of Cape Town, the DA-led Western Cape Government is deeply committed to improving local governance in the small communities and rural areas of our province.

Last week in this House, many hon members spoke about *pronkies*, Premier, spoke about a whole of society approach to the issue of illicit drugs in the Western Cape. Hon Chairperson, as I assume my position as Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Local Government, I would like to call for a whole of Government approach in local governance. We must encourage

synergy between the various departments and entities which make up this Government, in order to create a strong and easily engageable support system for our counterparts at the municipal level.

On Tuesday, we in the Committee heard how the Department of Local Government provides new counsellors with training for their crucial role within their communities. I was encouraged to hear that the Department engages with other bodies in the Provincial Government, to provide a well-rounded curriculum. This approach sets a benchmark for what we should achieve in local governance. We must build relationships across all spheres of Provincial Government in order to ensure that every citizen in this province has access to a local government, which is empowered and capable of eradicating any and all threats to the job safety and well-being of our citizens.

Over the coming weeks, I will be doing just that. I will be engaging with my colleagues at the parliamentary departmental and municipal levels to determine innovative ways in which we can mobilise all of Government to ensure service delivery and good governance across the Western Cape. My hope is that we can ensure that every single municipality gains the necessary oversight to function efficiently, with clean governance for the good of those who live in our communities ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Can you please wrap up, hon Botha?

Ms L J BOTHA: ...rather than those who run them. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Botha and a few things have changed in the meantime. Thank you very much, I now recognise the hon Peter Marais.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Chair. The Freedom Front wants you to note, hon members, that the plight of Coloured small scale fishermen and our ailing clothing industry need urgent attention. We need a sharper focus on jobs. Poverty alleviation to address the negative effects of the Marine Living Resources Act, Act 18 of 1998, and the National Environmental Protected Areas Act, Act 57 of 2003, which have impoverished Coloured fishermen and their families along our coasts by allocating quotas in favour of large fishing companies while my people are starving because they cannot even catch a fish to feed their own family. This needs urgent attention.

We cannot allow the plight of fishermen to follow the same route as the plight of the Coloured Cape Corps who gave their lives to defend this country on our borders and now sit at home without a pay-check and they have no pension. We cannot allow the people who work in our garment industries to sit at home because we import goods from China, cheap goods. Our people regret not having been more revolutionary and sometimes I regret I did not join the forces who said, 'power comes through the barrel of a gun' because we have been neglected because we never lifted up the guns to defend our right in this country.

The Freedom Front feels justice should be done to all the people in this Western Cape and it starts by recognising the rights of the indigenous people of the Cape who were the fishermen, who were the clothing garment workers, members who now sit without a job and without an income. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I now recognise Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. On Thursday, 5 May 2022, the South African Zionist Federation hosted a festival to celebrate the existence of Israel, an apartheid regime who has been occupying Palestine since its invasion on 15 May 1948. On Sunday the 15th, the Zionist invasion known as Nakba Day, the day of the catastrophe, will be commemorated worldwide. We call on this DA Province to show solidarity with Palestinians by lighting up the City with the colours of the Palestinian flag. Millions of Palestinians have been displaced throughout the world since the Nakba. Half of the total number of Palestinian refugees have been forcefully expelled from their country.

On Thursday, the Nakba Zionists not only invaded and occupied Palestinian land, but killed 15 000 Palestinians, carried out 70 massacres and destroyed 600 Palestinian villages. They then created Israel and turned it into an apartheid state on the blood of Palestinian Muslims and Christians. In March 2017, the United Nations finally recognised Israel as an apartheid state. At a recent conference in Geneva, the United Nations reiterated its call on the

international community to accept and adopt reports/findings that Israel is practicing apartheid in occupied Palestine.

Last week, here in the Western Cape in South Africa, this Province allowed a racist organisation to celebrate apartheid land occupation, a brutal repression by the Israeli regime, an insult to South Africans who have suffered and endured great pain during the struggle against apartheid and colonialism. Freedom and justice-loving South Africans will not remain quiet when events to celebrate the genocide of Palestinians, the occupation of their land and an apartheid system are happening on the soil of Africa.

Can the DA and its leader, Steenhuisen, now go to Gaza and stand in solidarity with the people who were bombed, displaced, expelled, humiliated and denied for decades their land and human rights ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please finish your sentence, hon Brinkhuis?

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): That would be integrity and moral consistency.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon House Chair. Hon

House Chair, criminal gangs in the Western Cape are using violence and threats to extort money from contractors in charge of human settlements' building sites. The Airport Precinct Infills Projects in Cape Town have recently been the target of these criminals.

