
THURSDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2025

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVISIONAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 10:00.

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

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. [Interjection]. May I ask that everyone on the virtual platform be muted? Hon members, order. Please ask that the Table Staff mute all participants on the online platform. Hon members, I have to announce that due to the cessation of the party membership of Mr D G Jacobs of the National Coloured Congress Party, a vacancy occurred in the representation of the National Coloured Congress Party in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament.

This vacancy has since been filled by the nomination of Mr J R Michels with effect from the 17th of October 2025. Mr J R Michels was sworn in in my

office on the 17th of October 2025. Hon Michels, please allow me on behalf of the House to welcome you to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as a member. Hon members, just for noting, this will also be Mr Michels first or hon Michels first interaction in the House, so I will remind you when it is his maiden contribution to the House. Welcome, sir.

Before we proceed, as has been our practice to date, hon members will participate in the Sitting of the House, both from here in the Chamber with the Presiding Officer and the Table Staff and by Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings. Hon members who are experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting, are requested to contact the WCPP ICT colleagues, who will assist to resolve these connectivity challenges.

Hon members, the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution of the Western Cape and the Standing Rules. Unless there is an indication of unanimous concurrence, voting will be confined to members present in the House and on the hybrid system who are entitled to cast their votes as per the ATC issued on the 11th of August 2020. [Interjection]. Before I proceed, can I please ask the Table Staff to mute all participants on the online platform and if the persons unmutes themselves again, please remove them from the platform.

Members present in the Chamber and by Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. [Interjection]. My apologies, hon members.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will record members' attendance. Hon members, all microphones have been muted. However, for those hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to use the raised hand functionality of the system when you desire to raise a point of order and I will recognise you. When an hon member in the Chamber wishes to raise a point of order, such an hon member may address the Presiding Officer as expected but must mute their microphones when they have concluded speaking.

Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams are requested not to sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device. The media have also been granted access to this MS Teams meetings as guests of the WCPP. However, I wish to remind the members of the press that they may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. Hon members, for the Sitting, language translation services are available in the Chamber as usual and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels.

Hon members, I wish to remind you that no interjections are permitted during these hybrid Sittings and to this end, I wish to draw your attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules. We will now proceed to the business of the House but before I do so, please also allow me an opportunity to welcome the guests in the gallery. Welcome to the WCPP and I trust that you will enjoy the Sitting. I wish to caution all members that while you are very welcome to the Sitting today, you may not participate in the proceedings on the floor. I recognise the Chief Whip.

BUSINESS OF THE DAY

(Motions)

The CHIEF WHIP: Good morning, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move:

That notwithstanding the provision of Rule 18, the hours of the Sitting on Thursday 13 November 2025 shall be from 10:00 to adjournment. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion?

No objections, agreed to.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you once again, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I move in my name:

That Mr Kobus Marais be appointed in terms of Section 4K of the Castle Management Act 1993 as the representative of the Provincial Legislature for the Western Cape to serve on the Castle Control Board. I so move.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any objections to the motion

being moved?

No objections, agreed to.

I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much once again, hon Speaker. I move:

That notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 18, that the Executive Statement to be made by Premier Alan Winde, receive precedence. I so move.

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

No objections.

I recognise hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms WF KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I move:

That the House, in accordance with Rule 1191 of the Standing Rules, establishes an Ad-Hoc Committee on Child Protection Reform to consider and develop legislative and policy proposals aimed at strengthening child

protection and safety in the Western Cape, including reviewing the implementation gaps, legal frameworks, and institutional arrangements identified in the Standing Committee on Social Development's Child Protection Multi-stakeholder Engagement Report, tabled in this House on the 2nd of September 2025, ATC 88 of 2025. Hon Speaker, the Committee shall, within its mandate, consult with relevant departments, organs of state, civil society organisations, and experts to identify areas where provincial legislation, policy alignment, or intergovernmental mechanisms may be improved to enhance the protection and well-being of children. The Committee shall consist of 11 members, appointed in accordance with Rule 120 of the Standing Rules, with membership allocated as follows: the Democratic Alliance six members, the ANC one member, Patriotic Alliance one member, EFF one member. Smaller parties, the NCC, Freedom Front Plus, Al-Jamal, ACDP and Good, two members. Hon Speaker, the Committee must report regularly to the House on its progress and submit the final report containing findings and legislative recommendations upon the conclusion of its work. The names of the members representing the aforementioned political parties must be submitted to the hon Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament as soon as possible for publication in the ATC reports. Hon Speaker, I so move. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Kaizer-Philander. Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved?

No objections. Agreed to.

We now move on to the Executive Statement in terms of Rule 146. I will now afford the Premier, hon Winde, an opportunity to make an Executive Statement in terms of Rule 146. Hon Premier, I recognise you.

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Speaker and members of this House. Hon Speaker, gang-related violence and murder is a pandemic affecting far too many of our residents in the Western Cape. The lives of innocent children, mothers, fathers and grandparents have been senselessly taken, destroying families and the fabric of communities. Decisive action is required. We cannot wait and will not be silent on this matter. This is not an issue to be cheaply politicised, but rather one that requires us all to unite with one voice.

In recent weeks, public attention has once again been focused on the implications of the 2022 bail appeal judgment handed down by Judge Daniel Thulare, which referenced possible infiltration of the South African Police Services, or SAPS, in the Western Cape leadership by elements of organised crime, specifically the 28s Gang. While harrowing, I am pleased to see the attention of the public, media and society at large focus on these serious allegations once again. If proven true, they represent one of the greatest betrayals of our residents since the dawn of our democracy.

Those entrusted with protecting our communities now working with the same criminals hell-bent on destroying those communities. In some recent media reporting, the lack of progress by entities outside of the control of the Western Cape Government has been portrayed in bad faith, as reluctance on my and this Government's part to fully investigate this matter. This is patently untrue. Over the past three years, this Government has continuously fought to have this matter properly investigated and to have those found wanting prosecuted and locked away.

The purpose of this Executive Statement is to set the record straight and to make it abundantly clear to this House and to the public whom we serve exactly what has been done thus far, the actions we have taken as Government and further action that must now be embarked upon. On the 27th of October 2022, 10 days after the Thulare judgment was delivered, the Western Cape Police Ombudsman received my complaint. The scope of the Ombudsman's investigation was to advise me within 14 days of what course of action I was empowered to take and whether it would be prudent to establish a Commission of Inquiry into the allegations contained in the judgment.

The Ombudsman's final report handed to me on the 17th of November 2022. Despite the Ombudsman's efforts to obtain relevant evidence linked to Judge Thulare's comments, as well as comments from the SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority, both bodies were unable to respond, as the matter was *sub judice*. Again, it is important to note that Judge Thulare's comments were made in a bail appeal judgement, and the criminal trial was still to take place.

In fact, three years later, this criminal trial still has not been concluded.

In the recommendations, the Ombudsman ultimately advised, and I quote, that:

“Despite the serious nature of the allegations, the provisions of Section 217(6) of the Western Cape Community Safety Act 213 are not invoked to appoint a Commission of Inquiry. This was due to the pending criminal trial, and the Commission of Inquiry would face legal challenges to access any records, evidence, or witness testimony.”

I found this recommendation aligned with my own view towards establishing a Commission, especially given the fact that the SAPS had still not implemented the recommendations of the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry that took place over a decade ago. The Ombudsman went on to provide the Provincial Cabinet with three options.

The first two options entailed actions being taken against the Provincial Commissioner of Police. With this potential removal of the post, this was considered inappropriate as allegations emanated under his predecessor and Lieutenant General Patekile was working in good faith with the Provincial Government and attending regular briefing sessions. I thus resolved to comply with the Ombudsman's third recommendation option, which entailed awaiting the outcome of the ongoing parallel investigation led by Independent Police Investigation Directorate, or IPID, and the SAPS bodies with the relevant authority to conduct full investigations into the allegations before taking a

decision on the way forward.

However, we did not fold our arms at this point. We continued to place pressure on the relevant authorities to expedite these investigations. The Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety held meetings with the Executive Director of IPID and formally wrote to the Executive Director to request IPID investigate the allegations. Nearly two years later, on 1 October 2024, the IPID investigation finally commenced with the terms of reference for IPID investigation note that a full timeframe of its investigation could not be predetermined. They did state that a comprehensive report on the preliminary findings will be made available within 12 months.

That deadline has recently passed, and Minister Marais has written to IPID to request a formal update on the preliminary findings. Minister Marais also requested a meeting with the National Minister of Police, Mr Senzo Mchunu, on the 8th of October 2024 to discuss the proposed support of IPID to deal with these critical investigations. Unfortunately, that meeting request, as well as three subsequent requests to secure a meeting with the hon Minister, or Minister Mchunu, went unanswered.

Given the apparent lack of urgency from national bodies tasked with investigating these allegations, I decided that more needed to be done and it was for this reason that I sought to have senior leadership of the Western Cape SAPS subjected to lifestyle audits. As members of this House are aware, I consider lifestyle audits a critical part of maintaining public trust in

Government. And it is for that reason that the Western Cape is the only province that consistently completes lifestyle audits of its Cabinet members. I firmly believe that in the light of the serious implications raised by the Thulare judgment, the senior leadership of SAPS should be held to the same standard.

Our request for lifestyle audits for senior members of the Western Cape SAPS was first contained in a letter at the Provincial Commissioner on 17 April 2023, noting budget constraints and how seriously we took this allegation we even offered to pay for these audits. My office followed up on that letter on multiple occasions over two years, including escalating the request and the offer to two National Ministers of Police. Verbal agreements were later met with written declines to take up the offer. On 28th of February 2025, Minister Mchunu's office reverted, stating that:

“The Minister has noted the contents of the letter and requests that you continue with the implementation, working with the Provincial Commissioner of the Western Cape, General Patekile.”

On 5 March 2025, a letter from Lieutenant General Patekile was received by my office, in which he declined the Western Cape Government's offer to fund the lifestyle audits. I do, however, wish to acknowledge the positive movement of engagement with Acting Minister Cachalia since entering office. Earlier this week, he commented on an updated anti-gang violence strategy that was developed following his visit to the Western Cape. The implementation of this revised strategy is urgent, and we will support it in any way possible. As can

be seen from the above sequence of events, we have done everything within our power to act in good faith, to support the relevant investigative process, and to drive efforts to uncover the truth of this matter.

But now, given the fact that important deadlines have passed without any update from IPID, and that the National SAPS does not seem to have acted with urgency in this matter, despite repeated enquiries, the delays faced in this process have become unacceptable and can no longer be tolerated. We now publicly demand action and answers from IPID and from SAPS. Today, I am tabling the report I received from the Ombudsman to this House. To date, I have not done so to demonstrate good faith with the SAPS and IPID, and to protect those involved with the investigation.

