
THURSDAY, 12 AUGUST 2021

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: You may all be seated. Thank you. Hon members, I welcome the hon, the Premier, who is sitting in the House with me here in the Chamber today and also the hon Mackenzie, who is also joining me here in the Chamber, and of course I welcome all the hon members who are all connected either in your homes or in your offices through the virtual platform. I welcome the members of the fourth estate, the media, and of course thank you for your interest in the work that we do as the Western Cape Provincial Parliament. I just want to remind the hon members that we do not have a pronounced or a scheduled load shedding.

That then confirms that members will be consistently connected. It is up to the hon members where they are connected to ensure that they are reasonably stable in terms of their connectivity.

I wish to remind the hon members that you may not speak during the sitting unless you are recognised by the Presiding Officer and of course I would also add and say that the hon members who wish to raise a point of order may do so by means of indicating your hand and using your hand-raising button in your device or by doing so through the chat room. The Presiding Officer will recognise you.

I also wish to indicate to the members of the media that please do not attempt to activate your camera, nor your microphone. Your presence here is through the means of being in the gallery as we usually do so here in the House in the Provincial Parliament, so at this point the programme is fairly straightforward today in terms of our Order Paper. We do not have a debate and therefore we have interpellations, questions and questions to the Premier, who is present here in the House, and of course, member statements and notices of motions and motions.

I would like at this point to deal with the first matter and that is the interpellations. The first interpellation is by the hon Windvogel to the hon, the Minister of Health, Dr Mbombo. I now recognise the Minister.

INTERPELLATIONS

Covid-19 safety protocols: long queues at community healthcare facilities

1. Ms R Windvogel asked the Minister of Health:

Whether there are dedicated staff members to control long queues and to ensure adherence to COVID-19 safety protocols by patients waiting outside community healthcare facilities?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Good afternoon, hon members. Can you just confirm, Speaker, whether I am audible and also whether I am visible?

The SPEAKER: Excuse me hon Minister, what do you request the Presiding Officer to do?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: No-no, just to check whether you can hear me. I can hear you, yes, I can hear you, yes. [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: It is clear.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Okay.

The SPEAKER: It is like you are in a street committee meeting. [Laughter]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Alright, okay. Thank you for the interpellation from member Windvogel in regard to the queues. Yes, there are long queues and also we are very much aware of the Disaster Management Act Regulations in regard to the gatherings and also social distancing, so therefore inasmuch as that we are having so much pressure in regard to the resources, that we are to ensure that we are using the interns, not medical interns, the interns using the EPWP staff, in some instances contract staff as queue marshals and in some instances community health workers and in some instances volunteers from the clinic committees, to be able to assist on the queues that are outside.

Also Speaker, taking into consideration that our health facilities, especially those old ones, have been built a long time ago, where they do not make provision even for like an *afdak*, in some cases, or even the places where people could be able to sit outside the facility.

Unfortunately, inasmuch as that we understand that people are sick, they are vulnerable. When they come to the facilities, we are unable to bring many people inside. It is not only about it being high risk amongst each other, if you do not keep social distancing in a close environment like in the waiting room, but also it does also expose staff to the infection. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Speaker. Good afternoon, hon members. Speaker, as at 11 August 2021 the Western Cape had 430 921 total cumulative cases, following a reported 1 703 new COVID-19 cases. So the Western Cape has reclaimed its spot as the COVID-19 epicentre. This is the case partly because COVID-19 fatigue has set in and we let our guard down as the people by not respecting and adhering to the safety protocols, but in the main it is the glaring capacity gaps in government and sometimes the bad decisions.

These includes the senseless testing strategy that excludes the majority of the population and despite there being clear evidence of younger people being most at risk of contracting the Delta variant. It was this Government that sabotaged National Government's plans for depopulation of overcrowded communities especially in informal settlements where physical distancing is near impossible and with the water and sanitation challenges which increase the risk of the spread of the virus. Instead of addressing the challenges of overcrowding in informal settlements, this Government has opted to stop building people's decent houses, it will now teach people to build decent shacks through the better living challenges. The biggest area of concern is that our community clinics are at risk of becoming super-spreaders as the province has 35 344 COVID-19 active cases. A number of these patients and their families frequent our community clinics where thousands of people stand in long queues outside clinics for long hours, waiting for the facility to open every day.

There is no-one to ensure that the people adhere to COVID-19 Safety Protocols particularly maintaining physical distancing between places and wearing of masks. The risk for the spread of COVID-19 in community clinics is very high under these conditions. It is for this reason we are asking the MEC to tell us what additional measures are put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19 outside these facilities. What engagement has the MEC held with the City to prevent our clinics from becoming COVID-19 superspreaders? I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Windvogel. Hon member, I now recognise the hon, the Chairperson of the Committee, hon Philander.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, the key to consistent and coordinated response is effective communication to achieve the ultimate patient experience at public health facilities. Speaker, through you, can the Minister please share with the House how COVID-19 has exacerbated queues and the waiting periods, how the measures or what were the measures that were undertaken by the Department to improve communication with patients to rule out these difficulties?

Speaker, through you also, have patients been denied access to care due to these queues and does the Department have incident management teams that monitor the influx of patients at the health facilities as they are reported and then subsequently addressed by the Department and by the necessary facility?

Speaker, also, are these existing agreements in place with the Department or are these existing agreements in place with the Department of Community Safety? The Minister has made mention of interns, EPWPs and all those volunteers and so forth that do assist at these facilities. Are there also agreements I place with local authorities to help the Department of Health in instances where these queues do exist? Thank you very much, Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, what the ACDP would like to know, especially when it comes to the long queues, what measures has the Department put in place to at least assist the elderly and also those mothers who attend with their babies, taking into account that as we are talking about the spreading of the virus and combating that, where there are long lines and I think member Philander asked it, are there measures in place if the queue is extremely long and it is a danger to the people spreading the virus, are there plans in place to look at those things? The important thing is, I have heard before that elderly people need to queue long hours to get to be assisted, so what do they do if they get there and they are elderly, do they report to somebody, do they go to the front of the queue to say: "I am 80 years old, 70 years old", or whatever the case may be, or if a mother comes with quite a number of children that nobody can look after and she is in the queue? I am just worried about that. Thank you very much, Speaker.

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

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you Speaker. Speaker, facility management in almost all our community clinics are aware of the risk of COVID-19 spread in our facilities and many have come up with measures, as mentioned by the MEC, to control the flow of patients inside facilities. For example, there are clinics that keep patients waiting outside facilities and only admit ten patients at a time to get services, and only admit the other ten when there is space inside.

Whilst this approach makes sense, the only challenge is that the frustrated patients outside the long queues are kept there for long hours and they do not adhere to safety protocols. We have raised this challenge with some facility managers of management who admitted that it is indeed a challenge and that their hands are tied as they do not have the capacity to recruit more staff to control the queues and that some of these volunteers are not always available. They say community volunteers, as mentioned, only attend when they feel like it, and we plead with the City of Cape Town and Provincial Government to build outside clinics, and there is an urgent need for the Provincial Government to urgently put measures in place to prevent our clinics from becoming a COVID-19 superspreader, including by deploying perhaps Neighbourhood Watches to control the queues outside facilities from early morning hours and so the MEC must tell us why the application by many

clinics including Nolungile Clinic in Site C for a waiting area outside the facility had not been implemented. It has been years since the management asked for the building of a waiting area to assist patients while waiting outside before the opening hours. This would go a long way in improving the service and to make it possible for people to maintain physical distancing. The MEC must tell us what work has been done to build waiting areas outside our clinics and where the hold-up is as many clinics have been ignored when they applied for these waiting areas. The blame game between City, Provincial Government and National is not going to provide solutions. The MEC must tell us how her Department is going to take care of these issues. I thank you, Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you Speaker. Thank you for the input from the colleagues.

One, the reason that we de-escalated the services according to the pandemic in regard to the numbers is just one of the contributions on how to stop the spread, so the non-COVID cases, those we normally suggest, say that they are not on holiday but unfortunately you do not want a situation where you ended up cross-infecting patients within our facilities, so that is why we are strict. Some people will say that it is raining, please bring the people inside, but we cannot.

If you go to the waiting rooms you will find that there will be a chair, especially those ones that are a bunk that are longer, where there will be a chair, and the other one will have an X there, that you do not sit on it. Just like the member has indicated, in some areas they will say we take ten inside and then we have others that are outside in the yard, and then we have others that are outside, outside the yard. The 1.5 metres is the one, we take it very seriously because we cannot be infected and get COVID from within the area that is supposed to protect you, so that part of it, we are very strict.

The issue here is about the queues that are forming outside the yard specifically which is actually the jurisdiction also of the municipality in some cases because those patients will be actually waiting in the other areas, for example whether it is a pavement of the municipality and all of those. However, we take responsibility because those patients are coming to us.

Now if you compare the resources you will find that you will want to channel to balance the scale, but at the same time you need resources especially in the COVID wards for more healthcare workers in the wards and all others, not only in terms of the human resources, plus also in regard to the equipment and all of those. So that is why you have to balance, you cannot just appoint as many of the queue marshals and then vis-à-vis for the others, hence as I always say, a clinic is owned by the communities. For us as Health it is about to ensure that we deliver the health services. Health services is our business, is our core business but health is everyone's business.

That is why in other areas the ward councillors will even assist drawing the lines around that part, but as Health, not only the de-escalation and also to de-congregate, but also to have an appointment system so that for those ones who have got cold cases they could be able to wait. It is not an emergency. They can come at a time that they do not have to wait. We distribute medicines throughout so that people do not have to also come unnecessarily to the facilities.

In regard to the prioritisation for the vulnerable it has always been before, even prior COVID where the older persons, those with the newborns, with the babies, those children who are wearing school uniforms, those that have got severe disabilities they will always be prioritised so the responsibility of the queue marshals or the EPWP whoever is there, is not only about ensuring the 1.5 metre distance that needs to be maintained but also to triage in regard to which person seem to be more vulnerable or more sick than the rest, so that those people could be able to jump the queue. Again, this is a manifestation of what is happening outside, not only in the health system, because we have queues. Whether it is during the SASSA grants, we have queues at the ATMs; we have queues at the shops; we have queues everywhere. The grocery stores, they will always be there, at the bank and whatever, all of those, but how do we as a society take each and everyone's responsibility because member Windvogel speaks about the City of Cape Town, we have got queues everywhere. Go to TC Newman, go to Paarl or whatever hospital, go to Bitou, there will always be queues because we have to maintain the stop of

the spread that could happen inside the facilities to protect the healthcare workers, but also to protect the persons themselves. Thank you, Speaker. I think I have covered all of those.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Oh sorry, Speaker, just lastly the other question that member Philander asked... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: We have not seen any infections within, especially gatherings, like funerals.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister...

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: You do not do it that way. Remember, you have exhausted your time so I was a bit also accommodating, but next time do not worry. May I just indicate to the House that the current interpellation has now been concluded?

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: Now we move to the next interpellation and that is by the hon Baartman to the hon Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities. I now recognise the hon Minister. Minister Maynier?

Load-shedding in the Western Cape

2. Ms D M Baartman asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

What progress has his Department made in fulfilling the Western Cape Government's pledge to make the province the first province to beat load shedding?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, Speaker. I am going to keep my camera off in the interest of preserving my connectivity, which has been a little bit shaky this morning.

Speaker, businesses in the Western Cape are of course already hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and then add to this an electricity crisis, and this is certainly the final blow for many businesses who are already facing closure and of course these risks resulting in further job losses in the Western Cape.

As I have said before, it is almost as though the COVID-19 pandemic is a left hook and load shedding a right hook, which together have been a knock-out blow, unfortunately for many businesses in the Western Cape, which of

course comes at a great cost to the economy and which is why we are doing everything we can with municipalities and businesses and households across the province to invest in growing the renewable energy sector to beat load shedding in the Western Cape.

We of course are building on excellent work done in the past in the previous term, but central to our energy resilient strategy now is our Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative, which is aimed at assisting municipalities to take advantage of the new Energy Regulations, which include the potential for municipalities to purchase energy directly from independent power producers. The Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative is not just about municipal procurement from independent power producers but is also aimed at enabling businesses and households to generate, procure, and of course sell electricity.

Through contributing to an increasingly decentralised system of low carbon energy generation and distribution it will help mitigate the risk in load shedding. The initiative of course is aimed at enhancing competitiveness, confidence, investment, economic growth and job creation, all the while contributing to climate change mitigation in the Western Cape. Of course to achieve this we have allocated R48,8 million over the medium term and provided a further R20 million in the provincial reserves for the Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative.

We have announced the six candidate municipalities and we are collaborating

with the City of Cape Town in the Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative.

The initiative of course is being rolled out in three phases. Phase 1 is to identify the candidate municipalities, and of course to complete business cases for applicable energy technologies and we have successfully concluded a request for information to help to identify options available and to develop a strategic approach and roadmap to roll out Pioneering Renewable Energy Projects.

Phase 2 obviously focuses on the preparation of the Pioneering Renewable Energy projects, and Phase 3 will see the implementation of the Pioneering Renewable Energy projects as well as developing a master plan for Renewable Energy projects to be rolled out in candidate municipalities. Of course by creating a situation where municipalities can sustainably support new generation capacity onto their municipal networks it will assist in buffering the impact of load shedding and setting a path towards greater energy security and affordability in the Western Cape. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise the hon, the Chair of the Committee, hon Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I brought forth today this particular interpellation on the Province's pledge to become the first province to beat load shedding, because it is important for the people of the Western Cape to be able to hold its Government accountable. At the time of submission, however, no-one could have anticipated Eskom's

announcement of an explosion at Medupi Power Station at Unit 4, which resulted in Unit 5 also tripping, which has caused a major concern for all South Africans. This comes directly after a very grandiose announcement by Eskom that all the units at the Medupi Power Station were finally coming on-stream, 14 years late and vastly over budget.

It is reported that repairs could cost R2 billion, two years to fix, will take 797 megawatts off the system and could push blackouts to record levels. This event will naturally have a devastating effect on our country and our province. Hairdressers need power, butchers need power, entrepreneurs need power, farmers need power, restaurants need power, walking home and too weak – our women need power.

Minister Maynier, in light of this, the various programmes by the Western Cape Government to mitigate against the inevitable blackouts are critical, not only for the safety and dignity of our people but also the economic recovery of our province.

Minister, in particular, please could you expand on the ways in which these renewable green energy projects you have spoken about can protect our economy. Speaker, I thank you. [Interjection.]

Mr P MARRAN: We have got the power!

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members. Who is that, that does that?

An HON MEMBER: Member Marran.

The SPEAKER: I have been encouraging hon members to respect the Rules of the House and I think it is about time that I display some firmness in this regard, but I am just requesting the hon members to restrain themselves and really follow the example of the rest of the hon members in the House. May I request now the hon member Nkondlo to address the House?