According to information obtained from the Department of Human Settlements, shooting incidents at two out of the five sites that form part of these projects, one at the Luyolo site and one at the Tambo Village site, have shut down construction for the entire project. SAPS is currently investigating the two cases, but seven weeks after the shooting took place, there is still no concrete solution to this problem. There have also been other incidents and threats which have resulted in the contractor wanting to terminate their contract.

This heartless criminal activity is putting 729 housing opportunities at risk. The Department already has an impossible task to try and make a dent in the housing backlog. Every cent spent by the Department should be going towards the planning and physical construction of housing developments. There is no way the Department can afford to provide the level of security needed to fend off these thugs at every construction site in the province, nor should they have to.

It is the responsibility of SAPS to ensure visibility. It is the responsibility of SAPS to ensure visible policing and more boots on the ground, to ensure the safety of workers and contractors at these sites. I call on hon Minister

Reagan Allen also to engage with SAPS to really have the solution to the problems that these contractors are facing when trying to make a difference and to give dignity with housing to the communities of the Western Cape. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, perfectly in time. Thank you, hon Maseko. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more members or either the Premier or members of the Executive, an opportunity to respond to Members' Statements for not more than five minutes collectively. Any takers? I do not see hands online ...[Interjection.].

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes, hon Chairperson, my hand is up.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister Schäfer?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed, thank you.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you. I would like to respond to hon Christians' statement. I first of all want to say that this issue is obviously one that causes a lot of heated debate because there are hostilities on all sides. But one thing that my Bible enjoins me to do is to speak the truth and I would hope that if the ACDP is reading the same Bible, they would also

pick that up because I think we cannot just pick and choose what parts of the Bible we are going to actually comply with.

Now, my question about this whole policy issue is why now? This was discussed about two years ago. Now, why is there suddenly a whole big hoo-ha about this, where it is not even a policy actually, it is still a draft guideline and I have not actually signed it off yet, but the DBE has now come up with a document which is going to be put out for public consultation. So, I am going to not sign it pending that, so why is it now suddenly being disseminated all across I do not know where and it is not even the truth?

Now, the policy, the draft policy has not taken away any rights of parents and will not and, in fact, the draft policy says as follows at 5.2 that:

“When a learner has expressed a need or desire for counselling and assistance, the learner’s parents be advised accordingly, along with a recommendation that their child be referred to a social worker. Direct referral of a learner to a professional or organisation may only happen with the written consent of the learner’s parents, who are and remain at all times primarily responsible for their child’s care as per the Children’s Act.”

So, why is the ACDP continuing to perpetuate utter falsehoods to try and stoke some kind of antagonism against a document that is supposed to just really enable inclusivity in the schools and allow people who are different

from us, from many of us, to feel welcome?

It is a guideline, it is not a policy, it is not prescriptive. It actually has been consulted with about 23 different sets of role players and there is nothing prescriptive about it. I mean, schools are said that they can do certain things and then they consider certain things, one of which is the unisex toilets which people are upset about. I can completely understand people's concerns about people being forced, girls being forced to share toilets with boys. I would share that as a parent of daughters, but that is not what this draft guideline is doing. It is saying that and I will read exactly what it is saying:

“Having considered the safety measures and inherent risks, a school may allow an LGBTQI+ learner to use the toilets and changing room facilities which he or she feels most comfortable with, but it is recommended that the sensitivity of other learners also be taken into account. A school may also make provision for a unisex toilet if reasonably practical, depending on their available financial resources and infrastructure.”

‘May also’, i.e., in addition to single sex toilets which remain.

Now, I really wish people would stop [Audible distortion.] an absolute untruth about this document which is not a policy and it has not even been adopted by this Government as yet. And I think one thing I have learnt is that this issue particularly relating to transgender people, is extremely

complicated and extremely complex, and I think it would be well worthwhile for all members getting a full briefing of people who actually deal with the issue and people who are affected by it, and I would very like to hear what the ACDP's response would be on how to deal with people who deal with these difficulties because it is not a simple matter. It leads to mental illness and ... [audio distortion.] suicide and we need as a government to be responsive and caring, and ensure that all people are welcome in our schools without forcing other people to do things that they are not comfortable with, but they should not be allowed to stop other people also from feeling comfortable in the environment. Thank you.

MOTIONS

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Minister Schäfer. With one minute and 19 seconds left, any other member of the Executive? Premier, none? Thank you very much and that is the end of our Members' Statements.