The necessity of this latter consideration can be in no doubt, as in the original matter heard by Judge Thulare, no fewer than three witnesses have already been murdered. It is for this reason that I have ensured that the relevant identities have been redacted in this report being tabled. I do wish to inform the House that Minister Marais has written to the Chairperson of the National Portfolio Committee on Police, to whom IPID reports, to request that the Committee investigate the slow progress of the investigation to Judge Thulare's comments.

I believe it is clear that our efforts, wilfully or otherwise, have been obstructed thus far. I am appealing to this House to support us as we get to the bottom of this matter. For years now, the National SAPS have been unwilling or unable to work with the Government to solve the burning issue of gang-related crime

that continues to devastate too many communities. The thought that it may be due to infiltration of the SAPS' highest levels of decision-making by organised criminals is horrifying.

We have a duty to do everything we can to force those with the power to shine a light on what is potentially one of the darkest hours, not just of the Western Cape, but of South Africa's criminal justice system. I believe that duty extends to this whole House. I thank you, and hon Speaker, I hereby table Judge Thulare's report, as given to me at that stage, with the names of those investigating officers redacted.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Premier. That also brings us to the end of your ten minutes, and I recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: hon Speaker, the hon Premier is absolutely correct about one thing. Gang violence is indeed a pandemic that has robbed far too many of our people of peace, safety and hope. But what the hon Premier fails to acknowledge is that while he speaks of unity and decisive action in his statement, our communities continue to bleed under his Government's watch. Hon Speaker, the truth is that the Provincial Executive has mastered the art of blaming others while taking very little responsibility itself.

The Premier tells us today that he has done everything within his power, yet the reality on the ground tells a different story, hon Speaker. Children are still

being shot walking to school. Mothers still sleep on the floor to avoid stray bullets. Families still bury loved ones every weekend. If the Premier is sincere about confronting, well, let me rather say serious, because I am not doubting the Premier's sincerity; if he is serious about confronting organised crime, then he must also confront the Western Cape Government's own failures in addressing the root causes of gangsterism, poverty, unemployment, school dropouts and the lack of youth opportunities.

These are not matters for IPID or SAPS alone. They are matters squarely within the Premier's own mandate. Hon Speaker, the Premier cites the Thulare judgement and the alleged infiltration of SAPS by gangs. Those are indeed serious allegations, and we agree that they demand thorough investigation. But we must also be honest. The selective outrage of this Executive is politically convenient. When the Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry laid bare deep systemic failures in policing, this same Government failed to ensure that its own recommendations are fully implemented a decade later.

It is not enough to demand lifestyle audits for police generals when we have yet to see meaningful audits of the Province's own contracts, especially those linked to security service providers who operate in gang-infested communities. Transparency must be consistent, not selective. Hon Speaker, this House must not be used as a stage for shifting the blame to National Government squarely. Our people want action, coordinated, compassionate and community-based action, not more press statements.

The Western Cape Safety Plan has failed to deliver measurable results, and the Premier's Government continues to underspend on critical social intervention ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, please conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...that could have given young people alternatives to gangs...

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...let us be clear, I am concluding ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The ANC condemns any infiltration of the police by criminal network ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...but we condemn the...

The SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, hon Sayed, please take your seat. Hon members, can I please remind you at the beginning of a long day that there is time

allocated or allotted in terms of the Rules Committee that was established at the beginning of the term a year and a bit ago. When I give you an opportunity to conclude your sentence, it is for that, to conclude your sentence, and not another paragraph. I please ask that you work with me, as we have a long day ahead. With that being said, I recognise the DA.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Thank you, Mr hon Speaker. I thank the Premier for taking both this House and the people of the Western Cape into his confidence. The efforts of this Provincial Government to address allegations of corruption within the provincial SAPS are a matter of public record. What this Executive Statement underscores is the extent of the resistance these efforts have faced from SAPS management in the province. The refusal by SAPS to accept funding for the implementation of lifestyle audits is, to put it mildly, deeply concerning.

When the integrity of the very service meant to protect our citizens and uphold the law is in question, no effort should be spared to investigate and uncover the truth. Hon Speaker, what we have witnessed from successive National Police Ministers, as well as the current Provincial Police Commissioner, amounts to an egregious dereliction of duty. How can the public trust a police service that shows no willingness to investigate allegations of high-level criminality? The Democratic Alliance fully supports the Western Cape Government's persistent efforts to compel IPID and SAPS to act with integrity and urgency.

We welcome this Government's engagement with the Portfolio Committee on

Police to ensure accountability and to expose the unacceptable delays in IPID's investigation. The people of the Western Cape deserve far better than what they are getting from SAPS. They deserve safe streets and communities where they can live happy, fulfilling lives, free from fear. They deserve a police service that they can trust, not one clouded by allegations of criminal conduct. If there is criminality within SAPS, it must be rooted out, no matter the cost. I thank you.

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

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Hon Speaker, the Premier and members of the House, the people of the Western Cape are living under siege. Week after week, another child or person is brutally murdered in our communities. These are not mere statistics. They are our sons and daughters, robbed of their futures while Government responses remain slow and fragmented. Hon Speaker, this escalating violence reflects a breakdown of safety, trust and leadership. Communities feel abandoned as gangs tighten their grip and law enforcement is overwhelmed.

Words of sympathy no longer serve us. The time for action is now. The Patriotic Alliance calls for immediate intervention, and that would be the deployment of the South African National Defence Force to support the SAPS in restoring order, alongside the bold, long-term solutions to address the poverty, joblessness and hopelessness that fuel this crisis. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I recognise the EFF. I have got an indication that I should continue. Can I just ask the Table Staff? Hon Cassiem is experiencing technical difficulties. If the IT colleagues can please assist. Floor crossing is not allowed. Order!

An HON MEMBER: I want to speak on their behalf, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon member, if you want to address me, please rise and then I will recognise you. You cannot speak and just switch on your microphone. With that being said, I recognise the NCC.

†Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Dankie *hon* Speaker. [Thank you, hon Speaker.] Hon Speaker ...[Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Hon member, before you proceed, I wish to remind the House that this will be the member's maiden contribution to the Provincial Parliament. Hon member, you may continue.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. † *Hon* Speaker, die Premier, in sy tweede paragraaf *conclude* hy met “I am appealing to this House to support us as we get to the bottom of this matter”. Maar in die hele *report*, die *report* is eintlik niksseggend, maar die *report* wys jou iets belangrik. En vandag wil die NCC onomwonde stel dat ons het in ons agterkop baie vrae om te vra. Ons sit met ’n geval waar ’n *report* vir twee jaar êrens gelê het en ons ken die *nature* van *politics in this country*, niemand kan *secure* ’n report wat daar êrens lê vir

twee jaar, dat die inhoud van daai *report* nie êrens in iemand se hande gaan beland nie.

En vandag glo die NCC dat die *report*, wat IPID opgestel het, het êrens beland in iemand se hande, want soos ons sien, is daar reeds drie getuies wat ons kon gehelp het om die *police corruption* te *expose*, wat alreeds gesterf het. So as ons een en een bymekaar gaan sit, dan gaan daai *report* niksseggend wees en ons *agreement* met die Premier, daar sal duidelik aksie moet kom en ons hoef nie vêr te gaan kyk om daai aksies te begin nie, ons sit met die Madlanga *Commission* wat huidiglik in provinsies *police corruption* ondersoek.

Die Premier kom met 'n *report* vandag wat nie voorstel watter aksies ons moet doen nie en daarom gaan die NCC vandag sê, Premier, nader die President en vra die President om die *scope* te *extend* tot die *Western Cape*, om ook die korrupsie – in die laaste 72 uur, het 25 jong manne op die Kaapse Vlakte gesterf, so hoe langer ons hier gaan sit en *cheap politics* speel, sterf ons mense daar buite en vandag wil die NCC op die Premier *call* en vra dat ons die President betrokke kry rondom die *violence* op die Kaapse Vlakte en dat die *scope* *extend* word tot die Wes-Kaap, sodat hierdie korrupsie onder *police* geledere ook hier ondersoek word.

Om op die Provinsiale Ombudsman en om op IPID Provinsiaal op die stadium te *depend* om vir ons te help in die saak, gaan 'n *futile exercise* wees. Dankie *hon* Speaker.

[Hon Speaker, the Premier, in his second paragraph he concludes with, “I am

appealing to this House to support us as we get to the bottom of this matter". But in the whole report, the report is actually not saying anything, but the report shows you something that is important. And today, the NCC wants to unequivocally state that we have it at the back of our heads to ask many questions. We have a case where a report has for two years been lying somewhere and we know the nature of politics in this country, no one can secure a report that lies there for two years, that the contents of that report will not somewhere end up in somebody's hands.

And today the NCC believes that the report that IPID had drawn up ended up in somebody's hands somewhere because as we see there were already three witnesses that could have helped us to expose the police corruption who had already died. So if we put one and one together then that report will mean nothing and our agreement with the Premier, there clearly will have to come action and we do not have to go and look far to start those actions, we sit with the Madlanga Commission that currently investigates police corruption in the provinces.

The Premier today comes with a report that does not propose what actions we should take and therefore the NCC today says, Premier, approach the President and ask the President to extend the scope to the Western Cape, to also – in the last 72 hours, 25 young men died on the Cape Flats, So the longer we are going to sit here and play cheap politics, our people out there are dying, and today the NCC wants to call on the Premier and ask that we get the President involved around the violence on the Cape Flats and that the scope be extended to the

Western Cape, so that this corruption within the police is also investigated here.

To depend on the Provincial Ombudsman and IPID Provincial at this stage to help us in this case will be a futile exercise. Thank you, hon Speaker.]

†Die SPEAKER: Baie dankie aan die agbare lid. [The SPEAKER: Thank you to the hon member.] I now recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): Baie dankie, [Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you,] hon Speaker, thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, public trust has been broken and it must be restored. But without transparency, how are we going to restore public trust? It is not possible. It must allow the public access to all information, as we who sit in Parliament, do not act on our own behalf, but we act on behalf of the public. And so, holding back information is not always good. It must be in the open so that action can be taken.

But corruption must be rooted out and police officers that are corrupt must account and they must be removed from the force. We call on the Government of National Unity and the political parties that are big role players within the GNU, DA and the ANC as the bigger role players within the GNU. So the Freedom Front Plus calls on them to play their role to support the Western Cape Government in its call to root out corruption in the province and to save children's lives and public lives.