Ms N D NKONDLO: †Somlomo, [Speaker,] the ANC welcomes the debate to receive progress reports on the efforts and budgets approved by this House during the budget vote in March, of hon Maynier. It is rather unfortunate to still listen, after we have made a follow-up with a parliamentary question we received a very scanty response from the MEC regarding this matter because we had detailed questions about the allocation of the R70 million, how this money is going to be spent, what has come out from those councils of the municipalities that we identified, only to our surprise to be told that the municipalities are still to be identified. Again, if one considers what is in the departmental website about Phase 1, which is supposed to be concluded by next month with a clear business case and municipality and project identification, feasibility studies and roadmaps, which I hope if we put parliamentary questions to the MEC we will be able to receive these documents. The strategic dimensions of the MER project include energy security, energy affordability, environmental sustainability and economic development and growth. We remain highly concerned on these critical objectives and outcomes. If one considers the current capacity and misdemeanours in some of these municipalities regarding their electricity

sourcing and purchase practices just with Eskom, one wonders how it will be with IPPs as private providers. Energy affordability is one of the drivers. There is an ongoing outcry around tariff structures and costs regulated by NERSA and what subsequently is paid by the end user.

In the City as we speak there has been complaints raised of an additional 29 cents charged by the City on the NERSA tariff which is referred to as an unregulated portion making its electricity cost per unit expensive. Further the City introduced a debt recovery method to deduct the percentage from the cost per unit; an amount for those that owe the municipal rates, thus end users get less units vis-à-vis the amount they paid for. In Saldanha the municipality backtracked on its decision... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: †Siyabulela. [Thank you very much.] Hon Nkondlo, your time is up. Thank you.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Speaker. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Okay thank you, hon member Nkondlo. Hon members, I now request the hon member Makamba-Botya to address the House.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, Speaker. Whilst it goes without saying that load shedding continues to have devastating effects on the lives of ordinary citizens, the economy of the country and the business at large, if it is not to continue over a long period of time, without any positive

intervention, then the situation in the country will be very dire. Equally so, the solutions to the longstanding problem associated with load shedding should not only be aimed at keeping the lights on but also offer affordable energy options to our people, particularly the poor. The recent electricity tariff hikes by the City of Cape Town remains unaffordable for the majority of our poor people and although the understanding is that under the Municipality Energy Resilience Project municipalities will be generating, procuring and selling their own power. This electricity should be made affordable for the poorest of our people. So since the municipalities will be procuring power from independent power producers, who will be setting their own prices since they are running a business, how would these municipalities make sure that the electricity tariffs become affordable for our people?

Secondly, since the Provincial Government would be assisting municipal finance to participate in the initial phases of the MER Projects, are there any feasibility studies conducted to see if most of these municipalities will be able to sustain themselves in taking this project forward over a long-term period? I thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Makamba-Botya. †Siyabulela.
[Thank you very much.] Hon members, I now recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, the first question to the Minister is when will the Western Cape see an end to load shedding? That is one of the promises made. I am encouraged by the progress report but

the people want to know, when is the Western Cape not going to rely on Eskom and be independent from Eskom and not affected by load shedding? We know I said previously that especially our small businesses are suffering when there is load shedding. They cannot afford generators and that they are in dire need also now facing the [Inaudible – audio connection lost.]

Maybe just another question here is, these independent power producers, are there going to be restrictions, are they going to be monitored or are the poor going to suffer and pay more for electricity? As member Nkondlo has said, now when they go to buy power their rates get deducted. They get little units out and people are struggling, so are the municipalities or the Department going to make sure that independent power producers do not rip our people off? I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Christians. Hon members, then I will call on the hon, the Chairperson of the Committee.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Minister, one of the projects hailed to move forward the Western Cape becoming the first province in South Africa to beat load shedding is the Municipal Energy Resilience Project, and Speaker, some of the previous members asked for the names of the municipalities and despite these previously being released, let me assist these members. The municipalities are Drakenstein Municipality, Mossel Bay Municipality, Overstrand, Saldanha Bay, Swartland, and this is supported also with the inclusion of the City of Cape Town. The previous

members wanted to know about how much has been allocated in the past.

†'n AGBARE LID: Is sy nou die Minister? Jay!

[An HON MEMBER: Is she now the Minister? Jay!]

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Despite it being published in black and white in the Budget Book in the beginning of the year, the Department indicated it allocated R48,8 million over the MTEF period with R20 million ring-fenced in the provincial reserves to assist municipalities to be able to procure energy from independent power producers. Research costs money, expertise costs money ... [Interjection.]

†'n AGBARE LID: Laat jy aangaan nou.

[An HON MEMBER: Let you now go on.]

Mr P J MARAIS: Speaker, somebody is continuously interjecting...

The SPEAKER: Order, hon Chair, will you please take your seat. Hon members, there is a bit of a problem here and I need support. We cannot be in a jamboree in the House. We need order, please. Someone's microphone is active. I would like to request that you mute your microphone. IT, please mute everyone and then unmute the Speaker. Thank you. You may proceed, hon Chairperson.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, Speaker, if you could just indicate to me please where you require me to start again; if the Table could just indicate

from where they wish me to start. Speaker, I am unable to hear you.

The SPEAKER: Can you hear me now, hon Baartman?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I can hear you now, thank you.

The SPEAKER: You have exactly two minutes and 20 seconds.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: No problem, thank you so much. Speaker, the Department indicated that it allocated R48,8 million over the MTEF period, with another R20 million ring-fenced in the provincial reserves to assist municipalities to be able to procure energy from IPPs. Research costs money, expertise costs money. Money does not grow on trees. The members previously also asked why NERSA is increasing its rates but NERSA, Speaker, is a national body, so I would urge member Nkondlo to WhatsApp Minister Mantashe directly. Energy is the foundation of an economy and it is the job of Government to ensure clear legislative instruments are put into place in order for us to grow our economy... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hon Speaker... [Interjection.]

Ms D M BAARTMAN: We must invest for energy wisely. The National Minister of Mineral resources and Energy had a 60-day deadline to introduce amendments to Energy Regulation to allow persons to install up to 100 megawatts in small-scale embedded generation without requiring NERSA licensing. This deadline has passed.

Could the Provincial Minister please indicate whether he is aware of any of these amendments being published any time soon by the National Minister. If so, what are the relevant details?

A secure stable supply of energy fuels jobs, dignity and safety of residents and it is why the MER project is a game-changer for the Western Cape in achieving our crucial goal of growing the province's local economy. The DA in the Western Cape remains committed to leveraging energy opportunities for economic recovery and growth of the provincial economy, in order to support the growth of jobs, dignity and safety for all residents of this province. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Baartman. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister, Minister Maynier.

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

I wish to assure members that we are concerned about the fact that the amendments to Schedule 2 of the Electricity Regulations Act, which will of course provide for licensing exemption for energy generation products from one megawatt to 100 megawatts, which of course is vital and is a game-changer, have been inexplicably delayed, but we have heard and we have been advised that it is likely that the Regulations will be gazetted

during the course of tomorrow, which of course is Friday 13 August 2021 and certainly if those regulations are not gazetted, we certainly will follow up with National Government because the amendments to the regulations, as I have said, are a game-changer and will significantly promote investment in new generation capacity in the Western Cape.

We have also, contrary to what some members suggest, made significant progress. Although the Municipal Energy Resilience Project is complex and is going to take time, and it will take time of course to beat load shedding, but the candidate municipalities have been identified. We have succeeded in concluding memorandums of understanding with the candidate municipalities and of course we have completed a request for information where 82 submissions were lodged with the Department and those are currently being evaluated with a view to identifying pioneering projects and we will certainly keep members informed. Of course, there is concern about the increase in electricity prices but of course electricity price increases are driven principally by massive Eskom electricity price increases.

Municipalities in some cases having to pay 17,8% more to buy electricity from Eskom, which is precisely why we need more competition to drive down prices which will be good for businesses and households, and which is precisely why we are implementing the municipal energy resilience programme in the Western Cape.

We of course must ensure that these projects are sustainable, and it is

precisely for that reason that the Municipal Energy Resilience Project is supporting municipalities to do detailed studies prior to implementation to ensure that the projects are sustainable. Speaker, it would be remiss of me not to say that the municipal energy resilience initiative builds on great work that has been done over the past five years, to, for example, drive up the use of solar PV, which is a further element in our arsenal to beat load shedding. We have now concluded, 24 of our 25 municipalities allow small-scale embedded generation and 20 municipalities have Regulator approved tariffs. There have been direct engagements with businesses in order to drive up solar PV and of course the Western Cape Government itself has invested in solar PV in own buildings which has resulted in considerable cost savings. There are just, I think, a few measures which demonstrate our commitment to building a green resilient future and beating load shedding in the Western Cape.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes the second interpellation.

[Debate concluded.]

The SPEAKER: We now move to Interpellation number 3, and this is the interpellation by hon Herron to the hon Minister of Community Safety, Minister Fritz. I would like to now recognise the hon, the Minister.

3. Mr B N Herron asked the Minister of Community Safety:

With regard to the Western Cape Safety Plan and its implementation by the City of Cape Town:

- (a) To what extent has the Western Cape Safety Plan been implemented as agreed with the City of Cape Town and approved by its Council and
- (b) what parts of the Safety Plan have not been implemented?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: *Enkosi*, Mr Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, and thank you for the question from the hon Herron. I am so happy he is asking the question because he always refers to LEAP officers as †bliksoldaatjies [tin soldiers], so I am very happy that we can give some information on this. So I think it is important to note, for the A-part of the question in the interpellation; it is important to note that the City of Cape Town is an implementing partner specifically in regard to the operationalisation of the law enforcement component and that the City has representation on social cohesion and urban design committees because there are other components.

I just want to make the point – there is the violence prevention component. There is the law enforcement, where the City is an implementing partner in the implementation of the law enforcement component. In partnership with the City of Cape Town, the Department of Community Safety launched the

Law Enforcement Advancement Programme, which is called the LEAP, which seeks to deploy 1 000 law enforcement officers by the end of 2021 and specifically deployed in crime hotspot areas to enhance law enforcement capacity to become boots on the ground, force multipliers to the South African Police Service and we have seen how it worked during the threat of looting when they tried to come and do it in Cape Town and they could not survive. They can do it somewhere else, not here. To date a total of 749 LEAP officers have been appointed in terms of the plan of which 98 are currently receiving their training while 651 LEAP officers have been deployed to crime hotspots in the province.

The remaining 251 LEAP officers are on track for training and deployment and the pandemic did affect certain progress as specific training colleges were unable to operate during the area of lockdown level or lockdown levels 2 and 3 and 5, in fact especially 5. The City of Cape Town approved the Law Enforcement Advancement Programme and the City's contribution to the programme, so in other words the City Council, the sitting Council of the City approved it.

The second part of that question, Mr Speaker, in terms of the relevant agreement with the City of Cape Town, and we have a transfer payment agreement with the City of Cape Town, all parts of the Safety Plan are being implemented so they are all in the process of being implemented. Thank you very much.

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

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker, and thank you to the Minister for the response. Speaker, when we started, when this plan was first announced in 2019 as the biggest, boldest policing plan South Africa had ever seen and we started asking to see the plan because it was announced at a media conference with a power point presentation, we found a R1,3 billion plan based on a 20-page working document, and Speaker, you and the Minister will know that I have been critical of this very flimsy document that supports such a massive spend so that working document must also be read together with the City of Cape Town's own resolutions to approve the implementation of the LEAP plan and the working document and the LEAP plan and the Minister's own announcement in this Parliament have made a number of commitments, and first of all halving the murder rate in the province by 50% over the next 10 years. I think we have almost used two of those years; then deploying 500 law enforcement officers by 1 February 2020 and deploying a further 500 law enforcement officers by 1 July 2020. Now we hear that the full 1000 law enforcement officers are only going to be deployed by the end of 2021 and I am wondering where that plan was changed because I have not seen the City of Cape Town amend its LEAP Plan to deviate from what it approved in 2019.

Now these law enforcement officers or LEAP officers were going to be deployed into four areas. One was going to be a neighbourhood safety team, the other an area-based crime prevention team. Then neighbour safety team

based investigators and a land invasion team.

Now Speaker, we have spent nearly a billion rand or we have allocated nearly a billion rand over the last three financial years, R170 million in 2019/20, R417 million in 2020/21 and R350 million in the current financial year, bringing it to R937 million and what we have currently is 600 law enforcement officers, no investigators according to the Minister's reply to my question, even though we were promised 50 investigators would be appointed within the first 12 months, and so we have allocated R937 million to this project already. We are nearly two years from the anniversary of the grand announcement and a full year after the promised deployment of 1000 officers, including 50 investigators, but we only have 600 odd law enforcement officers deployed, and according to the Minister's written reply only...
[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: We do not have any investigators. [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: You have concluded your time for now, hon Herron. Hon members, I recognise hon Allen, the Chairperson of the Committee.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, through you I wish to thank member Herron for submitting the interpellation with regard to the Western Cape Safety Plan. I further wish to inform members of this House that on 24 August 2021 the Standing Committee on Community Safety will receive a

detailed status update on the safety needs in the Western Cape with specific reference to the deployment of the Law Enforcement Advancement Programme, the area-based teams established and the Youth Safety Ambassador's Programme among other items in terms of the Western Cape Recovery Plan.

Speaker, as stated numerous times the Safety Plan is a whole of government approach to the challenges faced in the province as a result of crime. The deployment of the LEAP officers again as stated before is not a silver bullet, but rather a proactive step to compensate the inefficiencies and under-resourcing within SAPS, which is well documented and a longstanding issue. Speaker, recently I joined LEAP officers in the Delft area which saw over the period of 1 April 2020 to 1 April 2021 a decline of 20 SAPS members to the granted SAPS establishment. In Delft, Speaker, the SAPS police-to-population ratio stands at a shocking one to 696 community members. That is more than triple the UN standard of one officer to every 220 residents. I just welcome the efforts by the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town which counted the reduction of 20 SAPS members in Delft by more than tripling the boots on the ground. We have an additional 73 LEAP officers to the Delft area to supplement the resources on the ground and to promote crime fighting and prevention initiatives. It is clear that these collaborative efforts support the shortages of SAPS.

Speaker, I further learnt through my outside responsibilities, that all ten of the priority crime SAPS stations in the province have seen a decrease in the

granted SAPS establishment.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr R I ALLEN: I have seen firsthand, Speaker, the working relationship between SAPS members on the ground and law enforcement officers and this collaborative... [Time expired.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Allen, you have exhausted your time, thank you very much. Hon members, I do not know whether there is a delay in the microphone when I say the time has been concluded. I will just try and do it earlier because I do not want to disturb the hon members in their time while they are busy speaking. It can cause a bit of a time delay, but I will see what else to do to try and assist in this regard.

I would like to now request the hon member Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the DA's manifesto for 2019 Elections promised the people a provincial police force. Following its failure to implement this, the Premier then moved to promise people recruitment training and deployment of 3 000 new law enforcement officers to murder hotspots to halve the murder rate in the province.