Hon members, we will now deal in terms of the new Rule 151. All notices of motions by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and have been published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I give notice that I shall move:

That this House debates the necessity of entrance exams required for admission to high school. (*Saturday Argus*, 7 May 2022 - Murphy Nganga)

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

Mr D AMERICA: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the state of rail and the devolution of rail services to the Western Cape Provincial Government and the City of Cape Town following National Treasury's approval for the City to conduct a feasibility study to take over the rail system.

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

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the impact of flora and fauna poaching in the Western Cape and ways to mitigate this illegal trade.

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

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House notes with concern the abuse of power and illegal conduct by the DA administration of appointing its members that contested and lost wards to ANC as administrators in the offices of ANC ward councillors; condemns this untoward and unbecoming conduct and calls for an urgent intervention to halt this practice and an urgent investigation into this illegal practice and abuse of power.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the need for a National Health Insurance to improve public healthcare and bring about equitable health services.

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

Mr A LILI: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the challenge of land occupation, suitability of Government's response and plans to accelerate informal settlements development.

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

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, let me also draw your attention. As mentioned, we now move to Motions without Notice. I would also like to inform you that in terms of the new Standing Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolences and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 10 May 2022. 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 approved by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 10 May 2022, political parties did submit the names of hon members and that was done 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, and the following members motions have been approved by the Programming Authority.

The members are as follows: hon Ferlon Christians ACDP, hon Ricardo Mackenzie Democratic Alliance, hon Rachel Windvogel ANC, hon D America Democratic Alliance, hon Bakubaku-Vos ANC, hon A P Van der Westhuizen Democratic Alliance, hon P Z Lekker ANC, hon W F Kaiser-Philander DA, hon W F Kaiser-Philander DA and hon W F Kaiser-Philander DA. I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: I move without notice:

That the House celebrates with the Cape Muslim and Slave Museum at receiving a national accolade as the ‘Preferred Heritage Destination’ at the Golden Shield Heritage Awards of 2022; notes that the *Cape Times* of 28 March 2022 reports that this award, coming a few months after the launch of the museum, is a great accolade for the museum; and wishes them well for the future.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the funding of 100 matric learners from Mitchells Plain and surrounds, to gain their driver’s licences by the Wheatfield Estate Foundation Trust; and notes that the funding provided for this project will enable these learners from Mitchells Plain and the surrounding areas to gain a vital life skill, which will assist them as they embark on their careers and access job opportunities.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I move without notice:

That the House notes with pride that Tayden MacKenzie, a Grade 6 learner at the Laerskool Kleinmond in the Overberg, a young star chess player who has won numerous chess competitions, was selected as part of the national chess team that represented South Africa at the World Cadet & Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship in Greece between 29 April and 3 May 2022; notes that he returned home to a hero's welcome on Thursday 5 May 2022 after flying the South African flag high and representing the Western Cape well at the competition; and congratulates him for representing the country and province well at the international competition.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr D AMERICA: I move without notice:

That the House expresses its condolences on the passing away of an Intercape bus driver, Mr Bangikhaya Machana, a 35-year-old man from Lower Crossroads, who succumbed to his injuries days after being admitted to hospital as a result of an extortion and intimidation from taxi associations in Cape Town of the Intercape Bus Company; recognises the years of service that the victim provided to the Western Cape Province's transportation services; and sends condolences to his family and loved ones.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep sadness the untimely passing away of 23-year-old Lelethu Nyalasa from Khayamandi in Stellenbosch on Tuesday morning following a short illness; and commiserates with her family and loved ones.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Department of Agriculture and commodity partners on successfully extending their memorandum of understanding for another three years; and notes that this extension will benefit new farmers by providing them with training and mentorship programmes that will allow them to grow in the industry.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with sadness that the search for the missing Cape Town biker, Wonderboy Hleza (51), from Brackenfell, who went missing

on 26 April, came to an abrupt end on Thursday afternoon after the SAPS search team found his body at the Du Toitskloof Pass; conveys sincerest condolences to his family and loved ones; and calls on the SAPS to leave no stone unturned in investigating the murder and bringing the perpetrators to book.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House extends its condolences on the passing away of ‘Getroud met rugby’ actor Runaldo Hendricks, who tragically lost his life in a car accident on 30 April 2022; notes the Paarl-born actor’s contributions to the arts sector; and wishes Mr Hendricks’ family, friends and the arts fraternity strength during this difficult time.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates Councillor Patrick Daniels on his by-election victory in Ward 2 in Wolseley on 20 April 2022; and notes that Mr Daniels’s wealth of experience and commitment to the DA’s values will ensure that he works in the best interests of his constituents.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates the Witzenberg Municipality on achieving a 96% Green Drop Score during the 2021 review of the state of the country's wastewater infrastructure and management; notes that Witzenberg was the top performing municipality in the province and the country under the year in review; and acknowledges the positive impact that good governance can have on the quality of services and resources available to the people of the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, are there any objections? No objection? Agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of proceedings and in the Hansard, in each individual members' name as if the member had read it out loud.