Speaker, we cannot lose any more people in the province due to corruption and

incompetence and we call for public trust to be restored and for the police to be cleaned out and that the Premier takes us in his confidence, when we do get together and meet, that there be greater trust built between political parties, because this issue should not be a political issue. This is a matter of life and death. And we need to act in the public interest together as political parties in a new era of South Africa's political growth and our democracy. I thank you, hon Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker and good morning to you and to all the hon colleagues.

Hon Speaker, on Tuesday this week, the Deputy President called for more community involvement in solving criminal activities and referred to the important role that the Community Police Forum should be playing. Tragically, about 63 young children have been murdered in the Western Cape the last five months, as a result of gang violence. These are children of whom the overwhelming majority live in violent townships and whose lives are not on the priority list.

A conflict resolution expert, Mr Geoffrey Mamputa, stated in an interview on a local community radio, and I quote:

"In Philippi, every step a child takes, whether on his way to school or

back home, he will die."

Children as young as five are killed by extortionists and this is the norm. The high density in unplanned living structures are ideal pressures for criminality. Young kids are carrying firearms, and it is quite easy to recruit youngsters to join gangs because if they do not, they will die. The province needs to align its policing and deployment of law enforcement officers according to the reality on the ground.

Where are the door-to-door house searches to remove criminals? Where are the patrol vans in the mornings where learners walk to school and in the afternoons when they walk home? We need effective policing in the DA-run province, and the DA-run province must stop blaming National Government. You receive a budget. You receive a budget to run a province so, do it effectively.

The gang members are known to police. The gang members, they are known to the police. Every gang hideout and its leaders are known to the police. Local municipalities know every drug den, and, in many cases, police are also aware of most hits, executions and gang fights. The crucial issues are not being addressed, and these are number one, the thousands of drug dens that should be eradicated. Number two, the real gangsters and drug dealers are not charged and arrested. Addressing claims that CPFs are DA aligned. Failure to improve on the cooperation between police and community. We cannot have an entire police force with law enforcement officers and PAGAD and anti-Zionist marches leaving our townships without policing.

I thank you very much, hon Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it is sad. We just read killings, killings and more killings every day in the newspaper. But, hon Speaker, I want to ask the hon Premier, did the hon Premier and his Cabinet discuss to request the President for a State of Emergency because these killings cannot continue. The problem that we have is that guns are roaming, illegal guns are roaming the streets. Ammunition is roaming the streets and people are being killed.

Youngsters! I read in the paper youngsters are being recruited to be hit-men. Now, I mean 14-years-old and you are recruited to kill. This is where we are. Now, I want to agree that it is no use you have so many policemen on the streets, but when you investigate, the docket disappears or when you investigate, there is nothing happening. So, there is a problem, hon Premier. When people are locked up, due process must follow. So, corruption is maybe even with judges and magistrates. That is the problem. So, we can have as many policemen and -women on the streets. If there are not proper investigations done, and it is not taken to court, we have a massive problem.

So, hon Premier, I think you should even dig deeper to see where is this corruption, how deep is this corruption? Not only in the police force, but also

in the justice system. We must look at that. And, hon Speaker, the problem is, I am passionate about it because young men and women, children are being killed daily. So, we cannot talk about politics. We must talk about the lives of our people. So, I am asking this House to unite and see how we can make a difference because some political parties will criticise but come with the solutions because people are dying. People are dying.

So, hon Speaker, hon Premier, we, as the ACDP, will support you. I hope many of these leaders will support you to see how we can stop this violence. I think as a House, we must go out as a united front and say enough is enough. As a House, we must go out and support the hon Premier and say listen, what do we do to stop these killings? It is not about votes. It is not about anything else. It is about people dying every day. Every day! We will see the number of votes we will have after the Local Government Elections. I thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. Hon member, before we proceed. I am going to revert to Hansard. I wish to draw your attention to Rule 63(2) that:

"No member may defame or reflect on the honour or competence of presiding officers of the court."

I will just revert to Hansard to get the pretext, the context and the post-text in which you made that comment, and I will come back to the House with a ruling on that. With that being said, I recognise GOOD.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, it does not really matter to millions of Cape Flats residents who live in daily fear of their lives and their children's lives, whether they have been let down by the police, the City of Cape Town or the Western Cape Government. The fact is they have been let down by all three. The culture of gang violence in Cape Town is a product of history, social exclusion, spatial injustice, and deliberate underdevelopment, a social and structural fabric that has been inadequately acknowledged and barely fixed. Children grow up in depressing and dangerous environments that sap their dreams, poverty is pervasive.

The people who have a few coins to rub together often derive their relative wealth from crime and when young people go astray, there are no guardrails, no school psychologists or alcohol or drug treatment facilities, just a pervasive feeling of hopelessness. And then there is the police. Their questionable integrity is presently on prominent display at the Madlanga Commission and the Parliamentary Ad Hoc Committee. And there is little reason to believe the poison does not impact the Western Cape. Strong evidence of close relationships between apartheid police and gang leaders were presented as far back as the TRC nearly 30 years ago.

The Premier is correctly livid about the police's apparent indifference to investigate remarks by the Judge three years ago, that senior police have links to organised crime. It could point to ineptitude or corruption or a combination. The police and IPID, both of whom were to conduct investigations, have a duty

to explain. But the Premier does protest too much, because this matter contributes to his party's political narrative that the reason for the season of gun violence we are in, is because the DA does not have control of the police.

It is clever politics ahead of a local government election. What it is doing is blaming the undisturbed culture of gangsterism in Cape Town on the police, while absolving the Province and the City of responsibility. We know from global experience that when people live with pride in their neighbourhood, the space for anti-social activity shrinks. This Government has had a long uninterrupted spell of leadership. The Premier has every right to question the police failures, but we challenge him to point us to one gang-ravaged ghetto that his Government has actually turned around.

We challenge him to explain to the Mitchell's Plain community why this Government could not come up with R2 million to save a soccer league a few years ago with its measurable impact in keeping young children off the streets, or to explain why last year his Government saw fit to defund and ultimately shut down the school in Salt River for children who were recovering from trauma. These programmes that they shut down, they shut down, but ...[Interjection]

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): This Government shut down these programmes but

found billions to fund the Cape Town under Panyaza's, which have yet to make any ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon members, that brings us to the end of the Executive Statements. We now move on to Interpellations as printed on the Order Paper in terms of Rule 197, and I recognise the hon Minister of Education, Minister Maynier.

INTERPELLATIONS

1. Mr F C Christians to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

Whether his Department has developed programmes to encourage learners from disadvantaged communities to study subjects that are required for critical fields such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you to the hon member for putting this matter on the Order Paper, which of course, fundamentally speaks to the future opportunities for our learners leaving school here in the Western Cape.

The hon member will be aware, as a long serving member of the Standing Committee on Education, that we have schools serving low-income communities that really deliver outstanding Maths results. If you take last year's results, hon Speaker, COSAT produced 19 distinctions, Claremont High School 14 distinctions, Siphamandla High School 11 distinctions, Thandokhulu High School 9 distinctions, Manyano High School 8 distinctions, Joe Slovo High School and Spine Road High School with 6 Maths distinctions each.

I cannot say, hon Speaker, how proud we are of these schools for achieving what they have achieved with their focus on Maths and Science. That is why, hon member, through the Rapid School Build Programme, we plan to increase the number of new Maths and Science focused high schools. We have also added capacity at our existing excellent Maths and Science schools, like Claremont High School and Spine Road High School so that more learners have the opportunity to achieve a matric qualification in these subjects and then, access, most importantly, a future STEM careers.

But that is not all, hon Speaker, we also support STEM participation through partnerships with industry and higher education institutions which offer workshops, expos and science fairs aimed at promoting STEM awareness and participation. We have targeted teacher development initiatives to strengthen the teaching of mathematics, mentoring of learners by teachers and external partners. A set programme run via the Cape Town Science Centre to visit districts and schools to host science and mathematics expos and run events at their premises throughout a given year to advocate and promote participation

in STEM subjects.

We also have our Career Clubs Programme launched in all eight districts, which is designed also to expose learners to a wide range of career opportunities, including career opportunities in STEM related fields. By driving participation and interest in STEM fields, of course, cannot be confined just to the FET phase, the high school phase. We also need to focus on building a strong foundation.

It is for that reason, hon member, that we launched a pilot on an early grade numeracy programme which will eventually reach every single learner and teacher in the Foundation Phase. As part of the pilot, all Grade 1 teachers at 70 schools have already received additional training, as well as teacher guides and learner books, and Math resource kits to support the new approach and to build that scaffolding in the Foundation Phase.

We, of course, continue with our #BackOnTrack Programme to improving learning outcomes across all grades, with, of course, Maths being one of the really key focus areas. This year, we have 15 450 Grade 4 and 7 learners from 223 primary schools attending Saturday classes and with a specific focus on Mathematics.

In the end, we need more learners choosing Maths, more learners passing Maths, and more learners passing Maths well here in the Western Cape. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: hon Minister, your time has expired. I recognise hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker and thank you hon Minister for that reply. A lot has been done. We cannot debate that. A lot has been done, but hon Speaker, you know, it is so heart-sore when you still go to certain communities. I have just engaged some pupils at Bonteheuwel High School and the only choice that they have is Math Literacy. There is no pure Maths, there is nothing for them. When you speak to these young learners and you ask them what they want to become, they have got dreams. But because they do not have the subjects to get to those dreams, it is heart-sore.

You know, people speak about being a medical doctor. I tell you, you know, I know earlier intervention must take place, but unfortunately, none of those learners that matriculate at Bonteheuwel High School and other schools I can mention, will be able to become a medical doctor, a veterinarian, or anything of that kind. It is heart-sore and that is my plea. So, hon Minister, I am not saying that you are not doing enough. I am in the Committee. We know, we visit and we know there is a lot being done.

But I am asking that there should be an emphasis also at these schools because it is almost impossible for them to get out of Bonteheuwel to go to another school that offers these subjects. It is almost impossible. You know the gang violence, you know transport. They do not have. Parents cannot provide transport. They do not have cars. They use taxis to get to a school outside of

Bonteheuwel. So that is my concern. It is not that nothing is being done. There is a lot being done, but I am still thinking of those youngsters in disadvantaged areas that do not have the same opportunity for a child that can go to a school that does offer all the subjects.

I know there are great stories. You know, some of the schools and in the areas get youngsters in. We have been to some of the schools, and we see the culture because we know that this poverty is going to continue in their family if they do not matriculate or do not do something with their lives. So, it means we just have more gangsters, our youngsters dropping out of school, a matriculant cannot go anywhere else and we have more youngsters on the street.

So, I am asking and I know what is being done, I am asking specifically in those areas where pupils do not have a choice for a subject to become a medical doctor, to become a scientist, to become whatever it is. So, that is what I am talking about, hon Minister. But thank you for the reply and I will come back with a second bite. Thank you.