Later this was reduced down to 1000 without any explanation and this Government has missed all targets to train and deploy the additional 500 LEAP officers since 2020, while eagerly waiting to see if they will really

meet the October 2021 target. The biggest challenge for us remains that the DA cynical Hawks called the Safety Plan, does not address the root causes of crime and will not halve the murder rate under the current setup. We were promised that these LEAP officers would operate under SAPS command and yet this had not been the case in many instances. We have been sold lies that LEAP officers will be deployed to halve the murder rate, yet, the truth is that the majority of the 1000 officers have only received basic training of peace officer training, traffic warden certificates and the City's bylaws. The five-week basic firearm training only comes later. How will these officers halve the murder rate when they are only deployed to half of the murder precincts in the province? Why are they not deployed to all murder hotspots areas? Is there any value for money in this sham of a plan? How many officers have received the basic firearm training to date as the Premier had assured this House that Government would from time to time review the impact of the Safety Plan, is this not the time for Government to focus more on creating a conducive environment for policing like the roads in Kraaifontein, which is a murder rate, are in a very bad condition and we want Government to fix that so that our police have an environment conducive to fight crime... [Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kama. [Inaudible.]

Mr M KAMA: Thanks, Speaker. [Time expired.]

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

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, Speaker. It is safe to say that the longstanding pandemic that the Western Cape has always battled with and continues to battle with, without any reported success, is the issue of rampant crime in the province. One of the focus areas of the so-called Safety Plan is violence prevention. However, the ever-increasing taxi violence, gender-based violence, turf wars, to mention a few, have exposed the inability of the Western Cape Government's crime prevention efforts. This has continued to an extent that the Provincial Government continuously calls for the SANDF to be permanently deployed in the province as they realise that the Safety Plan is a sham, which will never yield any results even in the long term. What we now want to understand is that what short-term successes has the Safety Plan achieved since its inception in halving the murder rate in the province up to date? What successes on the part of the Safety Plan can be reported as part of the proactive steps that are taken to kerb the gender-based violence in the province? Thank you very much, †Somlomo.

[Speaker.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you hon Xego. †Siyabulela. [Thank you very much.]

May I now request the hon Herron to address the House. Hon Herron.

Mr B N HERRON: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, I want to pick up where the Minister left off, where he said all parts of the Safety Plan or LEAP plan are being implemented, because in July this year just a few weeks ago he replied to my written question saying that there are no investigators

that had been deployed as part of the LEAP plan. So I am not sure if the Minister has read the City's LEAP plan, or if he was misleading us when he replied to my question like in that fashion, because in reply to my question last month the Minister said the City's controversial SIU or SSIU, as it is currently called, does not form part of the LEAP plan, but the LEAP Plan adopted by Council, which was supposed to implement as the Minister said, the Western Cape Safety Plan, says that 50 new investigation officers would be included in the City's SIU, now called SSIU.

So the plan says that the SSIU would provide the investigation capacity and will focus on shadow investigations of criminal cases generated by the LEAP Neighbourhood Safety Teams.

So, hon Speaker, I ask or I invite the Minister to consider page 21 of the LEAP Plan, which sets out the role of the SSIU in the LEAP Plan and in the Western Cape Safety Plan, and there he will find that it says the SSIU provides investigation capacity and the teams will focus on shadow investigation of criminal investigation, and that each station will have five SSIU members accountable to the current existing SSIU structure, and the SSIU will be responsible for information and intelligence gathering.

So can the Minister explain his answer that the SSIU does not form part of the LEAP plan, when very clearly it does? It seems to me the Minister is really trying to avoid answering questions about the legality of the SIU.

Where it derives its powers to conduct shadow criminal investigations and whether it is lawfully gathering intelligence, because clearly the investigators were always part of the Safety Plan and the LEAP Plan includes placing them under the command and control of the head of the SSIU, but the head of the SSIU was, or still is, Mr Reynold Talmakkies, and Talmakkies is a former cop who has been criminally charged in a fraud case stemming from years ago in another province, and I asked the Minister whether he had exercised any oversight over the SIU, and in particular whether he was concerned about or enquired about the charges against Talmakkies, given that there are officers placed under his command that form part of the LEAP Plan, and the answers I got was that the Minister does not exercise oversight over the SSIU because he has no mandate to.

So how can the Minister have no mandate to exercise oversight or maybe even make enquiries about the legality of the Unit, the criminal charges of its head or chief, when it is part of the Safety Plan?

So, hon Speaker, I am asking the Minister to please tell us under what authority the SSIU exercises the powers to conduct criminal investigations ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Your time is up ...[Interjections.]

Mr B N HERRON: ... and gather intelligence, thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: *Skarrelkatte*, that is what we call it on the, we call that on the Cape Flats, *skarrelkatte*.

I do not know in what language I must tell the hon member Herron that our Safety Plan and our TPA that deals with the Law Enforcement Advance Plan or Programme deals specifically with law enforcement officers. What I have to do with the SSIU and SIU and what other investigators, that have got nothing to do with this, and I want to again say it has got absolutely nothing to do with us. What we deal with are a thousand law enforcement officers on the ground.

Now if the City has their own little security plan and their own little [Inaudible] that is their business. We have got nothing to do with it, and I do not know how many times ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... I must say this to him.

The SPEAKER: There is a point ...[Intervenes]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: I am saying it a hundred times to him and he wants to go and *vis*, he want to *skarrel* and *skarrel* and *skarrel*

like a *skarrelkat* ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Hon Minister, please take your seat, there is a point of order. What is your point of order, hon ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I just find, and I am not sure whether this view is shared by other members, but when the MEC speaks and gets excited, he starts shouting and then you just actually cannot hear anymore.

So I would just appeal to ask the member to relax, speak a bit slower so that we can all understand.

The SPEAKER: That is an opinion and a point of expression, but what I would like to request is for the hon members to listen carefully so if there is a problem with the sound quality then we can attend to that.

Hon Minister, it was a point by hon member Dugmore, the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know how the hon Minister wishes to attend to that, but it is not a point of order, it is simply an advice and a suggestion.

So I am not going to rule on that matter. It is just an opinion by the hon member. May I request that you proceed? You have ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Thank you, Speaker...

The SPEAKER: You only used a minute of your time, so you still have three minutes of your time, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: So I will not continue to waste my time to respond to the hon member Herron. I think he must wait when the Department of Community Safety comes to the Standing Committee, and he must attend Standing Committee meetings, and he will learn far more like the hon member Kama, who talks a lot of stuff that is not in line, but he at least attends, and when he speaks he can speak with a bit of more information.

The hon member Xego, I just want to say we have seen now during the taxi violence and we have seen the way hon member Daylin Mitchell, the Premier, myself and the whole Cabinet responded to the taxi violence, and I must say also with the real cooperation from Minister Fikile Mbalula, that we really had cooperation and we work together, and it is that spirit that we want to continue to solve the kind of crime problems in this province. We cannot continue because the criminals are the ones who are laughing and enjoying it. Even in these taxi syndicates where people are, these syndicates and you have got little, it is almost like criminal gangs operating, that we need to get the legitimate bodies to really take this space again, and so to solve the problems of violence and crime, and I want to say to him it is not us calling for the SANDF, they must get us enough police officers like all other provinces. They must give us enough POP officers. It is not us calling on the SANDF. Give us enough officers so that we do not need to get another thousand from

the Department [Inaudible.] budget in this province to assist the South African Police Services, and that is all we have been asking for all the time. Give us enough human resources, give us enough other type of resources so that we can execute and we can work and do our oversight. Then we can sit back and just be an oversight body, where unfortunately in this province we are not. We work and we want to see and make sure that on the ground people are safe, and that is, I think, the main kind of thing.

Part of the other questions of some of the *skarrelkatte* was the question of whether we are, were ready, for instance, for the looting, and I think hon member Allen, I think about his point, when he saw the LEAP officers in action. When people have seen our Neighbourhood Watches working with the LEAP officers all in action, and I know the ANC has got a big problem with our Neighbourhood Watches; I do not know why, but I think the point we are making is those are women and men, and mainly women, who actually came out during the most, the biggest threats to our malls, to come and protect all those places, to protect their own communities and protect those businesses and jobs in this province, so we do not have a situation that happened somewhere else in KwaZulu Natal or in the place called Gauteng.

Also the point that the hon member made about firearm training, they cannot, the LEAP officer cannot be out in the field if they have not had the firearm training, and we have checked that all the time.

So I really want to implore the members to play a constructive role and to

stop being destructive, because crime is a real thing in this province, and we want to solve the problem of crime.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: So on that – thank you very much, hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... for ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: ... your time is up.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: ... indulging me, thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you. Hon members, we now come to the end of Interpellations and we move to Questions for Oral Reply. I do see a hand. I am trying to understand what is that hand for. Hon member Kama, is that a point of order, sir?

Mr M KAMA: Yes, hon Speaker, I raised my hand earlier. I wanted to check with you whether it is parliamentary when we are called to be destructive, when we ask questions that are perhaps not liked by the MEC?

The SPEAKER: Alright, I will follow on that. I really missed that. I do not have the content of the actual point of order, but I will come back to that. Thank you, hon member Kama.

Hon members, as I indicated we have now concluded the Interpellations. We are now moving to Questions for Oral Reply, and the first question is by – first let me just indicate that the hon member that asks the question will be given the first opportunity for a follow-up, and if there is no follow-up then we will move to the other hon members who have expressed interest to speak, and that can only be done by a show of hand online, and those hon members who are in the Chamber will do so by lifting their own hands.

May I now proceed – the hon Minister of Transport and Public Works, hon Mitchell. The question was asked by hon member Mackenzie.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

Load shedding: Provincial Government buildings

1. Mr R D Mackenzie asked the Minister of Transport and Public Works:

Whether his Department has undertaken any measures to protect users from load shedding at Provincial Government buildings; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, in the interest of the internet connectivity and stability, I am going to leave my camera off, if that is in order?

The SPEAKER: That is correctly fine, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Thank you very much to the hon member for the question.

The Department of Transport and Public Works in its capacity as custodian and manager of all Provincial Government buildings, has installed back-up generators in all provincially-owned office buildings, and its way has addressed all previous loadshedding demands since 2015/2016.

The capacity of the generators is based on the electrical demands of each building and the Department performs routine maintenance, comprising several services per year on all back-up generators. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker. It sounds like a very expensive exercise, back-up generators, due to no fault of this Government.

Can the hon Minister please tell us, has this been a great expense to this Government and how has it impacted on service delivery?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mackenzie. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you to the hon member Mackenzie for the follow-up question.

Yes, it has. All these costs have increased, but what I need to state is that it has been spread over an extended period since the start of the extensive loadshedding in 2015. For example, in 2018 the Department supplied or installed a generator at a building in George, which is a shared office building, that was occupied by provincial departments, including the Department of Transport and Public Works, and that installation, for example, hon Speaker, for the generator, was estimated, or was cost, just a little bit less, or just over R7,7 million.

But ja, as we continue with the construction of new buildings for use by the Western Cape Government, the provision of generators is now part of the fitting-out cost and not procured as an add-on. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I see the hon member Mackenzie first, and then I will give the hon member Mvimbi an opportunity.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, hon Minister. Hon Minister, we have seen Medupi is now broken again after being opened up last week. Clearly this electricity is going to be ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: [Inaudible.] happy?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: We are not happy, hon member Dugmore. We will be happy when your government that caused the problem is gone. We hope that your government that caused this problem is gone.

Hon Speaker ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order! Order, hon member Dugmore.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: The hon member Dugmore [Inaudible.] comments so he must expect a response.

The SPEAKER: Please proceed, hon member Mackenzie.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you. Hon Minister, this is obviously not sustainable, and what long-term solutions would the Minister and the Government propose, because spending money on generators due to a fault by another sphere of government, is obviously not your fault.

So what long-term solutions would you propose? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mackenzie. Hon members, I now recognise the hon Minister. I have got – before you proceed, hon Minister. I have got the hands of hon member Mvimbi and the hon member Sayed. So after which then there will be no further speakers, except the Minister to respond.

I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, thanks to you hon member Mackenzie for the question.

Well, the reality is that in line with the current approach as supported by the Western Cape Government and the Department of Transport and Public Works, it has always acted to increase the energy efficiency of its buildings, and to make greater use of solar energy and to encourage the development of green energy solutions.

All these details with regards to the reduction of the use of energy are contained in the 9th Edition of the Property Efficiency Report that is issued by the Department of Transport and Public Works, and the Western Cape Government has always strongly supported the expansion of the provision of private energy providers, and I think in the interpellation Minister Maynier highlighted that as part of the reduction to an unreliable grid. Thank you, hon

Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon member, I now recognise hon member Mvimbi.

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

The SPEAKER: Yes, we can hear you clearly, hon member Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Just a follow-up to the Minister on the question asked by hon member Mackenzie, that in 2017 Premier Helen Zille said that Government will save up to R500,000 in electricity cost from solar PV panels on the roofs of its buildings.

I just want to check whether the Minister is in a position to disclose how much the Government has saved from electricity on each year between 2018 to date?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mvimbi. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you firstly, thank you to hon member Mvimbi for the question.

Unfortunately I do not have that information available, but I will supply it to

the hon member.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon member Sayed.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Oh no, hon Speaker, my apologies. My hand was up on a point of order, but it is fine.

The SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you, hon member Sayed. Now let us look at the hon members if there are any more speakers. It does not appear so.

Well, in that – I see the hon member Mackenzie in the Chamber. Hon member Mackenzie?

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you. I just want to find out from the hon Minister, given the intention of the previous Premier in 2017, as hon member Mvimbi said, was to save money, R500,000 a year on solar PV. We know that Medupi is now 12 years overdue, it is R18 billion overdue. The latest accident, I think, is R4 billion.

What would the Minister say would that expense be? Would that be a saving or a greater expense caused by the National Government?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mackenzie. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, to hon member Mackenzie. As indicated to hon member Mvimbi I do not have that cost, but logic tells me it would be a greater expense. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes this particular question. I now move to the next question, again by the hon member Mackenzie to the hon Minister of Transport and Public Works.

I now recognise the hon Minister Mitchell.

“Spiking” and criminal activities on the roads

2. Mr R D Mackenzie asked the Minister of Transport and Public Works:

a) How many cases of “spiking” have been reported in the province since 1 January 2021, (b) how are provincial traffic officers (i) deployed and (ii) held accountable for the work undertaken in protecting road users and commuters and (c) what measures are officials employing to prevent and mitigate cases of “spiking”, and similar criminal activities, on our roads?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you hon member Mackenzie for the question.

Hon Speaker, part (a) of the question. It is assumed that the term “spiking” refers to the criminal practice of placing spikes on the road to enable attacks on motorists.

The practice is a criminal one and would be reported to the South Africa Police Services, and the Provincial Traffic does not hold a central database of spiking incidents across our province.

With regards to the (b) part of the question, that each Provincial Traffic Centre develops quarterly operational plans for their respective areas. Based on historical trends or occurrences for that particular area, these plans are approved by senior management and duty rosters are drawn up for each officer.

While we endeavour not to deviate from operational plans, deviation from plans do occur to respond to operational emergencies or demands, such as crashes or protest action, or like we recently saw with the taxi violence.

Each traffic officer has been allocated a handheld device which is linked to an electronic back-office system called nForce, and the deployment of each officer happens by informing them of their deployment through this particular device, and this allows the officers to report directly to the

locations to where they are deployed, where previously they had to report to a particular office.