I will now afford the opportunity for members to move Motions without Notice, as per Standing Rule 152(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Members are reminded that the 30 minutes as per Standing Rule 152(d) will start now and members will remember that those motions had to reach Mr Poggenpoel this morning at 11:00. I now recognise the hon Xego.

Hon Xego, are you still with us?

Mr M XEGO: Yes, thanks, hon House Chair, sorry about that. I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the restoration of the Elfindale land in Diep River back to the Brickles family following 84 years of dispossession. The family was dispossessed of their land by Punt farmers back in 1938 and later, forcefully removed whilst their properties were demolished. When they applied for restitution later, they were offered a settlement ranging from R40 000. Finally, in the year 2022, their resilience paid off as they got their land back. The EFF calls on all those who were previously dispossessed of their land like the Brickles family, to fight hard in getting their land back and should not trade money for land. I so move. Thank you, hon House Chair.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Xego. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objection. The next notice is also in the name of hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thanks, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House condemns the latest conduct of law enforcement officials

in issuing fines to homeless people living outside the Castle of Good Hope. In his State of the Province Address earlier this year, the Premier of this province promised to build more shelters for homeless people, not for fines to be imposed on them for being homeless. Instead of fighting crime in townships where mass killings take place every week, the law enforcement have chosen an easy administrative task of focusing on abusing and terrorising homeless people. If the so-called Safety Plan has any chance of producing positive results, then the law enforcement will need to be on the ground chasing after criminals and not homeless people. I so move, hon House Chair.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Xego. Are there any objections to the motion being moved? The motion will be printed ...[Interjection.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: On the Order Paper. Hon Makamba-Botya? I recognise you.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon House Chairperson, thank you very much. I move without notice:

That the House takes note of the heroics displayed by Sister Diane Seale, an operational nurse manager at New Somerset Hospital in Cape Town. This comes after Sister Seale went beyond her scope of duty by disarming and calming down an assailant who entered the hospital and proceeded to shoot and kill three people. Hon House Chair, Sister Seale managed to speak to the perpetrator to calm him down until the police arrived at the scene of crime and arrested the murderer. We need more people like Sister Seale in Government who will tackle issues with bravery whilst producing outstanding outcomes, as her conduct assisted in saving more lives that could have been lost. I so move, hon House Chairperson. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Any objection to the motion being moved without notice? None? So, approved. The next one is also you, hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Hon House Chairperson, I move without notice:

That the House condemns the latest mass shooting that took place in Khayelitsha Site C over the weekend in which 6 people were shot and killed. It has been weeks now since the scourge of mass shootings continues to claim lives in townships. Hon House Chairperson, the police have continued to be reactive as always, whilst those who are

entrusted with implementing the so-called Safety Plans, are running out of ideas. It has become clear now that the poor people of the Western Cape are on their own as marauding gangs and criminals continue operating with impunity. I so move, Madam House Chair. Thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Any objection to the...? The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion, in the name of hon Botha.

Ms L J BOTHA: I move without notice:

That the House welcomes the Premier receiving the prestigious Karl Twiggs Award at the recent Skål International Awards for his efforts in resuscitating the tourism and hospitality industries in the province; that it recognises the 33% recovery in international travellers to our shores in the 2021/22 financial year, compared to pre-pandemic levels and that this figure is expected to rise to 55% in the current financial year. That the House notes its gratitude to the hon Premier Alan Winde and his Executive for the crucial interventions which they have implemented to stimulate the Western Cape's tourism recovery; and that the House further notes that these travellers directly contribute to the creation of jobs and the economic recovery of the Western Cape. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon member. Any objection to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr M XEGO: Object! We cannot praise fish for swimming. Okay?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Thank you very much, order hon members. Order, hon members. The next motion is also in the name of hon Botha. Thank you, hon Minister Mitchell.

Ms L J BOTHA: Thank you very much, hon Chairperson. I move ...[Interjection.] Thank you very much. [Laughter.] [Audio distorted.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed, hon?

Ms L J BOTHA: Please, can I eventually proceed?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes, please.

Ms L J BOTHA: I move without notice:

That the House wishes hon Debbie Schäfer well as she embarks on starting a new career abroad; and further thanks and commends her for

her service to the learners and educators of the Western Cape during her term as Provincial Minister of Education. The education fraternity has lost a beacon within the sector. Minister Schäfer, go well and all the best. Hon Chair, I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Botha. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr M XEGO: Object!