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

Mr P JOHNSON (DA): hon Speaker, STEM subjects, science, technology, engineering and mathematics, play a vital role in transforming our economy and improving the lives of our people. The DA-led Western Cape Education Department continues to lead the country in developing innovative programmes that empower learners from disadvantaged communities to pursue these critical

fields.

In 2022, the DA-led WCED launched its Mathematics Strategy, now implemented in over 500 schools. This strategy challenges the notion that Maths ability is inert, proving that with effort and the right support, every learner can succeed. Through online curriculum tools, brain quests and Mathematics Celebration Days, the Department is changing how learners engage with the subject and improving participation in the FET Phase.

For younger learners in the 2024/2025 financial year, creative initiatives such as Story Stars and Maths are for Everyone Campaign, are cultivating enthusiasm for numbers from a very early age, using everyday examples. From counting stones to understanding angles in sport, the programme helps learners see that Maths is part of life. More than 40 000 colourful posters have been distributed to schools to reinforce this message.

Through these initiatives, the DA-led WCED is equipping learners across the province with the skills needed for critical STEM fields to drive our economy. Through #BackOnTrack Programme, the largest learning recovery initiative in South Africa, the WCED has provided targeted support to learners in these transitioning grades.

I would like to know from the hon Minister, with the success of the #BackOnTrack Programme, are these specific success indicators for the Mathematics component that the Department is using to measure its impact?

Thank you.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, let me firstly thank my dear colleague, the hon Christians for the Interpellation. I know he is very passionate about this particular subject.

Now, according to the Department's own 2024/2025 Annual Report, several initiatives are in place, as the hon Johnson has pointed out. The expansion of technical and vocational subjects, science fares, coding and robotics clubs, afterschool programmes through MOD Centres and the list can go on. We are not denying that at all and we welcome that, hon MEC.

However, these opportunities remain unevenly distributed. Learners in Quintile 1 to 3 schools, our poorest communities, still face limited access to laboratories, digital resources and qualified STEM educators. This is why and I face this situation where parents came to me. Belgravia High School was culling Mathematics. Glendale High School in Mitchells Plain: the hon Lekker has been receiving those reports, and it has been brought to us. Learners are discouraged from doing Mathematics. Calitzdorp High School, where the hon Stoffel is very active. The same thing has been happening: no resources to teach the subjects.

These are the realities on the ground. The Annual Report itself acknowledges

that infrastructure backlogs and educator shortages continue to undermine equitable access. If we are truly serious about preparing our youth for the future economy, a child in Nyanga, Mitchells Plain or Calitzdorp must have the same access to science and coding as a child in Durbanville. Today, hon MEC Maynier must make an executive undertaking to invest in training and developing teachers so that they are equipped with the confidence and skills ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: hon Sayed, your time has expired, you can conclude.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...for each STEM subject. Finally, in conclusion, the Department must partner with all sectors, especially organisations ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Sayed ...[Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: ...like *Ma Se Kind* which here today ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: To actually ...[Interjection.]

The SPEAKER: hon members, I am going to again kindly remind hon members when your time has expired. That is why there is a digital clock on the screens.

I ask you to please work with me so that we can get through the business of the day. I recognise the hon Michels. Alright, I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you. Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, when we visited the Leadership Institute in Kuils River not so long ago, we had a bit of a debate. The debate that we had was that when we look at Matric pass rates in the country, you know, the Western Cape is always fourth, fifth and we had a bit of a debate.

The point that I want to make is sometimes it is just about the pass rates, but we must look at the quality of the pass rates. Maybe, that is what I am also referring to: the quality. When I pass Matric and I have the certificate in my hand, it is a quality pass rate. That is what I am referring to. But when we looked at the statistics, when we looked at the statistics, Math Literacy is flooded. The numbers are increasing all the time, hon Minister, because we are worried about the pass rate.

If you look at Tourism, everybody is doing Tourism because it takes the pass rate higher. Maybe, hon Minister, your Department should have a discussion maybe with principals to say listen, what is the quality? What do we need in the economy of our country and our province? Can we not assist our learners to do STEM subjects in order to boost? So, when they matriculate, they can go and graduate, and when they graduate, they have a job.

We have done a survey of how many people with degrees that are absolutely

useless, sitting at home. Spending four years in university, three years in university and cannot find a job. How many matriculants after matriculating are sitting without jobs?

So, hon Minister, it is about quality. Let us get down to quality. Let us get our principals to say listen, when we put this learner through school there will be quality education. And we know Crestway High School is one of the examples. When we visited Crestway High School out in Retreat, I mean, the passion that that teacher had that offers Mathematics. It was something that you can be proud of and they brought back Science to the school. He said to me: come back at the end of the year, you will see the results.

So, we have beautiful stories, but that is not the majority of the cases that we see. So, really, it is just a discussion that we should have further. Maybe you with the National Minister as well and see how we can improve the lives of the most vulnerable in disadvantaged communities that do not have those choices. Thank you, hon Speaker.

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

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Thank you, hon Speaker. I do share the hon Ferlon Christian's concern. It is heart-sore and we do, I think, need to do more and we do need to ensure that we enable all our learners, as you put it, to reach their dreams.

But it is precisely for that reason, as I said in my opening remarks, that we will be expanding the number of Maths and Science focused schools, which I do want to point out do not offer Maths Literacy and certainly do not offer Tourism; why we will be looking in the year ahead at additional support through the BOT programme for learners studying Math in Grades 10 to 12. Of course, why we are investing in structured Math programmes in the Foundation Phase to build that scaffolding.

To the hon Peter Johnson. We have, I think, demonstrated a quite significant success, particularly with our Grade 4 and 7 Maths interventions under the BOT programme. Some hon members will recall that a study was done by the University of Stellenbosch which demonstrated that the largest gains for learners attending extra classes were specifically for Mathematics at Grade 7 level. Similarly, the largest gains made as a result of teacher training were also in Mathematics, both at Grade 4 and Grade 7 level. Which I think tells us, hon Speaker, is that there is clearly a need for further investment in this area, but more importantly and I think this is important. We can make incredible gains with targeted investments in a relatively short period of time. We can actually make a difference.

I would like to remind, of course, the hon Khalid Sayed that some of our best Maths schools, as I said in my opening remarks, are in fact, in Quintile 1 to 3 communities or serve Quintile 1 to 3 communities, and I mentioned COSAT, Fairmont High School, Siphamandla High School, Thandokhulu High School,

Manyano High School, Joe Slovo High School and Spine Road High School. Those are schools that serve Quintile 1 to 3 communities. Equally, our full investment in the #BackOnTrack programme, those 223 primary schools are all in Quintile 1 to 3 communities.

I would like to close by thanking the hon Ferlon Christians for raising this matter and I agree with him. We do need further discussion because the fact is, if we do not get Maths and Science participation right, we will not get education right. And if we do not get education right, we will not get economic growth right. And if we do not get economic growth right, we will not ultimately get South Africa right. So, in the end, we do need more learners choosing Maths, more learners passing Maths and especially, more learners passing Maths well here in the Western Cape and I am dedicated to that cause. Thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes Interpellation 1. We proceed to Interpellation 2 and I recognise the hon Minister Londt.

2. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander to ask Mr J J Londt, Minister of Social Development:

(a) What were the main reasons for the postponement of the Golden Games and (b) what impact did the postponement of the Golden Games have on the event's sponsors and financial backing?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Kaizer-Philander, thank you for the question. Things have changed a bit since this question was posed. So I will explain where we are now, give some background, and then if time allows, I will delve a bit deeper into that.

So the National Department of Social Development, as the event organiser for the National Active Ageing Programme, also known as the Golden Games, has communicated to the provinces that the Golden Games event originally scheduled for October in the Western Cape will now be postponed to May 2026 in the Free State. The National Department cited certain logistical and budgetary challenges as the reason for the postponement.

However, these logistical and budgetary challenges were not unknown to the National Department. On the 18th of July 2025, following a meeting held between the National and Provincial Older Persons Programme Office, provinces were notified in a presentation that the National Department planned to host the Golden Games in the Western Cape during October. That is two months to plan such a massive event.

The Western Cape Department of Social Development, HOD, Dr Robert McDonald, wrote to the National Department informing them that our Department does not have any budget allocation for this purpose in the 2025/26 financial year. And we also flagged the human resource capacity that is already stretched by operational demands in this province due to a combination of rising demand for services and limitations on the filling of the post. On the 4th of August, we received a formal letter only from National DSD requesting us to be a host.

This letter mentioned a request from National Department of Health to assist three other provinces who do not have the funding in supporting their participants. That was not offered to the Western Cape. On the 8th of August, Dr McDonald once again wrote to National DSD reiterating that we do not have a budget available for transportation, accommodation, sporting uniforms for participants in this province. We do, however, went ahead and tried to collaborate with sister departments, with other spheres of Government in this province to see how we can support this, even though we continuously flag that this is incredibly short notice.

On the 29th of August, we received another letter from National DSD detailing what was required of us. They ignored our previous correspondence stating that we did not have funding available for hosting duties or the request for funding assistance. Once again, we wrote to National DSD stating the budgetary position, the extreme short timeframe we'd been given to host it, just about two months. The difficulty in securing funding has been compounded by

the short notice, which normally takes six months to organise.

It must also be noted that the last time the Golden Games were held in Northwest, the event cost 4.8 million. 4.8 million that could actually go to providing a constrained environment in the Western Cape extra services. Now this event, after lots of back and forth, it was even the proposal that it should be moved to Bitou. There is the feedback, although not confirmed, that other provinces had already incurred costs to go to Cape Town, and then it was moved to Bitou and that is why all the provinces now raise the concerns around this.

It is now scheduled for next year, May, in the Free State, and this gives a bit more time for the Free State that was not offered to the Western Cape to plan this. We will continue following up and see how we can participate within the budget that is allowed. We are looking forward to people across the board supporting and getting extra funding to make this work.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

Ms WF KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Minister Londt, thank you very much for your comprehensive response. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker, hon Minister, the National DSD has once more failed in its basic duty to serve our people. The Golden Games, one of the most anticipated events for our senior citizens, men and women, who have built this country with their hard work and dedication, has been thrown

into chaos. What should have been a celebration of active ageing, unity and respect for our elders has instead become a symbol of national disaster and poor leadership.

After months of planning, provinces had already spent thousands on flights and accommodation, hon Minister, through you, hon Deputy Speaker, as well as logistics. And then, without proper communication or accountability, the event was postponed. And meanwhile, our provinces were left scrambling to recover funds and answer questions from confused participants who were ready and excited to take part. Hon Deputy Speaker, through you to the hon Minister, this is more than just an administrative failure.