The nForce system supported by the handheld device is used to deploy the traffic officers, and also used as a reporting tool by the traffic officers. Every action by a traffic officer is captured on the handheld device, and in certain instances actions are captured automatically. All this data and information are automatically fed back into the nForce system, and the overall performance of an officer is monitored and evaluated by their supervisor or manager on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

This information is also utilised to manage an officer's performance quarterly through performance management systems, and the supervisor responsible is tasked with identifying non-performance and putting in place remedial measures designed to rectify non-performance, if necessary.

Part (c) of the question. I have already explained that each Provincial Traffic Centre develops quarterly operational plans for their respective areas based on the historical trends of occurrences, and if "spiking" or attacks on motorists are identified within an area or along a particular stretch of road, it will be addressed in a quarterly operational plan, and plans to mitigate attacks on motorists usually include an increased presence, or increased patrols, and the plans to mitigate attacks on motorists will often be developed jointly with other law enforcement stakeholders. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

member Mackenzie in the Chamber.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you for that comprehensive response, hon Minister.

Minister, obviously “spiking” in other provinces has been extremely terrible and one hopes that it does not become a problem here. In terms of monitoring our highways in the Western Cape: the N7, the R300, N1 and N2, what monitoring tools – and I understand you cannot share operational details, one obviously respects that – but what monitoring tools does the Department of Transport and Traffic have in place? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mackenzie. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker, and my apologies for jumping straight into it. Thank you, hon Mackenzie, for the follow-up question.

The SPEAKER: Okay.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Hon Speaker, through you. Monitoring on our roads happen in many ways, and the Province

and some municipalities have a contact number where the public can call in and inform authorities of incidents on the roads. We also have the Provincial Control Centre that members of the public can contact.

The Province also has both average speed over distance cameras and mobile cameras, which monitor speed, and these cameras are used to detect potential fatigue of long distance public transport operators and criminal activities, and the Department also, in partnership with SANRAL, has a network of cameras which we call the “Freeway Management System”, and this particular system is used to monitor congestion and incidents on a road.

We also have signage on our roads which also keep road users informed, but this is also linked to the Transport Management Centre of the City of Cape Town, and the resources are then deployed to incidents when needed, and I was fortunate to see this in action with the recent taxi violence, and when certain taxi ranks and routes were closed, and one could actually directly see the activity at the various taxi ranks.

In addition, as I explained in my earlier question, that each Traffic Centre also develops quarterly operational plans, which includes duties to monitor high risk roads as identified. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Just for the process, hon members, I have the member who asked the question. If hon member Mackenzie wishes to proceed, and then I have got the hon member Mvimbi, whose hand is up. If

hon member Mackenzie is not speaking, I will have hon member Mvimbi right away, but I see the hon member Mackenzie is up. You may proceed, hon member Mackenzie, in the Chamber.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Minister, obviously we have seen in other provinces sadly the incidents of trucks being hijacked, etcetera, and that has not been very incidental in the Western Cape, and we really appreciate that, and I wanted to find out from you, what training does our officers do in the Western Cape that patrol our roads, to ensure that they are very effective and can you share some of those details with us, please?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mackenzie. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Mackenzie for the follow-up question.

Hon Speaker, in order to become a traffic officer there is a prescribed qualification that traffic officers have to obtain. However, the training with the current curriculum is limited and does not fully equip traffic officers to effectively and safely deal with crime on our highway.

As I previously indicated to this House, traffic officers are normally the first respondents to incidents, and as part of the transition to a highway patrol and interception unit, we are currently exploring more advanced forms of training that will equip officers to better deal with crime on our roads. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Minister, given that a lot of these “spiking” incidents happen either late in the evening or early hours of the morning when there are no traffic officers on the road, will the Department consider deploying additional traffic officers to work nightshifts?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mvimbi. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member Mvimbi for the question.

Hon member Mvimbi, the provincial traffic officers work on a 24/7 rotational basis in the province, and I think, if I am not mistaken, the only province that does so. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. In the absence of more hands I am going to take hon member Mackenzie in the Chamber.

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Thank you, hon Speaker. Just a final question on the training.

Can the hon Minister share with us where does the training take place? Is it done in-house or outside of the Government facilities? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Mackenzie. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Thank you, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, in the Western Cape we have one of the 10 Traffic Training Colleges in South Africa. The one in the Western Cape is under the management and control of the Department of Transport and Public Works, and it is located at Gene Louw Traffic College in Brackenfell, and most of our departmental traffic officers are trained there. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that is the end of Question number 2.

We now move to Question number 3 by hon member Baartman to the hon Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities. I now recognise the hon Minister.

Auto Green Paper

3. Ms D M Baartman asked the Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities:

- (1) Whether he and/or his Department have made a submission on the Auto Green Paper, a green paper on the advancement of new energy vehicles, as released by the national Department of Trade, Industry and Competition in May 2021; if so, what did the submission contain;
- (2) whether any recommendations were proposed by the Western Cape Government in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you to the hon member for the question.

Comments, of course, were drafted by the Department of Economic Development in collaboration with Green Cape, which I approved and submitted on behalf of the Western Cape Government on 4 June 2021.

I have to say that policy and planning for industrial development and the uptake of electronic vehicles have certainly been behind the curve, but

despite the delay I have to say that the Green Paper, we think, moves in the right direction, and is certainly welcome.

The overall thrust, we think, of the Green Paper, is positive and I think to the Green Paper's credit, it is brutally honest when it says that new energy vehicles are an inevitability rather than a possibility, and the Green Paper realises that we need to prepare for electric vehicles, and the preparation of course is important considering the global shift towards low emissions, cleaner energy and greater energy resilience, all of which the Western Cape is committed to.

Failing to adapt, and I think the Green Paper is very clear about this, could also have an inverse, and adverse, I beg your pardon, impact on our exports. South Africa's main automotive export markets are transitioning from internal combustion engines towards electric vehicles and, for example, it is forecast that in the EU, which currently absorbs nearly 60% of South Africa's vehicle exports, 40% of new vehicle sales will be electric vehicles by 2030, increasing over time to 80% by 2040, and of course this is driven by the need to achieve emission and transition targets in these markets, and as a consequence of course South Africa's automotive manufacturing industry, if it cannot shift to manufacturing electrical vehicles and components for electrical vehicles, we of course risk losing one of our key export markets, and that is why I think the National Government and the industry regard the new policy on electric vehicles as being so urgent.

So the Green Paper is certainly positive and we have made some recommendations in our submissions. Some headlines at a very high level. I mean the Green Paper, we think, is a little bit light on specific details in relation to targets and the quantification of those targets, and so we made a proposal that the Green Paper set clear targets and present ultimately a plan of action for achieving those targets.

Also of course the Green Paper points out that the transition to electrical vehicles should be accompanied by a transition in the country's energy mix to ensure that the benefits of increasing the uptake in electrical vehicles are not eroded by cars being charged off a coal-fired electricity grid, and so we also made some proposals about the Green Paper exploring the upgrade of the electricity grid, looking at renewable energy solutions and smart charging.

On infrastructure, of course the Green Paper makes reference to strengthening the charging infrastructure network and the role of the private sector, but it is really unclear on the role that the private sector will play, and we thought that that matter needed to be clarified.

Also on the question of incentives. We felt that there needed to be a much more detailed investigation and more detail ultimately presented on the kinds of incentives that might stimulate the electrical vehicle market, but we do of course strongly support the proposal in the Green Paper for lower or zero import duties and tariffs for electric vehicles and electric vehicle components, which will of course reduce the cost of importing electrical vehicles and electrical components in South Africa, which of course is vital

for driving up demand for electrical vehicles and new energy vehicles in South Africa. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, I now recognise the hon member Baartman for the first opportunity.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I wanted to find out if the Minister could indicate to us what infrastructure and/or resources would the Department require in order to promote the advancement of an energy vehicle industry in the Western Cape Province? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Baartman. I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. we have been working hard for quite some time to support the advancement of new energy vehicles, which is precisely why we were delighted that the Green Paper was published and that there finally is serious consideration being given to this sector.

We of course, to support the advancement, have worked in collaboration with Green Cape to produce, what I think, is a world-class Electrical Vehicle Market Intelligence Report, which I certainly recommend to members. That report provides industry with market trends, with market opportunities, and includes opportunities of course for local manufacturing and electrical

vehicles and electrical buses. It certainly looks at the manufacturing of components like lithium ion batteries, and it looks at opportunities in the construction, retail and mining.

Of course our Department and the entities, particularly Wesgro and Atlantis SEZ, stand ready to support businesses who are interested in investing in the sector, and would of course, although we are not directly involved in the rollout and exploring the rollout of more green charging stations, the City of Cape Town, as the hon member is probably aware, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, has launched the first solar powered EV charging station, free of charge for members of the public, which, I believe, is located in the Bellville Civic Centre.

But, hon member, I think that ultimately what we require is certainty when it comes to national policy, and we have contributed, as you know, through our Green Paper and our numerous Market Intelligence Reports to that debate, because above all to advance the market for new energy vehicles and to advance the sector, will require policy certainty when it comes to new energy vehicles in South Africa. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon member Baartman, if you have a second opportunity you are more than welcome to do so, but let me, for the purposes of recording, I have got the hon member Nkondlo, I have got hon member Van der Westhuizen and then hon member Nkondlo.

Hon member Baartman, do you have an interest to speak again?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Hon Speaker, it was my impression that usually there are four follow-ups, so then my hand would be fourth, but if you want me to go now, I am also willing to do so.

The SPEAKER: Do you want to take the last opportunity?

Ms D M BAARTMAN: I will wait for number four, thank you.

The SPEAKER: That is fine. You have that right, it is okay. I see hon member Van der Westhuizen's hand is no longer up. Have you withdrawn your hand, hon member Van der Westhuizen?

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: No, Chair.

The SPEAKER: Alright, you may proceed ...[Interjections.]

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: I just lowered it when you recognised me.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise you, followed by the hon member Nkondlo thereafter.

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, through you to the Minister.

Minister, you just said that you and your Department found the Green Paper a little bit thin on certain aspects, and my question is whether the National Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition has accepted any of the recommendations proposed by the Western Cape Government, and if so, what are the details?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Van der Westhuizen. Hon Minister?

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

We have not received a response to our comments from the National Minister, so it is not possible for me at this stage to say whether our comments and our proposals have been accepted or adopted or not, but I think the important point here is to bear in mind that the Green Paper is really a first step in developing what the National Government calls a master plan for the sector. In fact, they say that this is just simply a first input into a discussion paper.

So this is really, I think, the beginning, not the end, of the process, and certainly, as the process unfolds, as the discussion paper is made public, we will certainly be able to gauge whether our recommendations have been adopted or rejected, and we certainly look forward to further engagements with National Government on a policy in relation to new energy vehicles in South Africa.

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

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, hon Speaker. I just wanted to check with the Minister, considering that the Market Intelligence Report he refers to by Green Cape, actually indicates that the Western Cape is outside of the three key automotive manufacturing hubs in the country.

Now one would be interested that in the submission of the Province, where does the Province see the role in the value chain of the province in as far as that industry is concerned, in particular as it relates to opportunities for small and medium enterprises. Thanks.

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

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

The hon member of course is absolutely correct, we do fall outside the main hubs for auto-manufacturing, which of course are located principally in the Eastern Cape, in KwaZulu Natal and in Gauteng, and that certainly is something that I would like to rectify, but I think that there are still significant opportunities for us to explore becoming imbedded in the value chain manufacturing components for electrical vehicles.

The Market Intelligence Report which she refers to suggests that there is a significant opportunity, for example, for manufacturing lithium ion batteries, not least because manganese, which is a key output, I think about 80% of the total manganese output in the world is located in our country.

So we certainly see an opportunity for our province to become involved in certainly the manufacturing of components for electrical vehicles, and we are having conversations with manufacturers in the hubs, which she refers to, about exactly that and we hope that over time this could translate into significant opportunities for small businesses in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I now recognise hon member Baartman.

Ms D M BAARTMAN: Thank you, hon Speaker. Minister, should the Western Cape start increasing in terms of the manufacturing of the components of electric vehicles, as you have mentioned, based on this research from Green Cape, we will require extra skills within the Western Cape, as I do not think that currently everyone would have the necessary skills in that particular sector.

So what will the Department thus then be doing to upskill people in the Western Cape in preparation for such a future energy vehicle industry or components thereof within the Western Cape? Thank you.

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

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker. The hon member is of course absolutely correct. To be competitive in the manufacturing of these new energy vehicles is going to require as significant, I think, reorientation of the sector and indeed upskilling.

In fact, this is an issue which we raised in our comments on the Green Paper, where we thought that we needed much more detail on what eventually, what would be required in order to make the sector competitive ultimately, and how would that translate into a transition programme for the industry.

Despite that of course it is early days and we are already, I think, investing in skills. It is early days of course, but already a number of officials from various departments are participating in an electrical vehicle programme, which is sponsored by the National Centre for E-Mobility, and that is already, even although it is early days, we are already starting to build capacity and upskill at least in Government, to prepare for electrical vehicles, and the manufacture of components, and all the implications in relation to rolling out infrastructure in the Western Cape.

I would emphasise of course that it is early days. If we look at the statistics, last year, which could be a bit of an outlier, only 92 electric vehicles were

sold in South Africa, but there is reason to be optimistic. I am not sure if the hon member is aware, but an electrical vehicle perception survey was conducted last year; 3,000 people participated in the survey. They were all car buyers, and 68% of the participants in the survey suggested that they would like to own an electrical vehicle in South Africa. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes this particular question. I am trying to see if there is a hand there now. There cannot be.

Alright, now the next question is Question number 4 by hon member Xego to the hon Minister Simmers, the Minister of Human Settlements. I now recognise the hon Minister.

Just before you come in, hon Minister, I see the hand of hon member Marais. Hon member Marais, is that a point of order, sit?

Mr P J MARAIS: Hon Speaker, I did have my hand up, but because you did not see it, I decided to lower my hand because you have your hands full as it is. I lowered my hand again, so I will not be asking a question. We have already moved beyond the electric cars issue.

The SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you, hon member Marais, I apologise. I completely omitted that. I apologise for that. It will not be repeated.

Hon members, we are now on Question number 4. I recognise the hon Minister of Human Settlements, hon Minister Simmers.

Qolweni informal settlements: housing projects

4. Mr M Xego asked the Minister of Human Settlements:

Whether his Department has approved any housing project for the Qolweni informal settlement in the Plettenberg Bay area; if so, what are the relevant details?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Apologies for not putting on my camera, I am just trying to save on bandwidth so I can stay connected for the remainder of the meeting.

Firstly, thank you to the hon member for the question and I will answer the member as follows, hon Speaker. Over the years the Department has shown its commitment to improve the lives of the people of Qolweni.

Between 2007 to 2015 the Department constructed 1,219 service sites, and 785 top structures, at a cost of R138,323,154. In this financial year the Department has approved the funding of R33,5 million, which excludes professional fees, for the construction of 169 top structures in Qolweni. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I will give the first opportunity to

hon member Xego, if he so wishes to follow up, and then I have got hon member Maseko. Then I have in the House, in the Chamber, hon member Makenzie. I just want to see the other hands here.