HON MEMBERS: Objections.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion is in the name of hon Mackenzie. Order, hon members, please.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon House Chairperson.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That this House wishes all nurses a happy International Nurses Day

today. This year marks a time of stabilisation and a return to normal following more than two years of battling the COVID-19 pandemic. When others were in lockdown, our nurses joined the more than 32 000 healthcare workers in putting their lives in danger to continue providing the essential services which saved countless lives. We are forever grateful to our nurses who work tirelessly to deliver quality healthcare in the province. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Mackenzie. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? None. Thank you, agreed to. The next motion is in the name of hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chairperson. I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern that the people of Palestine continue to suffer the most abhorrent crimes and extremely grotesque treatment at the hands of the Israeli apartheid regime; notes further that the brutality meted out against innocent Palestinians has now been extended to journalists who are covering the Israeli war crimes, which include the latest execution of veteran Al-Jazeera journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, by Israeli apartheid forces; calls on members of this House to demand justice; condemns the continued Israeli atrocities and illegal

occupation; questions the DA's moral standing, as none of their leaders have spoken out against Israel's atrocities, including the death of Shireen, yet their leader, John Steenhuisen, was recently in Ukraine on a so-called fact finding mission and the Premier cut the Western Cape Government's ties with the Russia Federation; and calls on the Premier to go on a fact finding mission to Palestine and cut the Western Cape Government's ties with Israel. I thank you.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Hon members, there is a question that will be posed to you in terms of procedure, of which you then can indicate whether you agree or not. [Laughter.] Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice, hon members?

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Yes.

Mr D AMERICA: Object!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: No!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion is in the name of hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. I move without notice:

That the House notes the Equal Education Law Centre's insightful presentation to the Standing Committee on education on Tuesday, which showed amongst others, several instances wherein which the WCED failed in its obligation to provide education for learners of compulsory school going age; expresses its dismay on revelations that parents who were referred to the Metro East District for assistance with learner placements, were rather advised to apply for the following academic year as there were no placement spaces in schools; laments and investigates reports that scores of children have been missing out on education for the entire year in Western Cape, including those who are out of school for the 2021 academic year; calls on the incoming MEC to prioritize admission challenges, including the fact that many schools refuse to accept manual applications, despite a number of parents not having access to the internet or not knowing how to use it; and commends the EELC and other civil society formations for the role they play in our education sector. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Yes.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion is in the name of hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon House Chairperson. I move without notice:

That the House commends the community activists in Moorreesburg, on the West Coast, for bringing the learner transport challenges associated with a particular bus operator to our attention; thanks the officials of the WCED for swiftly resolving the matter after we raised it as a motion in this House last week and welcomes the fact that the learners are now being transported on the said busses after having been stranded last week Thursday. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? Motion agreed to. The next motion is in the name of hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. I move without

notice:

That the House notes with concern that the Western Cape is getting closer to a fifth wave of COVID-19 with over 10 000 active and over 287 hospitalisations, and over 40 patients in ICU; and we warn the people to be vigilant and abide by the COVID-19 safety protocols; and call on the people, especially young people, to get vaccinated as this is our best weapon to defeat the virus. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Windvogel. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? None? Recorded. So, motion agreed to. The next motion is in the name of hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern, expresses deep shock and sadness on the latest mass murder and condemns the fatal shooting of 6 people in Site C, Khayelitsha; notes further with concern that the pattern of these mass murders, mainly in informal settlements, places a spotlight on the need to address environmental design and addressing the causative factors of violent crimes; calls on the police to speed up

investigations to bring perpetrators to book; and conveys sincerest condolences to the bereaved families. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Kama. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? None recorded, motion agreed to. The next motion is in the name of hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the reports that CCTVs installed in various working-class communities and crime hotspot areas like Khayelitsha, have not been working for several months due to lack of maintenance by relevant authorities; expresses shock and dismay at the DA-administrators' callous and nonchalant attitude for the poor; and calls on the new MEC of Community Safety to intervene ...[Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members.

Mr M KAMA:

...by rolling out a programme to fix broken CCTVs and streetlights in

crime hotspot areas as means to improving safety. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Kama. Are there any objections to motion being moved without notice?

Mr D AMERICA: Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon members. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion is in the name of hon Lekker.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, hon House Chairperson. I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern that the capture of the Democratic Alliance by the Private Property Developers is now negatively affecting the work of Provincial Government; notes further that not only is the Government giving favours to the developers through disposing of properties for nominal fees, but now Premier Winde and the City of Cape Town are using the public purse to support court cases of property developers; and concedes that the creation of the Department of Infrastructure is mainly to benefit the property developers who are DA funders, rather than improving Government efficiency. Thank you, I so

move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Lekker. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Object!