It is a failure of respect, of integrity and of responsibility. Our older citizens deserve far better than being left in limbo because of a Minister who cannot manage her own department. Through you to the hon Minister, hon Deputy Speaker, I want to ask, were there similar challenges that you know of, Minister, experienced in previous years, or was this postponement an isolated case?

Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

[Speaker 13]

Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. I recognise the hon Kamfer.

Mr F KAMFER (ANC): Good morning, hon Speaker, Members in the House,

the people of the Western Cape. Hon Speaker, as the African National Congress, †spreek ons vandag ons diepe hartseer uit oor die uitstel van die Golden Games. Hierdie gebeurtenis, agbare Speaker, is veel meer as 'n sportbyeenkoms, dit is 'n viering van lewe, veerkragtigheid en waardigheid van ons bejaarde burgers.

Agbare *Deputy* Speaker, dit gee ons senior burgers 'n platform om aktief te bly, om te lag, om mee te ding en om deel te voel van 'n sorgsame gemeenskap, wat 'n bydrae tot die samelewing waardeer. *Hon Deputy* Speaker, ons wil die munisipaliteite in die provinsie prys, wat saam met hulle vennote daarin geslaag het om die Golden Games aan te bied. Hierdie poging toon ware toewyding tot die welsyn van ons bejaardes en opregte geloof in die belangrikheid van aktiewe veroudering.

Die Golden Games bemagtig ons senior burgers, dit bou selfvertroue vir beter gesondheid, sterk sosiale bande, herinner ons aan samelewing daartoe: ouer word, dit beteken nie dat mense onsigbaar raak nie. Deur hierdie aktiwiteit, *hon Deputy* Speaker, word ons bejaardes aangemoedig en met trots om deel te hê.

Agbare *Deputy* Speaker, wat egter werklik teleurstellend is, is die wyse waarop die Demokratiese Alliansie hierdie vraag gestel het. Dit is 'n enkele woord van bekommernis oor die bejaardes wat hulle kans verloor om deel te wees. Die DA-belange lê slegs by die borge en die finansiële steun. Dit is nie leierskap nie, *hon Deputy* Speaker, dit is 'n geleentheid waar toesig ~~toesak~~ verlang word.

Agbare *Deputy* Speaker, geen wonder ons bejaardes word verwaarloos, mishandel, agteruitgestaan, fasiliteite gelaat onder die bewinde regering. Hierdie ~~stoute~~ stilte onder die lyding van ons senior burgers, spreek boekdele. Agbare *Deputy* Speaker, die LUR moet vir ons sê wat sy plan is om hierdie spele weer in die provinsie terug te bring. Ek dank u.

[we today express our deep sadness about the postponement of the Golden Games. This event, hon Speaker, is much more than a sports event, it is a celebration of life, resilience and dignity of our elderly citizens.

Hon Deputy Speaker, it provides our senior citizens with a platform to stay active, to laugh, to compete and to feel part of a caring community that appreciates a contribution to society. Hon Deputy Speaker, we want to praise the municipalities in the province who together with their partners succeeded in presenting the Golden Games. This effort shows true commitment to the well-being of our elderly and true belief in the importance of active aging.

The Golden Games empowers our senior citizens, it builds self-confidence for better health, strong social ties, reminds us of participation therein, aging comes on it does not mean that people become invisible. Through this activity, hon Deputy Speaker, our elderly are encouraged to participate with pride.

Hon Deputy Speaker, what is really disappointing, however, is the manner in which the Democratic Alliance has put this question. It is a single word of concern about the elderly, we'll lose the opportunity to be a part. The DA's

interests lie only with the sponsors and the financial support. It is not leadership, hon Deputy Speaker, it is an opportunity where supervision is needed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, no wonder our elderly are being neglected, abused, left behind, facilities left under the reigning government. This silence in the suffering of our senior citizens speaks volumes. Hon Deputy Speaker, the MEC must tell us what his plan is to bring back these Games to the province again. I thank you.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Dankie agbare Kamfer. [The DEPUTY SPEAKER: thank you, hon Kamfer.] I recognise hon Michels.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): *Hon Speaker*, ek dink al die vorige members, agbare *members*, het basies gesê wat die NCC sê, ons *agree* honderd persent, die belangrikheid om weer die Spele terug te bring, want dit is vir baie van ons ou mense, iets waarna hulle, al aspek in die lewe op die stadium van baie se lewens, waarna hulle uitsien en ons ondersteun die gedagte of die *members* wat in *favour* praat dat dit weer teruggebring word. Dankie *hon Speaker*, *hon Deputy Speaker*. [Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Speaker, I think all the previous members, honourable members, basically said what the NCC says, we agree 100%, the importance of bringing back the Games again because it is for many of our aged something to which they, on the only aspect in their lives at this stage of many of their lives, are looking forward to and we support the idea of the hon members who speak in favour of it being brought back. Thank you, hon Speaker,

hon Deputy Speaker.]

†Die ADJUNKSPEAKER: Baie dankie, agbare Michels. Ek sien nou die agbare Kaizer-Philander.

[The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Michels. I now see the hon Kaizer-Philander.]

Ms WF KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, having heard from members in this House, I think it is high time that Minister Tolashe must take responsibility. The Golden Games is about our people, the elderly citizens of this country, who have given their lives to building South Africa we enjoy today. They deserve respect, dignity, and competent leadership.

Yet, under Minister Tolashe's watch, what should have been a celebration of our senior citizens has turned into a symbol of failure and neglect. When she is not failing the elderly at the Golden Games, she is failing the vulnerable South Africans who depend on SASSA social grants to survive. This event has shown us once again that the very people the hon Minister is meant to serve have been left behind, facing disappointment, despair, and disrespect.

Provinces have lost money that cannot be recovered. Participants who trained, prepared, and travelled with hope, have been left with nothing but frustration. The National Department of Social Development cannot continue to operate in this haphazard and careless manner. It is high time that the hon Minister

restores dignity, trust, and pride to the Golden Games and to the people of South Africa.

Hon Deputy Speaker, our elderly citizens deserve better, our nation deserves better, and accountability must start now. Through you, hon Deputy Speaker to the hon Minister, my last question in this Interpellation will be: what logistical or administrative failures contributed to the postponement? I know in your initial answer, hon Minister, you did make mention, if there is perhaps any other matters that you would want to share on this Interpellation. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. I recognise the hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. So I am going to start off by firstly just highlighting what we do spend. There is the older person support in this province, 241 million. Imagine if that 5 million that the Golden Games cost, must be taken away from the services from elderly, because this is what, hon Kamfer, you are advocating for, that we should take away funding from the programmes we already have.

Our argument is the opposite. We can host it. We were willing to host it. We were willing to participate. National DSD come and learn from the Western Cape all the time, and we open our doors to anybody coming to learn from the province. We can learn from one another, but we cannot put the residents, the

elderly at risk. Hon Stephens, imagine if that 5 million must be taken away from KSE or from Vermont. That is not acceptable, and it is our duty to fight for this province so that the services are not impacted.

We do want to host it, but you cannot impact the existing services. So give us the funding, and we will gladly host it. We will go out of our way to see if we can source some free services as well, which some of the municipalities and sister departments have offered as well. So that is important. There is a failure of respect, a failure of accountability, but more importantly, there was a failure of planning. We cannot do these things last minute.

So hon Kamfer, next time when your National Minister spends 3 million travelling to New York, maybe that 3 million can go to the Golden Games. Maybe that 3 million can make sure that people actually enjoy it the way you flag it. Hon Michels, thank you for your support. I also trust that we will get the support from your party nationally, that we get the funding so we do not have to impact the existing services in this province. Hon Philander, hon Deputy Speaker, I do not see the time remaining.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can see it on my side, 1.45.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you. Hon Kaizer-Philander, the Western Cape Older Persons Forum has informed the Western Cape Department of Social Development that they have struggled to secure donor funding to support their members to attend the Games due to the

uncertainty of the venue and the timing. The lack of a dedicated national budget to cover the full cost of the Games, including logistical costs for attendees such as accommodation and transport, are ongoing challenges.

Now that it has been confirmed that it is going to be held in the Free State, I do want to trust that the same offer that was extended to three other provinces to get funding to get the elderly to the Western Cape, that offer will be extended to the Western Cape. Now that there is a confirmed venue, that will allow us to get all of our ducks in a row and source extra funding to give our elderly the opportunity to participate. We are never against it, but we are against lack of planning, lack of accountability.

If we start getting the basics right, then this will be a success every single year, but you cannot chuck it on any province on short notice. Not Limpopo, the Free State, KZN, not the Western Cape. It is respect to your colleagues that serve the elderly, and then together we can deliver those services well. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister. That concludes Interpellation number 2. We will proceed to Interpellation number 3, and I recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Simmers.

3. Mr B N Herron to ask Mr T A Simmers, Minister of Infrastructure:

With reference to his reply to Question 6 of 3 October 2025 in which it

was explained that the land belonged to the Ndabeni Communal Property Trust and the National Government, meaning that any future plans must be directed to those owners:

What obligations, if any, does the Western Cape Government have to (a) include the settlement and the dwellers in a housing plan and (b) implement a service plan for the occupiers, regardless of who owns the land?

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker to the hon Herron, thank you for the question, and I will answer the A and the B part jointly through you, hon Deputy Speaker to the member. In alignment with the Western Cape Government's strategic approach anchored in the Informal Settlement Support Plan, or the ISSP, the prioritisation of informal settlements for intervention is guided by a set of criteria, including factors such as vulnerability, age or year of the establishment of the informal settlement, and other relevant considerations.

In this context, the informal settlement in question falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Cape Town, which is obligated to take reasonable and the necessary steps to ensure that all inhabitants within its area have access to basic services, as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. In addition, households that qualify for housing opportunities may be supported through Human Settlements Developments managed by either the City of Cape Town or my Department within the relevant catchment areas, further advancing

the objectives of inclusive and sustainable settlement upgrading. Thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the question that I asked to the hon Minister was about the future housing plans for the residents of the Wingfield informal settlement and about any plans for basic services for them. On Friday, the 3rd of October, I received this response: that the property in question is made up of two erven, neither belonging to the Western Cape Government. These are Erf 168241, belonging to Ndabeni Communal Property Trust, and Erf 21204, National Government of the Republic of South Africa. Here is the banger: Queries regarding future plans for the property should be directed to the registered owners, not the City of Cape Town, as the hon Minister is now saying.