I see there are two hands, but I cannot see the other hand, IT.

Mr P MARRAN: Hon member Marran.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Marran. Let us proceed with hon member Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, †Somlomo. [Speaker.]

To the Minister, the housing project of Qolweni was first approved some time in October 2019. Now what we want to understand, what took the Provincial Department of Human Settlements to step in now and make sure that there is progress in that housing project, as the majority of the people in that area still stay in shacks? As we have seen that recently there has been a number of fire reports where shacks have been burnt down.

Can the Department respond to that? Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Xego. I now recognise the hon Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much, hon

Speaker, and that you, hon member Xego, for the follow-up question.

Firstly, the hon member needs to understand, hon Speaker, that the local sphere of government, in this case Bitou Municipality, has a specific role to play, and dependent on the type of approach that we do with various projects, it is either that the municipality runs with the process, or alternatively they request the Provincial Department to play a specific role now.

As we are aware various projects has a specific lifecycle for planning until the date of implementation, because a fair amount of responsibility to prepare a specific project to be implementation ready, resorts with the local sphere of government.

So that is why this project was only approved in 2019, but obviously a lot of work preceded that. Why did we only enter the fray this year? Firstly, we need to understand that since last year, when the project started falling behind its originally reported schedule, I did have engagements with Bitou on various occasions when I visited the Garden Route District as part of my district outreach.

We offered them on numerous times a chance to hand over the project back to Province, because we do understand that the community of Qolweni, which is historically the oldest informal settlement in Bitou as well, has waited many, many years for various opportunities, but more so for these housing opportunities, and as such this is quite a burning point within that community.

To such an extent, hon Speaker, they actually engaged the community leaders later on in this regard when there was the first closing of the N2 in 2020, which ultimately, after engaging them, we could then ultimately see the N2 opening again due to the Provincial Government's intervention. Bitou did not take up our offer to hand the project over to the Provincial Department.

Fast-forward to 2021. Once again, the N2 had to close after Bitou once again could not stick to their own timelines. There are various other anomalies and reasons for that closure, but at that specific meeting, hon Speaker, they ultimately then made the decision to hand the project over to the Provincial Department, because (1) they could not stick to their timeline; (2) the process, which ultimately is their process, of appointing a contractor, ultimately led them into a bit of head-butting with the then contractor, and the community were getting restless because they kept on communicating timelines which was not realistic, and as such we have now played our part, they have given it back to Province, admitting that they could not continue due to various reasons, and now we are in the process of ensuring that we can catch up lost time in due course, but ultimately that we can afford the community of Qolweni the rightful housing opportunities which they have been long waiting for. Thank you.

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

Ms L M MASEKO: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Minister, community dynamics in human settlements plays a huge role in delaying implementation of the projects, and the above-mentioned Qolweni is not immune to those community dynamics, hence the delay, but I just want to hear from you just specifically, what were the reasons exactly for this project to be handed over to the Province, and since the handover, what is the status of the progress to the project itself in Qolweni? Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Maseko. I now recognise the hon Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Now indeed community dynamics does play a huge role, more so when a municipality ultimately initiated the procurement process of a specific service provider. In this instance it was a specific service provider to deliver and construct the top structures, but preceding to that, because Qolweni [Inaudible.] is, like I said, the oldest informal settlement in Bitou, we need to understand that there is already existing structures, so the project package was packaged in such a way that they needed to ensure that there is movement of individuals to a TRA, and I must say the TRA, which was something separate from this, was also funded by the Provincial Department, to ensure that the decanting or the clearing of a site can happen

systematically.

So that happened. Secondly, hon Speaker, to the hon member, then ultimately the contractor had to be on site to start ensuring that they then ultimately start the commencement of the timeline, as was agreed upon between the municipality and the service provider, because remember, Bitou Municipality initiated the supply chain process which ultimately appointed the specific service provider for the top structures.

Fast-forward to what has been happening this year, hon Speaker, because this was vastly covered by the media and various role-players [Inaudible.] comment. The project, hon member Maseko, was handed over to our Department formally on 18 June 2021.

Now you will recall, and the House will recall, hon Speaker, that this handover occurred after the community saw that the municipality would not, once again, be in a position to commence with this project due to a dispute between Bitou Municipality and the contractors, as appointed – I need to emphasise – appointed by Bitou Municipality.

As a department, hon Speaker, we have demonstrated our commitment to this project by ensuring that within a week after Bitou Municipality handed over the project back to Province, that we ultimately appointed a contractor and they were in place.

In addition to this, to further strengthen our commitment to that

community, hon Speaker, the contractor engaged the community leadership, while also doing a site visit and walkabout with the community leadership and the local councillor, as part of the pre-planning for the commencement for them to go onto site.

Regrettably, hon Speaker, as is the case sadly with so many other instances in other areas in this province, due to the dispute between the contractor and Bitou Municipality, this matter ended up in court. The contractor also threatened to interdict us as a Provincial Department, should we commence with this project, or should the contractor go onto site.

This court matter is, I am happy to say, in the process of being finalised and to such an extent that while we were waiting, hon Speaker, we ensured that we continued with community engagements so that we can prevent the N2 from closing, but ultimately with the trust of the community leadership, we will soon see that this project will commence and will go back onto site, and we will try, as a department, to get back on track, but I need to emphasise the community is playing a key role and the leadership have now realised that the Provincial Government is there to assist them. That Human Settlements will ensure, with their support, that we get this project back on track. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr P MARRAN: Thank you very much, hon Speaker, for the opportunity and good afternoon to everyone.

Hon Speaker, my question to the MEC is whether any of the Qolweni informal settlement residents got benefit from the recently launched Better Living Challenge to build people decent shacks? If so, what are the relevant details and when will the project be implemented? Thanks.

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

I would advise the hon member to post his question for either oral response formally or a written response, and I will advise the hon member, through you, hon Speaker, to actually read what the Better Living Challenge is about before posing questions in the House. Thank you.

Mr P MARRAN: So the hon MEC is not able to answer on the ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order ...[Interjections.]

Mr P MARRAN: ... on the question?

The SPEAKER: Order, hon member Marran. You do not ask your question and answer it for yourself. I think when the hon Minister responds we accept Ministers to answer, whether we like the responses or we do not. That is unfortunately the spirit of democracy.

So I just want to raise that with you. May I please request the hon member Xego to raise his question.

Mr M XEGO: Yes, thank you, hon Speaker. With the Minister having mentioned the issue of the court battle with the initial contractor that was identified for this project, will there be no further delays in the project itself now while the court battle is still continuing? To ensure that we curb any potential protest and unrest that have got a direct heavy impact on the economy of Bitou, will this project be able to move on swiftly without delays?

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: Thank you very much, hon Speaker.

Hon Speaker, one of the main reasons why my Department has been actively engaging the recognised community leadership of Qolweni, is specifically for

the reason to give them an update of (a) why the contractor, who they ultimately had a walkabout with on site, could not start immediately. We gave them the reasons, we told them also how it will affect this project, which they ultimately accepted because the recognised leadership of Qolweni are sick and tired of politics being played with this specific housing project, hon Speaker.

As soon as this matter is resolved in court and I am happy to report that I believe it will be resolved quite soon, we will see the contractor, who ultimately, we have now appointed, put in place, as a provincial department, go onto site. We have engaged in leadership, we have assessed the economic opportunities which will benefit the local community because they have gone through a process while we were on site with the contractor, to ultimately ensure, hon Speaker, that there are no further delays and that we catch up on lost time.

A realistic timeline has been formulated; it has been structured by the contractor who we have put in place, as a provincial department, that we will keep them accountable to that specific timeline and we will consistently communicate with the specific community leadership and those qualifying beneficiaries who will now finally be gaining access to this opportunity, hon Speaker.

So, in essence, the recognised leadership know what is happening, it is only those that will now probably start popping up, once we see movement on site,

that will possibly be the reason for anything happening. But ultimately as members of this House, we encourage that we work through recognised leadership in the interests of all our people. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes this particular question. We have limited time, but we will proceed to the next question, number 5, by hon Makamba-Botya to the hon Minister of Health. I now recognise the hon Minister.

Covid-19 public hospital admissions

5. Ms N Makamba-Botya asked the Minister of Health:

How many people were admitted to public hospitals as the result of COVID-19 infections during the first wave of infections in 2020 compared to those infected since the beginning of the third wave in 2021 to date?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you, Speaker; I will be short. Thank you for the question, member Makamba-Botya. If you compare the first wave and the third wave, it becomes difficult, taking note that in the third wave there was a variant but in the first wave there was no variant identified. In terms of the numbers of hospitalisation, you also need to understand that we are not including PUIs which is the Persons Under Investigation and those that are in specialised hospitals other than where they are supposed to be in the main hospitals.

So, in terms of the numbers, the peak for admissions in the first wave was on 30 June. There were 1 292 patients in public facilities and then when it comes to adding the private hospitals – we are using a 7-day moving average – there were 1 829. Just to be able to compare apples with apples I am also including information on the second wave, although you asked for the first and the third wave. For the second wave, the peak was on 3 January. There were 2 179 patients hospitalised and 3 000 in public hospitals, then using the seven-day moving average, when you add public and the private there were about 3 523.

Currently, as of 11 August, there were roughly about 2 069 patients hospitalised in public facilities but when we add the private there are about 3 665 patients that have been hospitalised. At this stage we do not have confirmation whether we have reached the peak or not, but from 4 August we have seen plateauing. We also know we are coming from a long weekend; if there are any people who have been infected during this time because of the long weekend and cluster infections – people do not normally get hospitalised immediately but within a few days after being diagnosed, so it can take longer – but we do have a 34% chance that we may reach the peak. Previously we had a 27% chance so it might keep on changing. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon members, I now recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: †Enkosi, Somlomo. [Thank you, Speaker.] Thank you to the Minister for her response. Minister, I just want to find out; when you are making comparison with the trends in numbers of Covid-19 infections from the first wave in 2020 to date, can it be readily said that the Province has fulfilled its promise of instilling prevention behaviour with regard to Covid-19 infections, as was outlined by the Premier in the State of the Province Address earlier this year? I am not sure if †Somlomo, [Speaker], if I should ask a second question or should I wait for the Minister to respond?

The SPEAKER: Rather wait for the hon Minister to respond. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you. The pandemic will always differ and mirror itself differently. Even though they have vaccinated more than 60% of their population overseas they are still dealing with the pandemic. In the context of South Africa, during the second wave the epicentre was in the Eastern Cape and then followed by the Western Cape and then KZN. Then the third wave started in the Free State – Northern Cape has never left any wave, it has been on a wave throughout – Northwest, Gauteng and the Western Cape. Even within the Western Cape, out of the five district rural districts, also within the Metro, with their eight sub-districts, you will find that it mirrors differently. For example, Khayelitsha has still got the lowest infection rate, yet it had a greater number of people infected in the first wave.

So the question is about whether we have managed to contain it. Remember for us, as Health, it is about where we ended up, like say mopping the floor. People get infected at funerals, in their homes among family members, at work, in restaurants, so it is beyond the health system. So, the answer to the question of whether we will be able to manage is: we do not know. The most important question, as a health system is, are we ready in regard to hospital beds, in regard to oxygen, in regard to staffing, in regard to even collecting data.

Yes, we have got warning indicators where we are able to see how many of our hospital beds are being occupied by Covid patients. If maybe 40% of our hospitals are affected what is it that we need to trigger? Do we say let us add more beds, for example? [Interjection.] [Inaudible – audio connection lost.]

The SPEAKER: Who is that now?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I have finished Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon, Minister, my apologies. Somebody was talking while you were talking, and I apologise for that; you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: †Hayi ndiwugqibile ukwuphendula. [I have responded.]

The SPEAKER: Oh †ugqibile ukuphendula? [Oh, have you finished

responding?]

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: †Ndiwuphendule. Ewe, Somlomo. Enkosi. [I have responded. Yes, Speaker. Thank you.]

The SPEAKER: All right. †Ndiyabulela. [Thank you.] Now let us proceed with hon Makamba-Botya, she wanted to ask her last follow-up.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: †Enkosi, Somlomo. Ndizokucela ukuthetha isiXhosa. Ndifuna ukubuza phaya kuMinister: [Thank you, Speaker. I ask to speak in isiXhosa.] When the Minister spoke about prevention behaviour, she made mention †indaba yokuba i-scope sabo si-limited kwiinto zebhedi. [that their scope is limited because of the beds] and medication and so on but I want to also find out from the Minister, are there any outreach programmes that the Department of Education has embarked on to make sure that they instil the prevention behaviour that was mentioned.

Secondly, I just want to also find out whether the so-called Covid-19 Hotspot Strategy introduced by the Western Cape Provincial Government has been tried and tested since the first wave of infections and now with regards to the rapid increase of the infection during the third wave. Can this strategy be said to be effective Minister? Thank you.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Yes. †Ndiphendule, Somlomo? [Can I respond, Speaker?]

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Makamba-Botya. †Hayi bendicinga ukuba uzokuthetha isiXhosa. Ngoku ndiske ndabona ukuba isiXhosa sitshintshile. [I thought you were going to speak in isiXhosa. Now, I am wondering why isiXhosa sounds so different.] Hon Minister, you may proceed.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: †Enkosi, Somlomo. Ewe i-hotspot zisaqhubekela. [Thank you, Speaker. Yes, the hotspots are still carrying on] and each and every hotspot is being coordinated by a member of Cabinet. For example, the Central Karoo by Minister Schäfer, the Garden Route by Minister Simmers, Klipfontein and Mitchells Plain by Minister Fernandez, the Weskus by Minister Bredell. †Zeziphi ezinye? [Which are the other ones?] The Southern and Western by Minister Mitchell, the Overberg by Minister Maynier; and so forth.

Remember the only way, without vaccines, to maintain or stop the spread is through non pharmaceutical interventions, †ukunxiba isifonyo imask. [wearing a mask]. As we know now, the country now has a regulation where people can be fined for not wearing a mask, even in a workplace or any place that allows people without masks.

Washing your hands, sanitising, avoiding crowded places, avoiding gatherings, avoiding places where there is poor ventilation. Those things are supposed to be happening outside which includes us as members of the communities, the community leaders. We know there might be a higher possibility of infections at funerals and when we say, “stay in your bubble”,

it is about where people have been infected within families. So too each and every department, each and every sphere of government, every member of society, the whole of society approach, everyone.

Indeed, all the departments are still doing that. Every Wednesday we have an Extended Cabinet where the District Mayors and also the City Managers, Municipal Managers, also participate and present what is happening in their districts.

So, I am not sure Speaker whether the question about the Department of Education was a mistake, but as I am saying, all the departments are involved in regard to that space. The Hotspot Strategy is not only about the health response, but it is also about the humanitarian response; issues of dignity, the role played by faith-based organisations and all others. So, yes, indeed, it needs all of us.