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, the question I put to you: are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice?

Mr D AMERICA: Object!

HON MEMBERS: Object. I object.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion is in the name of hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House joins the world in mourning the death of Marcelo Pecci, a high-profile prosecutor who fought against organised crime and drug trafficking in his home country of Paraguay, he was shot dead this week during his honeymoon in Colombia in front of his pregnant wife; notes

further with concern that the cowardly murder of Pecci brings back sad memories of the assassination of detective Charl Kinnear in 2020 and places a spotlight on the safety concerns of our dedicated and hardworking police officers, detectives and prosecutors who are an irritation to gangs and organised crime; and calls on police top brass to prioritize the safety of officers, particularly those who are dealing with the Anti-Gang Unit and fighting against organised crime. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Kama. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? None? Then, the motion is agreed to. The next motion is in the name of hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, hon House Chairperson. I move without notice:

That the House notes that today marks the International Nurses Day as the world honours the selfless contribution and reflects on the role nurses play to save the world during the COVID-19 pandemic; and commends and celebrates the nurses who continue to put their lives on the line in order for us to live, as they are at the coalface of Government's response to COVID-19; and reminds the MEC and the HOD about their commitment to build a Wall of Remembrance in honour

of the departed nurses and other healthcare workers. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Windvogel. Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? Objection recorded and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. The next motion is in the name of hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you very much, hon House Chair. I move without notice:

That the House notes with concern the allegations of statutory rape levelled against a foreign national from Parklands that were widely circulated on social media this week; notes further that in the video and voice clips that were widely circulated, underage were allegedly recorded having sexual intercourse with an old foreign national man in exchange for money and alcohol; notes further that the action of this man constitutes statutory rape and therefore, must be prosecuted; welcomes the SANCO Parklands branch for opening a criminal case of statutory rape against the alleged perpetrator; and calls on the police to speedily investigate the matter and offer psychological – psychosocial, I mean, sorry hon Chair, psychosocial support to the young girls who are victims on this matter. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice. Are there any objections? None recorded, agreed to. Thank you very much, hon members.

Hon members, we will now move to the Draft Resolution. The next item on the Order Paper is the Draft Resolution in the name of the hon Chief Whip Wenger.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

The CHIP WHIP (DA):

1. That the House in terms of Rule 119 of the Standing Rules appoints an Ad-Hoc Committee to investigate and report on:
 - (a) The appropriateness of the number of seats allocated to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament more than 20 years ago, given the population growth and the movement of people across provinces; and
 - (b) whether the current number of seats is sufficient to represent the people of the Western Cape optimally.

2. The Committee shall consist of 15 Members appointed in terms of Rule 120 of the Standing Rules with the membership allocated as follows:
 - (a) Democratic Alliance: 8 Members
 - (b) African National Congress: 2 Members
 - (c) Economic Freedom Fighters: 1 Member
 - (d) GOOD: 1 Member
 - (e) African Christian Democratic Alliance: 1 Member
 - (f) Freedom Front Plus: 1 Member
 - (g) Al Jama-ah: 1 Member

3. The names of the Members representing the aforementioned political parties must be submitted to the Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as soon as possible for publication in the ATC.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and that parties who wish to, will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration on the Draft Resolution for a maximum of three minutes, if they so desire. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration, if they wish to do so. I recognise the ANC.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon Chair, if I may ask? I do not have my Order Paper in front of me. Which Draft Resolution is this, there are two?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: We are referring to the Ad-hoc.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The establishment of the Ad-hoc committee?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Okay, yes. The ANC is making a declaration.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: [Audio distorted.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Please proceed, hon Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Hon House Chairperson, I rise on behalf of the African National Congress to support this particular Resolution today, for the establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee.

28 years into our democracy, it would be fair to evaluate the representation of our people in this House. Indeed, amidst the economic challenges of our time, the ANC does not take this decision to support the establishment of this Ad-hoc Committee with its areas of reference, lightly. Yet, we must be able to thoroughly investigate whether this House truly represents the needs and

aspirations of our people, as envisaged in our Constitution. Every effort must be made to ensure that our democracy is strengthened and that we therefore would support any mechanism which seeks to evaluate the state and efficiency of our representation and therefore, our democracy.

However, we hasten to add that this particular exercise is so imperative that all political parties in this House must be represented on the Committee. It is for this reason that the ANC did not object when it was allocated two seats, when in reality, we could have asked for four. Yet, because we would rather see the involvement of relatively smaller parties in the House, we relent in granting those two seats on the committee to these small Opposition parties.