The answer from a government that wears 'For You' on their backs, would be un-parliamentary to say, but the F and the U is close enough. This is a disgrace. It is a government shrugging its shoulders while people suffer, indifferent, uncaring, and unwilling to lift a finger because it is not their land. Conveniently, and according to the hon Minister, not their problem. This tired excuse of ownership as a reason for doing nothing has become a pattern, and one that has lost all moral and legal weight.

The Fischer v. Persons judgment, one that the hon Minister should know well,

made that clear. In that case, the City of Cape Town argued it could not intervene because the land was privately owned. The Western Cape High Court rejected that argument outright. The Court ruled that the constitutional duties to provide housing cannot be sidestepped by pointing to a title deed. More than that, the Court ordered the City to buy the land, so displaced residents could be permanently accommodated.

That judgment sets a landmark precedent. When Government has a constitutional obligation, it cannot hide behind ownership while people's dignity and security are on the line. This does not only apply to the City. The Court pointed out that the Constitution gives National, Provincial, and Local Governments a shared responsibility to ensure access to housing. No sphere gets to wash its hands of that duty. If the Courts could compel the City to purchase the Fischer land, why can the province not do the same, or at the very least, take proactive steps instead of sending dismissive answers?

These questions, hon Deputy Speaker, came from those residents. I guess I must go back to those residents and tell them that this hon Minister and this Western Cape Government have no interest in answering their questions. This is not about convenience or technicalities. It is about constitutional responsibility. The Province cannot say it is not our land and walk away while people remain displaced and desperate.

The Courts have already told us the State, in any form, must act reasonably to prevent the perpetuation of inequality, displacement, and indignity. The longer

the Government hides behind ownership, the longer it delays justice for those who have already been waiting for too long. Thank you.

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

Mr DJ WESSELS (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Minister has expressed that the property is made up out of two erven, neither belonging to the Western Cape Government. As such, all queries concerning the future plans of the property should be directed to the registered owners. However, hon Speaker, it is clear that the member asking the question has no understanding of the different spheres of government and how they function.

It is outrageous that member Herron does not comprehend the obligations of the Western Cape Government with respect to informal settlements, especially in relation to land not belonging to this province. Seeing that the informal settlement in question falls within the jurisdiction of the City of Cape Town, what does the Housing Act 107 of 1997 require municipalities to do to provide housing and basic services? Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Wessels. I recognise the hon Lekker.

Ms PZ LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I am not shocked by the response from the MEC on the matter. In fact, the input from the MEC is something that we already knew, and that the Government of the Democratic

Alliance does not care about the poor. The conditions that led to the residence of 8th Avenue, Gate 7 and Olympic informal settlement blocking Voortrekker Road in September, are not isolated. They are the same painful reality faced by countless communities across the province.

From the Bekela informal settlement in Philippi East to Marikana and the COVID-19 settlement created during the pandemic. In Bekela, our people have lived in so-called temporary structures for more than 18 years. There is no refuse collection. The communal toilets are blocked, broken and unclean. Promises of relocating have come and gone, while the DA Government hides behind excuses of private ownership, just as it does in Kensington, Factreton and Wingfield.

Hon Speaker, the Constitution does not say that the poor must wait for ownership papers before they receive dignity. It obliges all spheres of government, including the Western Cape, to progressively realise access to housing, water, sanitation and refuse removal. That is a constitutional duty, not a favour. All informal settlements established during the COVID-19 do not have access to basic services. When the DA says it cannot intervene because the land is privately owned, it exposes what we have long known, that this is the Government that hates the poor. It governs for those with property, not for those with need.

We call on the Provincial Government to stop hiding behind legal technicalities and start acting with compassion and urgency. The poor of this province cannot

continue to live without water, toilets and without energy.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. Thank you so much, hon Lekker. I now recognise the hon Michels.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): *Hon Speaker*, ja, ek het nou nie – maar laat ek sê ek, soos ek die *debate* volg en die posisie van die DA of die *governing party*, is nogal kommerwekkend, want op die einde van die dag gaan ons sit – die NCC sê op die einde van die dag gaan ons met 'n situasie sit waar ons mense will *exclude* deur die term *private ownership* te gebruik en as ons reeds sien wat veral in die *City* gebeur, hoe *prime land* of grond wat hulle beskou as *prime land*, verkoop aan die ryk mense wat op die einde van die dag die *governing party* se argument gaan *enforce*.

Maar ons kan nie dit doen nie, ons kan nie dit doen nie, as gevolg van dit, *private ownership*, en ons het baie grond in die stad, is daar beskikbaar vir ons mense en dit is onnodig dat ons mense so bly en dit is tyd dat die *Provincial Government* en die *City* hulle *act together* kry en besef dat hierdie provinsie bestaan nie net uit die *rich* uit nie en dit bestaan uit die *poor* uit, wat ook drome het en dat dit ons rol as *government* is, om daai drome te omskep in *a reality*.

En huidiglik is dit *clear* dat hierdie *government*, nie die wil het of belangstel om na die behoeftes en drome van ons mense te kyk nie. En dit is kommerwekkend dat ons – en *private ownership*, ja, dit mag behoort aan iemand, maar op die einde van die dag is dit hierdie *government* se rol om te

gaan en te sit met mense en te kyk of daai grond nie kan gekoop word vir ons mense vir behuising nie. Dankie.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Speaker, yes, I have not now - but let me say, I, as I follow the debate and the position of the DA, all of the governing party, it is actually concerning, because at the end of the day we are going to sit – the NCC says at the end of the day we are going to sit with a situation where we will exclude our people through the use of the term private ownership and if we already see what is happening in the City especially, our prime land or land that they regard as prime land being sold to rich people, who at the end of the day are going to enforce the governing body's argument.

But we cannot do it, we cannot do it, because of this, private ownership, and we have a lot of land in the city, that is available there for our people and it is unnecessary that our people live like that and the time has come that the Provincial Government and the City get their act together, and realize that this province does not only consist of the rich and it also consist of the poor who also have dreams and that it is our role as Government to convert those themes into a reality.

And currently it is clear that this Government does not have the will or is interested to look after the needs and dreams all of our people. And it is concerning that we - and private ownership, yes, it may belong to someone but at the end of the day it is the role of this Government to go and sit with people and see if that land cannot be bought for our people for housing. Thank you.]

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, we must be clear. This is not about who owns the land. It is about what this Government owes to the people living on the land. While I was asking about the residents in an informal settlement in Kensington, the response raises questions about this Government's attitude to settlements across the province.

When the hon Minister in reply to a different question of mine told us that there were 1,274 informal settlements across the Western Cape with approximately 405,000 households, did he include the people living on this land and others that do not live on Provincial Government land in those numbers?

If not, then we have a much bigger crisis of informality. This answer tells us that this Government does not give a damn. Hon Speaker, the hon Minister was morally and legally wrong to express such indifference. The Province has a constitutional and moral duty, and pretending otherwise is cowardice. Section 26 guarantees the right to adequate housing. Section 27 guarantees the right to basic services, dignity, sanitation, and safety.

Those rights do not vanish because the land belongs to someone else. Whether or not this Government owns the land, those residents are part of this province, and they deserve to be seen, planned for, and protected. The tired excuse of ownership has become a shield against accountability. After the judgement of *Fischer v. Persons*, that defence no longer stands. The Courts have made it

clear that the Government cannot hide behind a title deed while people live without shelter, toilets, or safety.

Housing is a shared constitutional duty across all levels of government, and no one gets to opt out because it is inconvenient. This is a moment for courage, and the Province should be engaging with National Government and the Ndebeni Trust, exploring joint land acquisition, service partnerships, or inclusion in the Provincial Government's housing development framework. I was going to ask about relocation, but let us be honest, this Government cannot even manage the ones it already promised.

These are not radical measures. Instead, the Province sends out replies declaring, not our land, as though that absolved it of responsibility. Waiting for a court order to force action is not leadership, it is failure. The Province has both the means and the mandate to act now, to plan, to coordinate, and to deliver services that restore dignity and safety.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this is not about title deeds or land titles, it is about lives, about whether people living in Wingfield or people in any of the 1,274 other informal settlements will continue to be treated as invisible. The Western Cape Government must step up, accept that land ownership is not a barrier to action, and commit to integrating this community into a tangible housing and service delivery plan, and at least have the humility to dignify the residents' questions with a decent answer. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Herron. I recognise hon Minister Simmers.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. I think, just to assist the hon Michels with what I am responding to, I am going to read the hon Herron's Interpellation question. "What obligation, if any, does the Western Cape Government have to (a) include the settlement and dwellers in a housing plan, and (b) implement a service plan for occupiers, regardless of who owns the land now? Given the history of Knoflokskraal and the alleged role of the hon Michels, and ironically sitting in front of the party who allegedly encouraged Knoflokskraal's invasion, it is quite apt that they sit one behind the other in this House, because Knoflokskraal is [indistinct – 1:34:41] sign of ultimately what happens when the law is misinterpreted or ignored.

Hon Wessels, Section 9(1)(a) of the Housing Act 107 of 1997, says the following.

"Every municipality must, as part of the municipality's process of integrated development planning, take all reasonable and necessary steps within the framework of national and provincial housing legislation and policy to:

- 1. Ensure that the inhabitants of its area of jurisdiction have access to adequate housing on a progressive basis, and*
- 2. Ensure that services in respect of water, sanitation, electricity,*

roads, storm water drainage, and transport are provided in a manner which is economically efficient.”

But it is important to note that the Housing Act 107 of 1997 clearly also outlines the respective roles and responsibilities of the three spheres of government in the housing delivery system ultimately. In terms of Section 7(1)(a) of the Act, every Provincial Government must, and it says do the following:

“...within the framework of national housing policy and legislation, do everything in its power to promote and facilitate the provision of adequate housing within its province.”

This is achieved primarily by supporting and capacitating municipalities, which are the designated housing development authorities in terms of Section 9(1). Accordingly, while the Western Cape Government has a statutory duty to promote, support, and monitor the implementation of housing programmes, the primary implementation responsibility for the planning, which is crucial, otherwise you have Knoflokskraal, prioritisation, and servicing of informal settlements rests with the municipality in whose jurisdiction the land and community fall.

Furthermore, Section 7(2)(a) provides that:

“The Provincial Government must not act in a manner that encroaches upon the functional or institutional integrity of a municipality, as

protected under Section 151(4) of the Constitution.”

Which the hon Herron also referred to. Therefore, any direct intervention by the Province on land not owned by it and falling under a municipal jurisdiction must occur only within the perimeters of cooperative governance, upon request, or through an agreed programme of support. In this instance, therefore, while my Department continues to work closely with the City of Cape Town to support the upgrading and service provision of informal settlements, the obligation for inclusion in housing and service delivery plans lies primarily with the City, in alignment with the national and provincial frameworks. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Minister, that concludes Interpellation. I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I want to make a proposal to the House:

That, notwithstanding the provision of Rule 18, that the subject for discussion in the name of the hon Kaizer-Philander be brought forward to before Oral Questions, meaning right now, if the House so wishes, I move that.