Hon Speaker, moving towards a possible fourth wave we now have vaccines. Hence again, we appeal to everyone to ensure †gogo [granny] and †tamkhulu [grandpa] get vaccinated. That is why we encourage community leaders to be influencers. Even us as the Constituency, as Members of Parliament, we need to make [Inaudible.] in terms of social mobilisation so that we bring people to the vaccination sites. We find that vaccination sites are open even over weekends, even during this 9 March public holiday.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. I have got the next two

hon members, hon Windvogel and hon Philander. I'll now recognise hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Thank you, Speaker. I just want to check with the MEC whether a testing strategy that is open to everyone in society would have helped the Province to better respond to the spread by testing and tracing all contacts of positive cases and if so, why is the Government not opening testing to everyone? Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I now recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: Thank you for the question. In the context of a high level of community transmission, knowing your Covid status is discouraged. That is the research base and if you go to the WHO they will outline the terms of the different phases or stages of the pandemic. For example, when there are fewer people, that is when you want to know how many people are infected.

If you recall with the Disaster Management Regulations during the lockdown level 5 and level 4 at the beginning of last year, you will find that it was about wanting to ensure that any district that had 5% or more positive cases would be put on alert.

So, at the time it was about know your Covid status. But now when there is a high level of a community transmission where, by default, it means that

almost everyone is positive, doing mass testing will have a huge impact on the labs because we are not controlling the labs.

I mentioned the PUI's, which is the Persons Under Investigation, people who go to the hospital, like earlier we spoke about the queues outside our health facilities. It means that some of those people may end up needing to be tested. Just imagine now, especially after our experience in the first wave, where people would receive their results a week or even two weeks later after that person had completed quarantine and isolation.

So, one part of it is about the evidence base; when there is a covid transmission, you focus on the vulnerable. The vulnerable, according to the evidence are those people who are older, where we have seen 68% of the over fifties as part of the hospital admissions and also about 87% of deaths in people that are over 50.

Therefore, we said over 40's are prioritised because you are vulnerable, you are at high risk and then those people who might be younger, but who have comorbidities, to prioritise them to protect the health system. It is no use to say to the [Inaudible.] go and test because you have been exposed, so we will inform the person to go and isolate and quarantine because we do not want a situation when these PUIs are at the hospital. You cannot take the patient referred to the next level or you cannot even take the patient to the Covid ward because you do not know the person's status. So, you are in a situation of managing the patients in the corridors because you do not know their

status. So, the whole issue is to ask: is it about covid transmission or focusing on the vulnerable?

Then lastly, with respect to the vaccinations where you talk about equitable access; in as much as we might be vaccinating those over 35 or even now from 1 September those over 18, for us, what is the use when we have older persons, where we know that they are high risk, being left behind? Let us go to those farms, let us go to those homelands, let us go to all of those. There are people who ended up clogging the system, so it is the same thing with the testing.

Lastly, testing has got nothing to do with having high numbers. What we know is the numbers are not a reflection, but the issue is about what the positivity is. So even if you could test 100 or 200, what is the positivity rate? At this stage I think it is still about 40% but it keeps on decreasing especially now that we have seen the number of cases plateauing. Other issues are the deaths in health facilities and those outside with the data that we get from the MRC, also the issue of the oxygen utilisation. This all provides us with indicators to know where we are when it comes to the pandemic.

And then lastly, with high levels of community transmission, for instance, I think it was in Overberg, in a hostel, where the clusters were as a result of infections among the families. So, if now you have had a family birthday party for your 21-year-old and then there are three that are infected, it means you are lucky that you are all infected so you may as well all isolate together,

but if there is an *ouma* and an *oupa* or anyone who is a high risk, that is the person that will be focused on. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I am going to allow hon Philander to respond. Thank you.

Ms W F PHILANDER: Thank you, Deputy Speaker, through you to Minister Mbombo: Minister what measures were put in place by the Western Cape Health Department to avert a possible collapse in the public health system and were there ever such threats due to patient admissions? Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may respond, Minister.

The MINISTER OF HEALTH: I did not hear the first part of the question but the issue of the long queues and all of that, as I indicated is part of the prevention strategy so that you do not end up having people getting infected, not only infected among themselves but also not to expose the healthcare workers to infection.

So, it is our role to ensure that – just like in our facilities when we said, no, no visitors, we want to protect the patients and we also want to protect the staff. It has been part of this. Secondly, we always make announcements when we are to de-congregate or even to decongest and then we always highlight what kind of health services we are de-congregating. For example,

at the primary healthcare level when we said for immunisations, pregnant women and those who have appointments to see the doctor, those ones you cannot say no, go away.

With respect to operations, elective surgeries, it was actually the private facilities that started by saying they were unable to take more elective surgeries. We made sure and identified the discipline – medicine has got about seven or eight disciplines where each and every discipline, say for child cancer or for breast cancer at Groote Schuur, you will not be able to do this type of operation and all of those. So, generally we have to come up with a strategy without necessarily impacting on the patients themselves. Sadly, this is part of how the system works in regard to where you have to protect the system plus prioritise the pandemic.

Ideally for me, it should be that after Covid, if there will be an after Covid, there should not be a service that ends up being postponed or disturbed. The system should be able to say we are managing Covid or managing the pandemic. Whatever pandemic it is, we will have to continue with the others, because at the end you will still have some patients who will need these operations, interventions, but they are unable to. So, ideally, that is how things are. But unfortunately, this is the context where we are now. And if you go to GSH for example, you will see how it works. It is no longer if you have been placed in outpatients, and then it is quiet and then there is a high-level need for staff in the Covid or in the paediatric wards. That is why people say, my surgeon or my doctor does not have patients. They forget that

even if you are an orthopaedic surgeon or doctor, if needs be you have to go to the places where you are needed. Thank you, Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Minister. That actually brings us to the end of Questions. We now move over to Questions to the Premier without Notice in terms of Rule 204. I would like to just apologise for the slight misprint on the Order Paper, but we are moving directly to Questions to the Premier without Notice. Just to remind our members that we have two follow-ups and the member that posed the question, gets the first opportunity to follow-up. I recognise the hon Marais.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Premier, in 2007 the Western Cape Government, under the DA control then, embarked on a project at Saldanha called the Helici-Culture Indigenous Snail Farming Project. The project was intended to form part of a poverty eradication initiative spearheaded by the Department of Social Development and it was intended to create an estimated 200 direct jobs and generate R28,5 million in revenue for our province.

Three million Rand was spent on a feasibility study and Bertie Hechter, the then Project Manager claimed the snails would be bred in tunnels with batteries breeding 35 million snails per annum when in full production. They said there was a great demand overseas for snails, especially from France,

where there was a market for between 40 000 and 48 000 tons of these brown indigenous snails. Premier, what happened? What happened to this project? Can you tell me if you are aware of it and what happened to it, please? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier?

Mr P J MARAIS: The Premier's mic is off.

The PREMIER: Can you hear me yet?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: One minute.

The PREMIER: The mic is on.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The mic is on.

The PREMIER: Can you hear me now?

An HON MEMBER: Yes, we can hear you.

Mr P J MARAIS: I can hear you now, Premier.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Marais. Wow, I do not know how to answer that question. I mean 2007 – you know we were in government from 2010 so if I was in that Cabinet I might remember it, but not right down to the detail that you are talking about – 40 to 58 000 tons etcetera, etcetera.

So, I cannot really answer that question. You will have to put it into proper writing, and we will have to go back into the archives and have a look. What I do know, is that in visiting Saldanha Bay, I do not see that project running but of course I know that you were maybe the Premier at that stage, but I am unfortunately unable to give you the detail on that answer. If you put it in writing I will definitely do the research and be able to get back to you on that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: Premier, thank you. No, I was not Premier at that time. I do not make balls-ups like that. What I want to ask you Premier: if you do your research and I am sure you will as an astute businessman and you find that this is feasible or this could be salvaged, would you consider making it part of your Economic Recovery Plan in the Western Cape? Would you consider it? The money that was mentioned at the time was very attractive. R28,5 million income for the province is not something to scoff at. So will you, if you have done your homework on this issue, and I am not blaming you, that is why I say it was under DA Government control. I know you were not then Premier, but the DA was in control in 2007. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: First of all, thank you very much for the follow-up question. Hon member, I remember getting to this very House in 1999. It is quite a long time ago, and in 1999 and 2000 there was a coalition and then that coalition fell, and the DA was definitely not in control in 2007 in this province. That is incorrect.

But while you were asking that question, I quickly had a look to see what kind of snail farming projects there were and I cannot really pick anything up, but I can pick up a Google search that mentions exactly the same one that you are talking about, in 2007. Obviously, if there is the possibility, whether it is snail farming, fish farming, aqua culture, all of those things, you know obviously if anything is a viable proposition, we would look at it, how to support it.

Just to confirm that we were not in government because at the stage then the MEC was Kholeka Mqulwana, and she was a member of the ANC at that stage, and she was the MEC that launched that project. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister Fritz, I see your hand is up.

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY SAFETY: Just a point of order, hon Deputy Speaker. The DA only came into power in 2009 and so that was the corrupt

ANC Government that was in power.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Fritz. That is not a point of order but the Premier kindly answered that question even though it has no relevance to his present term ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): MEC Fritz was a member of the ANC at some point.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. We will now move over to hon Allen.

Mr P J MARAIS: I thought I had three questions?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Marais, you do have one extra one.

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you. I will just make use ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: [Inaudible.] ask that it is of relevance?

Mr P J MARAIS: Thank you. I just want to say to the Premier that that explains why it was a failure, I did not know who was in charge, but that explains everything.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that your comment, hon Marais?

Mr P J MARAIS: That is my comment, yes Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The Premier may respond.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Perhaps also just to the hon member that I do notice – sorry I have just done a quick search – but I do notice that there is a snail farm, it is actually at Rondevlei in the Wilderness area in the Garden Route area that is busy with snail farming at the moment, organic snail farming. So, there is obviously some snail farming that is going on and of course if it is viable, I am sure it is something that our agricultural department would definitely support. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. We now move over to hon Allen.

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Deputy Speaker, through you to the Premier: in our country and in various communities, crime levels are increasing and when policing is not supported in numbers, not only are residents at risk but SAPS itself, my question is whether the Premier is able to brief us or fill the House in with regard to measures taken against the failure of National Government pertaining to the intergovernmental dispute around the public needs and priorities in the Western Cape, with reference to the South African Police Services, to better safety responses here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Allen for that question and perhaps, it leads on quite nicely from the interpellation that was earlier in the House. It was quite interesting for me when we talk about the PNP or the needs and priorities, the policing needs and priorities in our province of which Minister Fritz published the document not so long ago; it is a key document and that really goes to show the oversight role of the existing constitutional framework that we find ourselves in.

I think, hon Allen and of course you know, I am answering this question when the detail obviously would be a detailed question to member Fritz, but I did hold that position prior to becoming Premier. I held that position that Minister Fritz holds at the moment.

The reason that there was a dispute coming out of this document, but also coming out of general oversight, was that we have too few police officers in our province to population ratios, compared to the norm across South Africa. I believe that we have got some very serious crime issues that we face specifically in this province and then because of that, we should actually have extra police resourcing to this province; especially around murders and gangsterism, gang-related crimes, gender-based violence issues; I believe we should not just have less per capita than other provinces, we should have more per capita than other provinces because per capita, we have higher murders. There might be more murders that take place in KZN and Gauteng than the Western Cape in actual numbers every year, but per capita our

numbers are worse, and we should have then therefore higher or greater numbers of police officers deployed.

I was actually reading something the other day that was showing that in actual fact, we have less police officers now than we had in 2018 and then, of course, in 2019 was when we started that inter-governmental dispute. I know that Minister Fritz and Minister Bheki Cele actually started to negotiate, to try and find some agreement around getting extra deployment. But at the same time what we are trying to do in the province, is bolster those numbers as well and that is, of course, a part of a Safety Plan which is those extra deployed LEAP officers that we are putting into those hotspots at the moment across the province where people are so unsafe.

I think in that interpellation, the hon member himself mentioned walking in Delft. I was in Delft the other day, engaging with the citizens and engaging with the Neighbourhood Watches, as well as the LEAP officers and SAPS themselves. I listened to that debate earlier and it was quite interesting how even hon members in this House think that SAPS and the LEAP officers are not getting on.

It was interesting that the Brigadier that was there at the walkabout, who was from Kraaifontein, was saying how jealous she was as a Station Commander because she had not had deployment yet, but she is getting deployment into Kraaifontein because it is moving into those hotspot areas, and it is bolstering the police. That is what we need to do.

I think as you said, hon member, when our numbers start to drop so low that even police officers themselves have got so few people on their shifts. I know in Philippi the other day, there was a call that I got because people were calling for police and the one vehicle they had, had already gone out into the agricultural area of Philippi and that only had one police officer in the vehicle and the other police officer in the station could not leave the station to get to help a citizen that was in deep, deep trouble. This kind of deployment is absolutely unacceptable and of course, I am not leading that, but Minister Fritz is, and we actually need to look at getting that dispute up and running again.

I mean our population ratio to police officers is absolutely out. I think it is just over 200 population to police officer ratio, is what the UN say, should be the norm. And of course, we know in some areas of our city in Cape Town, it is probably closer to 1 000 members of public to a police officer. And the interesting thing is those are the hotspots and in actual fact, we should have deployment to those hotspots.

But, you know, we do not control the South African Police Services, they are controlled by Bheki Cele, the National Government and they can make a decision on deployment on where police officers are deployed or not and I do not understand why they do not make that decision. It is so easy. Just make it and say this is the ratio, where is it over that and move people to the hotspot areas, but no, they do not do that and they still have not done that

year after year, after year. I mean, it is absolutely unacceptable.

And of course, the other day it was the Police Commissioner at the National Assembly who said quite frankly right now, with the South African Police Services, they cannot offer South Africans the service and the safety that they deserve within the Constitution. I mean, that is an absolute indictment. So, if anything, we should actually be looking at devolution of power which is what I campaigned on and I believe exactly what should happen in our country and this province, but I believe it should happen in other provinces, too.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. Hon Allen?

Mr R I ALLEN: Thank you, hon Premier. Part of the hon Premier's end remarks was 'I would have asked around; would we support a decentralisation of SAPS?' So, I am delighted to hear the hon Premier's remarks in that regard, but hon Premier, are you able to inform the House and citizens of the Western Cape following the recent unrest in KZN and in Gauteng? We saw clear errors in the preparation from SAPS' side. Are you able to fill in the House, as well as members of the Western Cape, on what are some of the measures that this Government undertook to prevent instances of looting here in the Western Cape, in the absence of National Government? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Hon Premier?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon member for that follow up. I

think you said that I touched on the devolution, but I will maybe say a little bit more about that and then get onto our preparedness. I really do believe that devolution should be something that we should focus on. I think what is being said now in the National Assembly is now saying to us that we need to really start pushing for that again, engaging with other provinces to back us on this idea. I believe it should be that way. We should have National Government that controls an oversight over regions that have the deployment and that in actual fact it also should not be one single force. It should be a devolved force.