As mentioned before, hon House Chair, we embark on this exercise, ever conscious of the growing social distance that often exists between ourselves as public representatives and our people. Hopefully, this exercise will lead to an outcome, whatever that may be, where that gap is narrowed in the interests of our people. The ANC supports the Resolution. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Sayed. I recognise the EFF. Order, hon members.

Mr M XEGO (EFF): Thanks, hon House Chair. As the EFF, we also fully support the Resolution with one understanding and appeal: that we continue sticking to the timeframes, as well as the terms of reference.

But furthermore, we wish to also call upon what the hon or to echo what the hon Sayed has said about the inclusion of smaller parties in the process, to ensure that there is broader consultation and support whenever we are doing things. And therefore, as the EFF, we are in full support of the Resolution.

But also with this understanding, hon Speaker, that – sorry, hon House Chair – that the Ad-hoc Committee would not concentrate on politicking in exercising the terms of reference of this Ad-hoc Committee and rather, concentrate on the mandate to ensure that it is concluded within the timelines that it is specified for. Thanks very much, hon House Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Xego. I now recognise GOOD, the GOOD party. None? The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon House Chair. The ACDP supports this Resolution. 42 members are inadequate to serve the people of the Western Cape and we agree that as the population grows year by year, that we need more representatives to serve the people of the Western Cape. So, we fully support this Resolution. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Christians and I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Hon Chair, the Freedom Front Plus wholeheartedly supports the Resolution tabled by the hon Wenger of the DA. The Western

Cape has become the haven for unemployed homeless people and there are a lot of them here that we are not even aware of. We must remember that we are a very large province, spanning over 129 000 square kilometres. We are almost the size of England. England is 130 000 square kilometres and the Western Cape alone, 129 462 square kilometres so obviously, the expanse is very big and we must service people and their needs over such a wide area.

I think, the number of Members of Parliament that sit here now, is going to find it very hard to keep up with visiting these areas, especially in terms of our oversight functions. I have seen with the initiative by the hon Speaker when he wants to go out to Manathi to visit people. I did not say Otumanathi, Puma ... [Interjection.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Order, hon members! iThetha Nathi.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): I [Laughter.] I think that it is a very noble idea, but it is a very big expanse to cover and for that reason, I think it will be a brilliant idea if we could convince National that we need more Members of Parliament, not per our own sake, but for better service delivery to the people we represent, especially on the expansive platteland. I thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Marais. I now recognise Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Chair. Al Jama-Ah is in

full support. Thank you, hon Chair.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis. I now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon House Chair. The question before the House today is whether it is desirable or not to establish an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the appropriateness of the number of seats allocated to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. The number of seats are currently 42, which is contained in Section 13 of the Western Cape Provincial Constitution. This number was set more than 20 years ago and has remained so ever since.

In 1996, a year before the number of seats was set in the Provincial Constitution, the Western Cape had approximately 3,9 million inhabitants and while we are now waiting for the Census results, the population estimates place the number of inhabitants currently in our province, at 7,1 million. That is almost double the number of inhabitants served by the same number of public representatives. At the same time, it is not a new debate. It has been ventilated many times in this House over the last 10 years and other Legislatures are having this very same debate.

The Gauteng Provincial Legislature, for example, has recently petitioned the new Electoral Amendment Bill to provide for the determination of the number of seats for the various Provincial Legislatures and the multi-party committee

convened by our hon Speaker recently, also showed that the vast majority of parties represented in this House agree that this matter needs attention.

So, the question here today is: should we investigate and look into whether the current number of seats is sufficient to represent the people of the Western Cape optimally? This Committee will be a mechanism which will allow us to stop and reflect on whether public representation and service to the people of this province, is properly served by the current number of representatives or not.

The DA is of the view that yes, we should investigate this matter because we are interested in being able to best serve our constituents through this Legislature and therefore, we support the establishment of this Ad-hoc Committee and the Draft Resolution. Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, hon Chief Whip and believe this will be the last time that we call you Chief Whip in this House? The next time it will be Minister. That concludes the declaration of the Draft Resolution.

I have to announce that there are currently – the amount of members present? Three oh? 30 hon members currently present and that they are entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House is that the Draft Resolution be adopted. Are there any objections to the Draft Resolution being adopted?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: No objections, recorded and accordingly, unanimously adopted and agreed to. Thank you very much, hon members. I will now ask the Secretary to read the Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration of Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on COVID-19 dated 6 May 2022 as ATC'd on the Report, No 51, dated 10 May 2022, p 213).