[As moved by the Chief Whip]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I put the question to the House. Is there any objections to the motion being moved?

There are no objections. It is agreed to.

Hon members, we will now proceed to the subject for discussion in the name of the hon Kaizer-Philander. I recognise the hon Kaizer-Philander.

SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION

Ms W Kaizer-Philander: The failure of the National Government to address adequately the systemic issues that are leading to the spate of child killings in the Western Cape.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Before I became a member, I was a mother and a parent, and I stand confronted with the painful truth that our children are being lost. They are being stolen by gangs, by drugs, and by despair. However, hon Deputy Speaker, as a citizen, I stand here today confronted with another painful truth. Our beloved South Africa is being betrayed, betrayed by those who swore an oath to serve and protect. Hon Deputy Speaker, dammit, is the word.

†Ek weet nie of dit onparlementêr is nie, agbare Adjunkspeaker, maar dit is die uitdrukking, dat 80 persent van moorde in die Wes-Kaap aan bende-aktiwiteite gekoppel is. *And again, dammit*, gaan dalk die rede wees dat u my gaan uitgooi

vandag, agbare Adjunkspeaker, maar dit is die eerste woord wat opgaan, dat tussen 1 April en 31 Augustus hierdie jaar, 62 kinders in die Wes-Kaap vermoor is, 63 kinders, elkeen met 'n naam, 'n gesig en 'n toekoms wat nou nooit sal realiseer nie en hoekom?

Want die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens, onder nasionale gesag, het gefaal om ons mense te beskerm.

[I don't know if it is unparliamentary, hon Deputy Speaker, but it is said that 80% of murders in the Western Cape are linked to gangster activities. And again, dammit, is probably going to be the reason that you are going to throw me out today Deputy Speaker, but it is the first word that comes up, that between 1 April and 31 August this year, 62 children were murdered in the Western Cape, 63 children, everyone with a name, a face and a future that now will never realise, and why?

Because the South African Police Service under national authority failed to protect people.] When the social fabric tears, crime thrives. corruption, cadre deployment, and incompetence rule, it is our communities that bleed. Chapter 8 of the Western Cape Constitution places a sacred duty upon this Government to promote the development and protection of the people of the Western Cape within its powers. And the Bill of Rights guarantees every child the right to be protected from neglect, abuse, and violence. Yet, here we are.

And hon Deputy Speaker, the Western Cape is not an island on its own. Children are dying, and the National Government is failing to act. Why do you

not give more policing powers to the Western Cape in order to adequately, effectively, and efficiently protect our children? So today, the Opposition parties on that side will say, focus on the Western Cape. And I say, yes, let us focus on the Western Cape. Let us talk about this province that is deliberately starved of police resources, where detectives are overworked, intelligence is absent, and communities are left exposed.

Hon Deputy Speaker, is this because this province is run by the DA? Is this political spite? Must our streets run red with blood every day, simply because we are the Western Cape? [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order members!

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Where are the national interventions? Where is the urgency to save our children's lives? Hon Deputy Speaker, the tragedy that we see is not inevitable. It is a direct result of social system collapse. When social grants are delayed, families go hungry. When families go hungry, children are recruited by gangs to survive. That is the reality. Hunger becomes a recruitment tool. And this is how poverty, neglect, and corruption become weapons against our children.

Hon Deputy Speaker, let us talk about social workers. There are only 15,000 employed nationally, and they are sure there should be 55,000. They should be identifying families at risk, intervening proactively, stopping the decay of households before children are exposed to gangs and crime. Instead, social

workers are overburdened, under-resourced, and left reacting to crisis instead of preventing them.

The Dondo Commission warned against cadre deployment, yet the ANC continues to pack key posts with friends, family, and loyalists. In 2021, 35 percent of senior managers did not meet qualifications. 60 billion in irregular expenditure, 4 billion unauthorised. And hon Deputy Speaker, still they claim there is no money. There is no money for schools, no money for social workers, and no money to protect our children. We know the truth. †Daar was geld. [There was money.]

Now, half a trillion to a trillion rand was stolen by corruption. Shame on you. How can you defend this? You have got blood on your hands. There is no money for our children's protection because of you. [Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Kaizer-Philander, are you able to take your seat?
I see the hon Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, I think thus far, both sides of the House have been very orderly in this particular Sitting. I think that must be commended. However, I think the hon Philander, and I understand this is a very emotive topic and understandably so, but the hon Philander, on a raise of a point of order, should not be referring and she is casting aspersions on members of this side of the House by saying you have blood on your hands. I am not asking you to rule at this moment, but please

look at the Hansard, because as far as I am concerned, that is out of order. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Sayed, before I rule and proceed, I see the hon Walters.

Mr T WALTERS (DA): Chairperson, just in that same vein, there was quite a fair amount of abuse thrown at member, interrupting her while she is speaking, coming from, you know, particularly the Leader of the Opposition's party. Can you also rule on this, before she made her comments that possibly could have been controversial? Can you possibly rule on that as well?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, we have stopped the clock at 2 minutes and 12 seconds. I want to caution the House and want to be very clear. On both sides of the aisle this morning, I heard the word damn. That particular word means one is expressing frustration and anger, or to strongly criticise. And I can understand that members in this House would have that particular feelings.

However, I would want to inform each and every member that we have a Speakers' List, and political parties are represented on that particular Speakers' List. And I will deeply encourage members to respect the decorum of the House, so that I do not need to interrupt the speaker while he or she is delivering their speech, because all political parties will have the opportunity to make their submissions. I trust that that is in order, and I will request that the member

proceed with her input at this particular time, and that members will maintain the decorum of the House. Thank you.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. And what we see today from the Opposition is noise, drama and grandstanding. While our children die, they perform for headlines. While communities plead for protection, they play politics with people's pain. They mock our call for revolution of policing powers, yet this call is not political theatre. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is a call for survival.

It is the constitutional right of the people of the Western Cape to protect its citizens. †Maar hier in die Wes-Kaap, agbare Adjunkspeaker, [But here in the Western Cape, hon Deputy Speaker,] the DA leads with action, not excuses, and we indeed step up. Under the DA governance, the Western Cape Department of Social Development continues to deliver efficiently, transparently and with measurable impact.

From child and family support to GBV and youth programmes, the Department channels billions directly into communities – into communities, †in niemand se sakke nie [into no-one's pockets] – into communities, empowering thousands through food relief, care worker training, skills development and shelter support. These are not abstract numbers, hon Deputy Speaker, these are lives transformed. This is what it means to govern with purpose. And yet again, this debate is not about politics. It should not be about politics. It should be about protection.

Yes, I have to mention the ANC, †want reg is reg, verkeerd is verkeerd, een plus een was nog altyd twee, agbare Adjunkspeaker [because right is right, wrong is wrong, one plus one has always been two, hon Deputy Speaker.] It is about the sacred duty to defend the most vulnerable. We will continue to step up, legislating reforms, building systems, protecting children. We will continue to fight, not with noise, but with action, not with slogans, but with results. Because they may be children, but their right to safety, to hope and to life is larger than any excuse.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this, I am shouting because I am a mother, I am a parent. If you cannot feel this today, but this is typical the ANC, you have lost touch and that is why there are this few members here today.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): ...that you are. Hon Deputy Speaker, this is the South Africa we fight ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Kaizer-Philander, your time has expired.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): ...we will deliver. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. I now recognise

the hon Benson Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. On behalf of the ANC, we call for a holistic approach and solution driven on violent crime. And thus, we call on President Ramaphosa to classify and declare violent crime as a national disaster. Hon Speaker, whilst we thank hon Philander for bringing this debate, but let us be clear from the onset, this debate is framed on a foundation of dishonest and political cowardice. Philander, member Philander and her new Liberal DA commit to fundamental blunders, all rooted in their dishonest and political cowardice. ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): They refuse ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, are you able to take your seat? I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to know if the hon Ngqentsu is prepared to take a question on that statement.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, I put the question to you. Are you prepared to take the question?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): First, they refuse to take political responsibility for the explosion of violent crime under their watch as their ruling party in the Western Cape and the City of Cape Town. Instead, they do what they always do best, that of apportioning blame to everyone else while washing their hands of accountability. Second, they isolate one aspect of a far deeper crisis, pretending violence can be discussed in fragments, as if it is not a systematic collapse rooted in the chronic crisis of underdevelopment, inequality, unemployment, and neglect.

Hon Speaker, this framing exposes the DA's intellectual and moral bankruptcy. It reveals the leadership [indistinct – 1:49:55] the lived experiences of the working class. We can only relate with you, member Philander, because we know where you are from. You are not faking, unlike the white elite leading the DA. This is not a surprise, as I have indicated. Crisis, crime is in Khayelitsha, is in Mitchell's Plain, is in Hanover Park, is in Paarl East.

They do not live there where bullets fly. They do not bury the children every weekend. They do not hear the wailing of mothers whose sons are swallowed by gangs. Those are the realities reserved for the black working-class families. The very people that DA uses for votes, abandons them the next day. Hon Speaker, this House is not a talk shop for political theatrics. It exists to make

laws and hold those in authority accountable. Yet the DA's framing of this debate seeks to reduce Parliament to exactly that, a debating club, where symptoms are discussed and causes are ignored.

Today, they want us to debate the killing of children. Tomorrow, they want us to debate the killing of women, the killing of ambulance drivers, the killing of SASSA workers, as if these tragedies are isolated, they are not. They are all the results of one thing, violent crime crises spurring out of control under the DA-led Government. Let us face it, hon Speaker. Black working-class communities of Mitchell's Plain, of Kraaifontein, and of Philippi are under siege. These are war zones, not communities.

Where we stand, the enemy is not just gangsters and extortionists with guns. It is also the Government that fails to act, a government that fails to address the environmental design of black working-class townships. Thus, in one week, between 3 and 9 of November 2025, 101 murders were recorded in Cape Town. Secondly, this report tells us that 101 lives lost in seven days, yet the DA comes here to push and play politics and tell us about the whole tired rhetoric of devolution of powers.

For all to know, when children are recruited into gangs, it is not by choice, it is by circumstances. The chronic poverty, unemployment, inequality in township, the lack of sport fields, honourable Ricardo, recreation centres, libraries, and youth programmes, these are breeding grounds for despair. Take Nyanga, hon MEC, where †abantwana [children] practice soccer on dusty open

fields next to the N2, dodging stone and glass, and danger because of this DA Government refuses to build them proper facilities, as well as swimming pools.