At the moment, we see the opposite happening from a policy point of view at a national level where you still see the driving force to say that, in actual fact, we should have a single rank system, that all Municipal Police, Municipal Law Enforcement, Provincial Traffic, you name it, should all be under one police leadership and one police department. I definitely think that would not work and that probably leads me into answering the second part of your question, and that is what we did in this province when we saw what was happening in other parts of South Africa.

I think obviously, as we sadly saw what was happening in Gauteng and KZN, we obviously had to make sure that we were mitigating risk. I remember on the Sunday, we could see it starting to happen. We were checking on our road systems, making sure because we did not want to see the same thing with trucks being burnt out. I remember the engagements with General Patekile, our Provincial Police Commissioner, and perhaps use this

opportunity in this House to say to him thank you very much as our Police Commissioner. Of course, he is in charge. The system works that way. Even our LEAP officers, everybody falls under that JOC system and General Patekile, I want to say to you thank you very much for the way in which you led us through that time.

I know that on that Monday we started the discussions with the General, but also with our own Traffic Department, with the City, with Law Enforcement, with our Neighbourhood Watches across the province. We very quickly set up an Expanded Cabinet which is the Provincial Cabinet, and it is the same structure that we put in place to manage COVID-19, we put that structure in place to manage this mitigation of risk, as you call it. So, we had the Expanded Cabinet that included the whole of the Provincial Government, Cabinet and Heads of Departments. It included all of the District Municipal Managers and Mayors. It included the Disaster Management Teams, the City, the Law Enforcement within the City. It also included General Patekile and his team, led obviously through DoCS who would be the agent, and Minister Fritz.

That Expanded Cabinet then looked again at our readiness, made sure that each of those districts were again, between their local governments and their Station Commanders and police, working together, but primarily it was also saying how do we co-ordinate and communicate, and co-ordinate with the Neighbourhood Watches, private security and citizens of the province.

Here, again, I need to use this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to everybody, from the faith-based organisations, the business sector, the international relations teams, the citizens on the ground, Neighbourhood Watches, everybody stood together with our policing, whether they were Law Enforcement, Traffic, SAPS, POPS and, of course, we also got that week deployment of Military.

Every single day that week or for seven days, we held a Cabinet meeting where we got a report back on where we were. We also had a meeting where Cabinet, me, Minister Fritz and Minister Maynier met with business. We had a meeting: Minister Meyer pulled it together with the faith-based organisations. These too, are also systems that we worked with in COVID-19 management. We met with all of the Consul-Generals and Ambassadors so that we could keep them briefed for their own citizens that are here in the region, but also for the interests of their investors, people who wanted to know what was happening in this region and our readiness.

Of course, every single day we held those. It lasted for seven days, until we could slow it down, but even right now, for example, on Wednesday morning Minister Fritz and the team pulled in through the provincial JOC that happens in the morning, briefs Cabinet on exactly where we are with the threats, with the threats analysis etcetera because of course, we need to make sure as representatives of the citizens of this province and as the elected Executive that we are playing that role of pulling people together to make sure that we keep things safe, that we protect ourselves.

Perhaps lastly, to say again to the citizens of this province, across this province, from every corner of this province, citizens stood up and said, ‘not here’ and stood together to make sure that we mitigated that risk and, of course, dealt with all of the fake news, we dealt with all of the risks coming through and made sure we mitigated. And yes, I think it showed our system that we put in place to manage COVID-19, which was used again for the management of this risk. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. There is another follow-up with you. Hon Allen?

Mr R I ALLEN: I am covered, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, that brings us to the end of Questions to the Premier Without Notice. Our time is up. We will now move on to Statements by Members, in terms of Rule 145. I recognise the DA.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS:

Ms L J BOTHA (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Institute for Security Studies attributes the overall decrease of 5% in the matric pass rate for the class of 2020 to the causality of the pandemic, and that school attendance in adhering to COVID-19 protocols has wiped out strides made in the development of the last decade. Many schools are unable to accommodate a full return of

learners as anticipated for Quarters 3 and 4. At the start of the year, the Department of Public Enterprises noted that 15% of learners could not be recounted for the new year in the system. During 2020, it is estimated that learners between Grade 7 and 12 in South Africa, had lost 30 to 60 school days.

However, I want to commend teachers for taking up their posts daily. Many teach the same lesson twice. Hon Deputy Speaker, the work teachers do under these restraints must be commended and supported. It is further estimated that the dropout rate under the current trajectory of absenteeism due to COVID-19, could reduce the country's GDP by \$2,6 billion. Therefore, I want to commend the swift vaccination programme by the WCED to increase safety measures at schools, but even more, for the work done to support teacher catchup and new learning plans.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I take courage from the story of a young man in Delft who dropped out of school to support his family, as job losses severely hit many households last year, but thanks to the outreach of teachers, he realised that to further his career successfully, he needs to complete his matric and has then returned to school.

Education is an integral part in building human capital, social cohesion and is a significant contributor to sustainable development. Therefore, teachers and learners require the decisive support from Government against the compound damage that COVID-19 continues to pose to teachers and learners. I,

nonetheless, acknowledge the resilience portrayed by every stakeholder, especially teachers, to ensure qualitative education in the Western Cape. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Botha. I now recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As our country commemorates the 1956 Women's March and Women's Month, the ANC, once again, wishes to note the urgent need to pursue the quest for gender transformation within the agricultural sector and on the question of land. As the country debates and discusses the concept of expropriation of land without compensation, we must take note of the following: the fact that while women may contribute 60% to 80% of the labour force in sub-Saharan Africa, they only receive 10% of available credit in South Africa. According to the 2020 Stats SA Report, there are only 8 000 women landowners who farm for themselves, this compared to 31 000 men. According to the Economic Research Southern Africa Think Tank, I quote:

“Agriculture contributes to food security of female-headed more than male-headed households, especially in rural areas.”

According to the Commission on Employment Equity 2021 Report, only 18% of top management in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sectors are women, compared to 82% of men in these positions. Only 4% of this 18% of

top management being women, are black women, African, Coloured and Indian, but of the 82% of men in top management in the sector, 72% are white males, confirming that agriculture is a white man's territory.

According to a 2020 study co-founded by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, as well as the Sustainability Initiative of South Africa, only 21% of farms in the Western Cape were owned by women. It is therefore imperative as President Ramaphosa stated in his Women's Day address, that women must benefit from the recent relief measures, as well as the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. We hope that this Provincial Government and in particular, the Department of Agriculture, will prioritise the empowerment of women landowners and women farmers. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The EFF calls on the Western Cape Department of Education to pull its weight and start to eradicate all forms of bullying and racism in Western Cape public schools. This follows the latest incident of racism and bullying which took place at Table View High School, where a group of white learners forcefully took a cell phone belonging to a black learner against his will. Hon Deputy Speaker, upon demanding his cell phone back, the white learner started assaulting the owner of the cell phone while they were surrounded by other white learners who are friends with the perpetrator.

The EFF further condemns the role played by the school management who turned a blind eye when this incident was first reported to them and only reacted later when videos started circulating on social media and in the public domain, resulting in widespread public rebuke. In this modern day and era as society, we cannot tolerate school management who ignore instances of bullying and racism just because the victim is a black child. Such individuals should hold no positions in our schools and no place in our society and should therefore be relieved of their duties with immediate effect.

Deputy Speaker, a school that does not teach learners that there is no room for bullying and racism in the current dispensation, is not a school at all and a Department that does not encourage schools to do so, remains dysfunctional and rotten to the core. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Ms L M MASEKO (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. In this Women's Month I celebrate all women in the Western Cape for continuing to break barriers and helping to create a society where the worth of women is being recognised. We know that there is nothing that an empowered woman cannot achieve and so it is a point of pride and priority of the Western Cape Government to promote the interests of women so that they might be able to reach their full potential.

The Department of Human Settlements has made a conscious decision to consistently invest in women in the built environment. In fact, it has been a strategic objective of the Department since 2014, to broaden economic participation by ensuring that women-owned construction companies have their share of development opportunities. In only three years, departmental projects alone accounted for nearly R139 million spent on projects spearheaded by women-owned companies in the Western Cape. This excludes projects by the City of Cape Town and non-Metro municipalities in the province, which make use of women-owned construction companies. The Department actively seeks to empower women through awareness campaigns, working closely with South African women in construction for several years and by training women in this sector.

In the 2020/2021 financial year, the Department has indicated that they have surpassed their target and 14,68% of the Human Settlements Development Grant has been paid to women contractors, empowering them and their businesses. The women of the Western Cape need a government that recognises their potential and creates an environment that will see them thrive. The Department of Human Settlements is making this a reality. I commend all women for breaking barriers and encourage them to continue taking up the space, as we celebrate this Women's Month. I salute you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I recognise GOOD. No?

Alright, I am going to move on to the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, a lot was said about safety today in the House, but it seems one thing that is overlooked is that most and many of our communities live in darkness, basically because of the Western Cape Government's failure to engage local authorities when it comes to the failure to service the streetlights in communities where crime is rife.

Streetlights in our townships are a deterrent in the most vulnerable communities to combat crime. Streetlights, by their very function, must light up our streets. We cannot call them streetlights because they are not able to light up our streets. When the streets are lit, communities feel safe or should I say 'safer'. I challenge anyone to walk in a township at night when the streetlights are out. I challenge anyone to walk in an informal settlement of this province at night and feel safe in the darkness. Some of our communities utilise outside toilet facilities and it is extremely dangerous, especially when the areas are dark at night.

Hon Deputy Speaker, streetlights promote security and safety. Streetlights also inspire confidence in communities, and they feel safer. Hon Deputy Speaker, as the ACDP, we are not asking for additional streetlights. We are not asking for special favours. All that we are asking is that Local Government must play its role so that the light can light up the areas where they are positioned. Evil blossoms in darkness. Darkness allows evil to spread and mushroom.

Just this morning I received a phone call again to say that a man sleeping in his house, the lights were out, and they burgled his house, and when he stood up, they shot him. Fortunately he did not die, but this happens in our townships every day. So, the plea from the ACDP is to ask this Government to engage local authorities to have the lights serviced in the most vulnerable areas. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thanks, hon Christians, I now recognise the ANC.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can hear you.

Mr L L MVIMBI (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ANC's unwavering commitment to redressing apartheid spatial planning patterns and building of inclusionary housing in the inner City received a big boost after the National Department of Human Settlements, the Housing Development Agency and the SABC reached an agreement regarding the acquisition of the SABC Rocklands building in Sea Point, which has halted the sale of the building to private developers.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Legislature, hon comrade Cameron Dugmore, deserves the credit for this. When the building was advertised for sale in an online auction, he took the initiative to start a dialogue between

the various stakeholders, for the building to remain in the hands of the State and for it to be used to construct integrated social housing in the inner city. This process culminated in the court interdict of the sale of the building in May this year.

The ANC, once again, commends the former Minister of Human Settlements, comrade Lindiwe Sisulu, for championing this genuine cause to ensure that State and Parastatal buildings are not auctioned off to private developers. Instead, they are used to construct integrated social housing. This is an injunction on the Provincial Government led by the Democratic Alliance in this province to follow suit by releasing the Tafelberg site to be used for inclusionary housing and build a truly non-racial society. The ANC applauds all stakeholders, in particular the national Department of Human Settlements, the HDA and the SABC for the role they played to arrive at this watershed moment in the history of our democracy. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr A P VAN DER WESTHUIZEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, exactly one week ago the Special Investigation Unit announced that it would launch an investigation into the National Department of Water and Sanitation. The reason for this: allegations of maladministration and corruption to the tune of R474 million in tenders issued between 2012 and 2017. Unfortunately, this is not a singular event that has tainted this Department.

In a reply to a written question from the NCOP, the Deputy President revealed that construction work at the Clanwilliam Dam project was only standing at 12%. After originally being allocated R2 billion as far back as 2014, it means that there have been seven years of constant delays in upgrading critical infrastructure. Initial progress was so slow that the project had to be relaunched in 2018. The intended upgrades will increase the dam wall height by 13 metres and would more than double its water capacity. It means an extra 5 500 hectares of land would be able to receive irrigation. Hon Deputy Speaker, the consequences of these delays are that an additional 3 500 sustainable full-time jobs cannot be created. This number excludes seasonal jobs and additional jobs downstream in the value chain.

Within the same written reply, the Deputy President also disclosed that the Development Bank of South Africa could be used as an implementing agent, due to the Department being unable to procure critical materials and contractors. These events are not only an indictment of the ANC's incompetence to properly govern, but also its blatant carelessness about real socio-economic change. No changing of chairs or a separation of departments will improve the situation and address the corruption and poor service delivery under President Ramaphosa. It is time that the National Government seriously addresses corruption and maladministration. I thank you.

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

Freedom Front Plus.

Mr P J MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Freedom Front Plus, having listened to President Ramaphosa's weak-kneed responses to direct questions asked of him before the Zondo Commission, the shameless evidence of cover-ups of rampant corruption at Cabinet level; having listened to the factionalism in the ANC, I am now more than ever committed to fighting for the Western Cape's constitutional independence. We are now more than ever convinced this is the only option left to ensure the socio-economic and constitutional survival of our province.

We therefore call on the members of this House and citizens of the Western Cape to support our call for federal autonomy because the competency levels of Cabinet Ministers and their Deputies are questionably not on standard and the country is heading for the abyss and ever-worsening gulf between the peoples of this country. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member. I now recognise Al Jama-Ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker ... [Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon

Deputy Speaker, we salute the women of 9 August 1956 who stood up against an unjust system. May you be a continuous inspiration to all women all around the world, especially in Africa, Palestine, Kashmir, Rohingya, who continue to resist colonialism and imperialism. As we commemorate and celebrate Women's Month, let it be an opportunity to reflect on achievements in women's empowerment and on the daily struggles of women against landlessness, gangsterism, drugs, homelessness, evictions from farms, gender-based violence and unemployment.

Many countries have reported significant progress in women's empowerment, in both the private and public sectors. In our country, too, we see more women are graduating and some finding employment or holding positions in businesses or politics. But despite making up just over half of the population, women remain unrepresented in positions of authority and power.

The basing platform of action adopted at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 focused on twelve areas of concern about women. Of these areas of concern, the South African Government prioritised five, but due to time constraints I will mention only two: women and economic empowerment; women and decision-making. Women are underrepresented in the corporate world, especially in the technology sector. The World Economic Forum ranked South Africa 19th overall in terms of gender-gap equality, with a slight decline in gender wage equality where the country has ranked 117th from 114th in 2017. The WEF also raised their concerns for a more diverse representation in boardrooms throughout

corporate South Africa.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Finish off.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Women must be enabled to succeed in the marketplace, as society can benefit largely from women's talents and skills.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Many women are the breadwinners of their families.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. A little bit over, but not a problem.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): Good afternoon, hon Deputy Speaker. Almost two months ago I was part of a delegation from the Western Cape Legislature which conducted an oversight visit to the South African Police Services Forensic Science Laboratory in Platteklouf. It was here that it was brought to our attention that the robotics machines used in the processing of DNA samples relating to gender-based violence cases have been out of order since

2019.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in the first three months of this year alone, 9 158 people were raped in the country of which 1 094 cases occurred in the Western Cape. This is just over 100 cases a day on average nationally and 12 a day on average in this province or provincially. We can no longer allow this to go on as if it is normal. When speaking on gender-based violence, Minister Bheki Cele rightfully called the statistics shameful, yet his own government has done nothing to fix the robotics machines at the SAPS facility where gender-based violence cases can be fast-tracked. As we speak, many victims of GBV still do not have justice as a result of this. A classic case of our National Government providing lip service, but no political solutions and especially during Women's Month.