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I have been informed by the Chief Whip that the Programming Authority resolved that there would be no list of speakers and that parties who wish to, will now be afforded an opportunity to make a declaration of the Vote for a maximum of three minutes. I will then now accordingly, afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish, and I recognise the African National Congress. Three minutes each. The ANC? None? Thank you very much. Hon Sayed, can you just speak into the mic and so, for us to record?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, hon House Chair. No, there is nothing. There is no-one giving a declaration.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: I just wanted us to record that formally. I recognise the EFF? Nothing from your side?

Mr M XEGO (EFF): Ja, we move, we move like that.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Xego. The GOOD party? Not present anymore. The ACDP?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Chairperson. Hon Chairperson, it was a privilege for the ACDP to be part of the Ad-hoc Committee on COVID-19. I wish to thank the Chairperson, hon Mireille Wenger, for her excellent manner in which she chaired the Committee. She was fair and non-partisan, and her dealings with political parties were fair. I told that before. She posed the questions and we received satisfying answers, and on behalf of the ACDP I want to congratulate you on your appointment as the incoming Western Cape Provincial Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities. We believe you deserve it and well done. Thank you. [Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Christians. I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus – has left the building. [Laughter.] I now recognise Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Chair. Al Jama-Ah has got no declaration, thank you.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Brinkhuis, and I do now recognise the Democratic Alliance.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Chairperson. The COVID-19 Ad-hoc Committee was established a little over two years ago and served as the parliamentary pulse of the pandemic. The Committee produced monthly reports, totalling in excess of 500 pages. This final report is the culmination of 2 years of scrutiny over the Executive and more broadly, the effect of the pandemic on society in the Western Cape.

This Committee, the only one of its kind in South Africa, has been the subject of several academic studies already. It has been an excellent vehicle for a whole of society view of Government action and the effects of this virus. We are very proud of this Committee and we are proud of this Legislature that it established such a body, to breathe life into parliamentary oversight at a time when there was so much uncertainty and fear.

When the Committee was established, I doubt any of us thought that our assignment would be as long as two whole years and two very long years they were. During this time, most of us have either gotten COVID-19 and many of us have lost colleagues and loved ones, and some continue to experience lingering symptoms of long COVID-19. We remember and pray for every

person whose life has been taken by this disease and those that are suffering its aftermath, which has changed our world and impacted on every household in the Western Cape, South Africa and, indeed, the world.

As of today, globally there have been 520 million confirmed cases and 6,3 million deaths. The Committee looked into everything from provincial oxygen supplies, bereavement counselling and the informal economy. We checked that we had sufficient food during the hard lockdown and why the price of eggs increased. We looked at feeding schemes for children, the closure of ECD centres, the reopening of schools, the transport of healthcare workers and the provision of PPE for nurses, the impact on learning, the elderly and children. It was, indeed, the parliamentary pulse of the pandemic.

The Executive and top management came week after week to brief the Committee, so that we as public representatives were able to scrutinise the work of Government and ask important questions. But we did not just hear from Government, we listened to citizens of this province and we spoke to survivors of COVID-19, NGOs, unions, business chambers and even psychologists. 17 000 people participated in our public participation process.

As the Chair of the Committee, I tried my utmost to follow the principles of fairness and to open spaces for Opposition parties. And I really would like to thank my colleagues from this Committee on both sides of the benches. It was really an honour and a privilege to serve with you. I am sure I speak on

behalf of all members in giving thanks to the procedural officers, Mr Waseem Matthews, Ms Zaheeda Adams, Ms Wasiema Hassen-Moosa, Ms Shumeeze Jones, and the senior procedural officers, Ms Lizette Cloete and Ben Daza and Mario Sassman for their outstanding efforts and hard work. We thank you.

We express our deepest gratitude towards the thousands of healthcare workers, doctors, nurses, Government officials, civil society members that worked and continue to work to ensure our survival. We thank the hon Premier and the Provincial Cabinet for steering us through these troubled waters.

Hon Chairperson, I report that this Committee has concluded its assignment and ask that the report and its recommendations be adopted. Thank you.
[Applause.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip and I believe that is the very last time we will address you as that, but in your capacity as Chair, thank you so much for the wonderful sterling work that you have been doing with the Committee.

Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 29 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. I put the question before the House, is that that the COVID-19 WCPP Report be adopted. Are there any objections to the Report being adopted? No

objections in the House, no objections recorded online, the Report is then accordingly agreed to and adopted. Thank you very much, hon members.

I believe that that concludes the business for today. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will be exited from this sitting. I wish you a safe travel home, be blessed, keep well, be safe. The House is adjourned. Thank you very much.

The House adjourned at 18:16.