Hon Deputy Speaker, last month I wrote to the Commission for Gender Equality to investigate these out of order robotic machines because it is clear that the National Government is either too lazy or is just plain incompetent to effect the proper change without us, as a Province, putting pressure on them. We hope that the findings by the Commission for Gender Equality will force National Government to initiate this process to fix these machines, to ensure that victims of gender-based violence get the justice they deserve.

Whilst we wait for our incompetent National Government to come on board, we have to commend the Western Cape Provincial Department of Social Development for stepping up where those at National have failed. The Provincial Department runs several shelters for survivors of gender-based

violence, it facilitates a successful victim empowerment programme in collaboration with NGOs, as well as ensures that more than 30 social workers are dedicated to work in GBV hotspots, including Khayelitsha, Philippi, Gugulethu, Delft, Mitchells Plain and Atlantis. It is this type of care and awareness that is needed by Government to address the second pandemic. We do hope that the President and Minister Cele come to the party ...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr G BOSMAN (DA): ... and capacitates SAPS urgently. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Bosman. That brings us to the end of Statements. In terms of Rule 145(6), I now give one or more members of the Executive an opportunity to respond to any of the members' statements. Are there any Ministers who would like to respond? I recognise hon Minister Schäfer.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thanks very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I would just like to respond to the EFF's statement, the ongoing lies that they continue to perpetrate in respect of the incident of Table View High School. They like to see a racist incident behind every corner and not every incident of bullying between a learner who is black and others who are white, constitutes racism necessarily. Bullying in all its forms is unacceptable, absolutely right, but in this incident, there were some facts that are not being

properly distributed by the EFF.

There were three actual incidents that are being investigated by the SGB of the school. Firstly, an altercation between the victim in the video and another learner, allegedly over a packet of chips, which was not caught on camera. Secondly, alleged theft of the victim's phone and thirdly, the physical altercation outside the school as caught on camera. Four learners are involved, three are facing disciplinary action and the school has dealt with the matter absolutely appropriately and extremely effectively, much to the EFF's disappointment because they're trying extremely hard to make it into a racist incident to try yet again to continue to divide people and call for people to be hung, drawn and quartered for not doing what they believe they should have done, but the school has been exemplary in its actions in this matter and I just need to put that on record. Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister Schäfer. Any further Ministers wanting to respond? I do not see any hands. Last chance? Alright, thank you. I assume that that is a 'no'. Thank you, that will bring us to the end of Members' Statements, we now move over to Notices of Motion. In terms of Rule 151, all Notices of Motion by members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing it on the Order Paper. These have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I give notice that I shall move:

That this House debates the current state of train operations and rail infrastructure in the Western Cape and how it has affected the province's economy, as well as the need for rail to be devolved to capable, financially sustainable sub-national governments.

[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 the National Women's Day celebrations this month and debates the role of women in the struggle for liberation, equality and justice in South Africa lead by the ANC Women's League.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: I give notice that I shall move:

That this House debates the stringent policy and rulings of certain School Governing Bodies, particularly former Model C schools, to allow leeway in accepting learners transferred from other schools due to reasons being moving house, parents' job transferral or for other practical reasons.

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

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

That the House discusses the urgent need of uniform rules for the serious occurrence of violence, improper actions against female learners, the handling of bullies, and control of delinquents at all Western Cape schools.

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

Mr P MARRAN: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates inconsistencies and inequalities in local governments – mostly DA-run municipalities – like the City of Cape Town, where trendy and expensive water bicycles are getting preference in areas controlled by the metro council, but severe restrictions are imposed against users of existing bicycle owners – also on unused expensive infrastructure.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House debates the Department of Social Development's assistance to places of safety for abused women and their children.

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

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

That the House considers the undesirable way the City of Cape Town taxes people out of their homes by over collection on too high-priced water, pushing up electricity costs with hidden taxes and imposing all sorts of tariffs to make it impossible for ordinary people to afford to live decently in this DA-run City.

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

Ms A P BANS: I give notice that I shall move:

That the House discusses institutional racism influencing various aspects of life within the Western Cape Province - from jobs to housing and patterns of settlement.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now move to Motions without Notice, and I just want to recap as we have had a long break, to inform you that in terms of the new Standing Rule of 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolences and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this

plenary on 10 August 2021. Members are reminded that the Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this sitting as they have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

So, I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting political parties did submit the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this sitting of the House. I will, therefore, for noting and for the purpose of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved as follows: hon Mackenzie, hon Brinkhuis, hon Mackenzie, hon Dugmore, hon Baartman, hon Windvogel, hon Mackenzie, hon Kama, hon Mackenzie, hon Mvimbi, hon Sayed, hon Baartman, hon Bakubaku-Vos, hon Baartman, hon Philander, and hon Allen. I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority, to the House.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That this House commends the work of our security structures including our Neighbourhood Watches, Walking Bus members, Community Policing Forums and all safety structures for the valuable role that they have played in keeping our communities safe during the recent unrest in South Africa.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr G BRINKHUIS: I move without notice:

That the House –

- (1) Notes the achievement of Julio Bianchi, who has become the first South African to qualify for the FIFA World Cup.
- (2) further notes that he is an accountancy student at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.
- (3) Recognises that following a failed football career, 23-year-old Julio, who is from Uitsig on the Cape Flats, started pursuing a career in esports and was scouted by his team, Goliath Gaming while competing in the qualifiers of a major local FIFA competition.
- (4) Further recognises that he had also competed against some of the best FIFA players in the West Asia region and made it through to the grand finals of the qualifiers where he went head-to-head with FIFA World Cup champion.
- (5) Commends him for balancing time between his football career and studies.

- (6) That the House extends congratulations to him for making his country proud.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That this House commends the City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Government for their investment in Neighbourhood Watches, Community Policing Forums, safety structures and their continued commitment and engagement with these organisations to ensure they function optimally.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates our Olympians – medallists, participants, officials and technical support in all codes of sport – who have done South Africa proud in the Tokyo Games despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That this House congratulates the recent four top ranking South African restaurants in the Western Cape and commends them for the mark they are making in the culinary world. La Colombe in Constantia has been rated as the 13th Best Fine Dining Restaurant in the World and the Best Fine Dining Restaurant in Africa according to the Travellers' Choice 2021 list on Tripadvisor. Further, the top four restaurants in Africa are all from the Western Cape, including La Petite Colombe in Franschhoek, La Sosta Restaurant in Swellendam and Chefs Warehouse at Beau Constantia. These restaurants are showcasing the excellence of the culinary industry in the Western Cape and as a province, we could not be prouder of this amazing feat! This House wishes them well in their future culinary endeavours!

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: I move without notice:

That the House commends all health workers and their families in the province of the Western Cape in the ongoing fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and other diseases which is taxing on their own health and demands huge personal sacrifice, and today we salute all for their service and courage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That this House commend our Mitchells Plain Neighbourhood Watches and Walking Bus members for their commitment in walking our streets, looking after our learners and being the eyes and ears of their communities and in particular, during the recent unrest. Their commitment and sacrifice do not go unnoticed.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr M KAMA: I move without notice:

That the House commends all state security staff for their ongoing war against criminality to curb murder, gangsterism, illicit guns, drugs, violence and even illegal actions by their peers worth billions of Rand and for recent successes against all odds.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: I move without notice:

That this House commends Brigadier Cass Goolam, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Edgar Brickles, Colonel Errol Shaun Merkeur and the whole of SAPS Mitchells Plain and SAPS Lenteguur for the incredible leadership role they played and leading the safety initiatives in keeping our

communities safe particularly in regard to the recent unrest in South Africa.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr L L MVIMBI: I move without notice:

That the House congratulates all role players for the positive outcomes following the recent provincial transport hostilities and standoff in the taxi industry and calls for long term cooperation of all to better the system for the sake of commuters.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates all schools, SGB's, parents, learners and communities for addressing bullying at our schools.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That this House commends the work of Wesgro in recently completing trade missions with Ethiopia and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire which

are both exciting and growing markets for Western Cape companies in the agribusiness, construction, healthcare, tourism and manufacturing sectors. The trade mission to Ethiopia alone has secured export and outward foreign direct investment of an estimated R200 million over the next five years which is critical in the economic recovery of the Western Cape and to creating and protecting livelihoods.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House salutes all residents of the Western Cape who every day live and step forward in active citizenry to do much more than to merely vote during elections, but to reach out to one another and make life more bearable during difficult times. Every act of kindness towards the most vulnerable is appreciated.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That this House commends the work of the City of Cape Town in securing Cape Town as a host city for the FIA's Formula-E 2021/22 season. The benefits of hosting an established international sporting event in Cape Town stands to create jobs and in particular boost the

hospitality and tourism sector while creating awareness to the issue of climate change.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms W F PHILANDER: I move without notice:

That this House notes the celebration of Women's Day on Monday 9 August 2021 and continues to acknowledge women for the often-exceptional work in communities they serve. During this time, notes the female heads of Operation and Facilities Management at our Vaccine Centre of Hope, Ms Laetitia Saville and Ms Gail Ruiters; and also recognises and commends the leadership roles undertaken by those in the public service and elsewhere. Continuously encourages all women to remain courageous in this pursuit.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Mr R I ALLEN: I move without notice:

That this House extends its heartfelt condolences to the friends and family on the passing of Mr Winston Cogill; notes that the Department of Community Safety lost a dedicated and committed official; noting that Mr Cogill leaves behind a significant legacy within government and civil society; further notes that he was the longest COVID-19 ICU

patient in the province; and wishes all the strength to his wife, Claire and daughter, Hannah.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member's names as if that member had read them out aloud. I will now afford the opportunity to members to move Motions without Notice, as per the Standing Rule of 152(d). This could also include Motions without Notice that were not approved in the Programming Authority meeting. Members are reminded that 30 minutes as per Standing Rule, will start now. Hon members, I do have the list so please do not put in new motions. I now recognise hon Bakubaku-Vos.

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may proceed. Hon Bakubaku-Vos?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Can you hear me, hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you reading ... [Interjection.]

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Hon Deputy Speaker, you can hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, are you going to read without notice?

Ms N G BAKUBAKU-VOS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Over to you.

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

That the House recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who still struggle as this Provincial Government continues to fail them, such as the homeless people who hide under cardboard and bridges as the cold and wet season batters against them. Vulnerable people who are still being evicted from farms and open land, despite restrictions or laws and court interventions. Cases such as the recent one in Somerset West where Clara Phillips, who is 84-years old, lived on a farm since she was 11-years old, but won her case in the Supreme Court of Appeals to stay in that house with her son living with a disability. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

HON MEMBERS: Objection! Objection.

Mr P MARRAN: No. No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections, noted. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes:

- (1) The conduct of Western Cape Department of Human Settlements' inhumane conduct through the introduction of the so-called 'Better Living Challenge Project'.
- (2) Instead of the Department fast tracking the provision of housing and reducing the housing backlog, they are busy mocking the poor people of this province by initiating to teach them how to build better shacks.
- (3) This is nothing but a desperate attempt by the DA-led Provincial Government Department in thinking that the masses will fall for this desperate and poor electioneering trap. Their Government has

already proven that they are incapable of addressing the provision of housing in the province; and

(4) This House must condemn this move by the Department in the strongest of terms. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have any objections?

HON MEMBERS: Object! Objections!

Mr P MARRAN: No objection, no objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon Sayed.

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

That this House objects to the African Union Commission for granting observer status to the apartheid state of Israel that brutally oppresses Palestinians by bombing and killing them in the Occupied Territories and that this House supports the stance taken by the South African Government and other African countries in this regard. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Mr G BOSMAN: Objection!

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes.

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

Mr G BOSMAN: It has got nothing to do with us.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Noted, there are objections. The motion ...
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Of course, it is expected from the DA and the ACDP.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P MARRAN: Anything to do with the DA.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Apartheid, Zionist apologists.
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have not finished speaking. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I note the objections. Hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House:

- (1) Condemns the move by the Democratic Alliance-led City of Cape Town in drafting an illegal document disguised as a By-law and titled 'City of Cape Town Unlawful Occupation By-law'.
- (2) In its current format, this illegal draft document which can never pass any constitutional muster, seeks to criminalise land occupiers by arresting them without any warrant.
- (3) This move by the City is not only illegal, but also a total contradiction of various provisions of the South African Constitution, together with the purpose sought to be achieved by legislation.
- (4) The move by the City entrenches the long-standing notion that the

DA-led Government will stop at nothing in its attempt to brutalise the poor. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Are there any objections to the motion being moved?

HON MEMBERS: Object! Objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are objections, noted.

Mr P MARRAN: No, no objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Objections noted. The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon Mvimbi.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Can you hear me?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Loud and clear.

Mr L L MVIMBI: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House calls on the Provincial Government to stop all sales and

leases of State or public land or housing, until a full land audit has been completed and submitted to the Legislature together with a proper policy on the renting and/or sale of such land. I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

HON MEMBERS: Object! Object!

Mr P MARRAN: No objection.

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Absolutely!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The objections are noted. The motion will be printed ... *[Interjection.]*

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): We are not surprised yet again ... *[Interjection.]*

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, order. So, just for the record: the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise hon Xego.

Mr M XEGO: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and condemns:

- (1) The continued taxi violence in the province which continues to claim more lives on an almost daily basis.
- (2) This follows the incident that took place yesterday in Citrusdal on the West Coast, where two people were shot dead inside a taxi. More than 88 people have died this year alone since the beginning of this taxi violence.
- (3) All this has rendered the Department of Transport and that of safety in the province to be lacking leadership as they remain dysfunctional at best.
- (4) I so move, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

HON MEMBERS: Object! Objections.

Mr P MARRAN: No objections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Noted, thank you. Hon Bakubaku-Vos. Are you there, hon member? I'm going to move on. I now recognise hon Makamba-Botya.

Ms N MAKAMBA-BOTYA: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move without notice:

That the House notes and condemns the continued scourge of the gender-based violence pandemic which continues to show its ugly head in this province and the country at large.

This follows the recent gruesome incident where a women's body was found dumped in Brown's farm in Philippi on Women's Day.

It has now shown time and again that our authorities remain reactionary on issues relating to gender-based incidents, and the perpetrators continue with their evil deeds without any conscience on their part.

As the EFF, we call for those in Government to focus their resources more on human behavioural aspects. All we need now is a change in behaviour from the perpetrators of these deeds and for the future generation not to follow these evil deeds. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections? Agreed to. I have one last call to hon Bakubaku-Vos? No? Alright. Thank you very much. That concludes the business for the day and that concludes Motions without Notice. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all members will be exited from the meeting. Thank you very much, hon members, the House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 17.30.