Last year, I shared a painful story about Siphon, a young boy drawn into gangs because he had no opportunities. Hon MEC Mackenzie dismissed it, mocked it, and as usual, blamed the National Government. Today, I return with a tragedy. Siphon is dead. He died in the hands of bullies, another statistic in the city that has become a slaughterhouse. For all to know, Siphon was not killed by a rival gang. Siphon was killed by this DA Government that has failed to invest in the youth, in jobs, in hope, you have blood on your hands.

Hon Speaker, they cannot come here to pretend that this crisis can be managed ...[Interjection]

An HON MEMBER: Mchunu has got blood in his hands.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...[indistinct – 1:52:27] and political games.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, are you able to take your seat? I recognise the Chief Whip.

The CHIEF WHIP: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, I am not sure if I heard you earlier when hon Syed rose on a point of order with the reference blood on your hands. I am not sure if hon Syed meant that it only applies to this side of the House, but it should still apply to his caucus as well. I am not sure why hon Ngqentsu

would use that term when the Leader of the Opposition raised an objection to the term being used. I know that there are challenges in the ANC, but surely they cannot be that divided.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am prepared to make a ruling at this particular time, but before I do so, I see the hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received procedural advice that I can conclude before I see the hon Lekker, so if you are able to take your seat. Hon members, I can confirm that after engaging with the Table Staff, that particular terminology is deemed to be un-parliamentary and I will caution members to not use it in this particular House. I now see the hon Lekker. And I will, before the hon Ngqentsu, proceed for him to withdraw accordingly.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I see you now, hon Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I would like to caution you, hon Deputy Speaker. The same wording was used by member Philander and you chose that you are going to make a ruling at a later stage. Now, I wish to request as and when you ask member Ngqentsu to withdraw, you do the same with member Philander. And I think on a fair basis, the concept of *mutatis mutandi* in this case applies.

Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, let me proceed. Let me proceed. And at this particular time, the Chair does not need to be cautioned, but the Chair will also appreciate input from the House. Let me say at this particular time, I am first going to look at the hon Kaizer-Philander and then request that the hon Kaizer-Philander withdraws the statement. And then I will look to my left to the hon Benson Ngqentsu. And before he proceeds, I will request that he also withdraws that particular statement. And there will be two minutes left on the clock. Hon Kaizer-Philander, I note you.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. The disciplined member that I am, I withdraw. Thank you very much.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Kaizer-Philander. Hon Ngqentsu, I would request that you withdraw your comment before you proceed with two minutes remaining on the clock.

†Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Ndizakwenza kanjalo nam, Sekela Somlomo.
[I will do the same, Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon member has withdrawn.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Given the state of violent crime in Cape Town, it is evident that violent crime has reached a catastrophic proportion. The

Western Cape is bleeding. Therefore, on behalf of the African National Congress, once again, we call on the President Ramaphosa to classify and declare violent crime in the Western Cape as a national disaster, because this Government has no capacity to respond to the systemic and structural challenges facing our people, which are responsible for the rate of violent crime in this township.

Because it is only then we can mobilise all departments, coordinate across all spheres, and unlock emergency funding to confront this crisis head-on. We make this call because the DA cannot. The DA is incapable of complementing SAPS. Instead, it hides behind its tired rhetoric about devolution of police powers, as if a control will serve as a Panado to respond to the challenges they face. This Government fails to respond or execute powers where they have provincial competence, and that is why, only in Cape Town alone, we have more than 953 squatter camps. ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair, member.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Yet, you are yet to have capacity, we have competency. Premier Winde, you have no policy. You have no plan. What do you need ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Ngqentsu, are you able to take your seat? Is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP? Yes, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the member is very passionate, but he has to address you. The Premier is currently not in the House, so we would like you to keep a record of what is being said, please.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have the floor. Hon members, during a heated debate and discussion, I would once again urge members to please speak via the Chair. Hon Ngqentsu, you have 34 seconds.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): This province, hon Deputy Speaker, is in a pilot. It is for that reason that the Premier could not process the Police Ombudsman Report for a number of years. Should he have processed it, we are not going to be where we are today. It is for that reason that that report must be handed to a Commission of Inquiry to ensure that the rot is dealt with and that the President indeed intervenes and ensures that a National State of Disaster is declared, because this Government has no political will, because our people are dying, and it is only those of Mitchell's Plain, of Hanover Park ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): ...of Philippi East who are dying, not where the white elite ...[Interjection]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Ngqentsu. I now recognise the hon Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Today, we speak with heavy hearts. Too many of our children in the Western Cape have been killed. Innocent lives lost to crime, drugs and gangsterism. These are not accidents. These are the result of a National Government that has failed its people, failed our families and failed our children. The Patriotic Alliance says enough is enough. For years, communities have been crying out for help, but the Government has turned a deaf ear.

Our police stations are understaffed, our social workers are exhausted, our mothers are living in fear, and while our children are being buried, the National and Provincial Government do nothing but make speeches. We want to say this loud and clear. This is not just the Western Cape problem. This is the South African crisis. The National Government has abandoned our communities, and when a government fails to protect its citizens, especially its children, that government has lost its moral authority to lead.

The PA is calling for urgent decisive action. Deploy the South African National Defence Force into gang-ridden areas. Our communities have become war zones, and if the Army can protect our borders, it can protect our children. Strengthen Child Protection and Social Services immediately. Provide resources to Community Safety structures that are already doing the work the Government has failed to do and hold every official accountable who ignores their duty to keep our children safe. We cannot allow criminals to rule our streets. We cannot allow fear to destroy another generation.

The Army must be brought in to stabilise our communities, to restore peace, to protect our families, and to give our children a chance to live without fear. PA stands with every mother, every father, every community that is tired of crying and tired of empty promises. We will continue to fight until the National Government acts or steps aside for leaders who will put our people first. Enough talking. Enough failure. It is time for action.

And we call on South Africa to stand together on the 1st of December, wearing all black, to say we had enough of senseless killings. It is time to protect our children. Coloured lives matter. Coloured lives matter does not mean we are excluding you. It is just to say stand with us, since we, as Coloureds, have a crisis within our communities, and no one stands up for us. This is the time we need to show the world that there is a need from Coloured communities.

It is a cry for solidarity. Let us come together on the 1st of December 2025 to show the world. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stevens. I now recognise hon Cassiem.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I find it shocking that the DA will sponsor a debate of this nature, taking into account that their political party also forms part of the National Government under the so-called GNU. So if there are failures by the National Government, it is obvious that this also means that all those parties under the GNU are failing

us, including the DA.

But it is also a reality, hon Deputy Speaker, that it is true rather that crime in the Western Cape has increased under the watch of the DA, who has been governing this province for almost two decades. And if this governing party of this province was really serious about eradicating crime in the Western Cape, it would not take them almost two decades to find solutions to this issue.

Because of the DA's failure here in the Western Cape as well, to address the root causes of crime, our children are not only butchered on a daily basis, but they are also active participants representing gangs, and some of them as young as seven years old, who are given targets to rob and kill within our communities on a daily basis. Hon Deputy Speaker, our children have lost hope, while gangsters are becoming their idols, all due to the fact that gangsterism is going unchallenged to a degree that they have become acceptable within our communities.

Our children are being robbed of their childhood. And because of this, their commitment to education is seen as almost meaningless, because even qualified teachers and doctors who cannot find jobs in this province have no option but to give in to drug and gang activity just to put bread on the table. But hon Deputy Speaker, policing this issue is never going to work if both the National and Provincial Government do not address the root causes of crime, especially in African and Coloured communities.

Because even the Education and Social Development Departments, among others, are failing when it comes to developing programmes that will take these children away from being in conflict with the law, or even worse, being killed due to gang violence. The Premier's Safety Plan that was supposed to safeguard our children and decrease crime in this province is instead a complete failure, with more than 10 people being killed in this province on a daily basis under the Premier's watch.

In conclusion, hon Speaker, those running this province at the moment must just admit that they are failing the task of fighting crime in the Western Cape, both provincially and nationally, where they serve. Thank you.

[The Speaker takes the Chair.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member. I now recognise the hon Van Minnen.

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Speaker, we are here today to confront a national failure, the failure of the South African Police Service. The Service has failed women, failed children, and failed every community that lives in fear while criminals roam free. In the Western Cape, children are dying, not from disease, but from bullets, not from fate, but from failure.

Let me be clear. The death of children lies at the feet of the National ANC Government, who has abandoned its responsibilities to the Western Cape, an

ANC that has presided over the transformation of the State to not just a gangster's paradise, but to a national criminal cartel with SAPS hijacked by criminals, and this has been allowed to happen for the past 30 years. Hon Speaker, let me paint you a picture.

In February 2025, four-year-old Davin Africa lies sleeping in his home on Happiness Street in West Bank, a name that mocks the hell that is about to unfold there. A stray bullet from gang crossfire pierces his frail body, ending a life not yet begun. Two years earlier, his 12-year-old sister, Kelly Amber Koopman, was murdered in the same corner of the city, shot dead during a blackout, National Government again that left her exposed like prey in the dark.

This is not one family's curse. This is part of an epidemic. Our province is plagued by between 90 and 130 active gangs with over 100,000 members. These gangs steal futures. They recruit children, adolescents, teenagers, and our hope for the future. Because when National Government has abandoned them, gangs offer belonging to children, identity and protection. When the police are absent, the gang becomes the law. The gang becomes the family. Evidence shows us that children are being recruited into gangs more frequently and are being exposed to the most violent and extreme elements of their activities from as young as the age of 12.

That means when it comes to the homicide rate for children, the highest rates occur in the 15 to 17-year-old age group, and particularly among boys. And who pulls the trigger? Not just the gangs. Oh no. The real shooters are the

architects of neglect, a National Government whose historic failures are as deliberate as they are deadly. First, the policing apocalypse. The South African Police Services, SAPS, is a hollow shell in the Western Cape.

Anti-Gang Units patrol without radios that work, more than half their vehicles rusting in lots like forgotten promises, no specialised training, bad understaffing, and lack of detectives. Which takes us to our second point. Let us talk about what SAPS calls case management. The benchmark number of cases per detective should be 60. But in Nyanga, detectives are handling 73 cases each. In Khayelitsha, 115 cases each. In Harare, 109. And in Philippi, a single detective is juggling an unimaginable 193 cases.

And this is important, because only SAPS has the mandate to investigate and have detectives. Detectives matter in terms of dealing with gun crime, which is why we have a conviction rate of less than 5 percent. Let me repeat that. Only SAPS has the right and the ability to have detectives and investigative powers. How can justice prevail when one detective must investigate nearly 200 cases? How can victims find hope when the system itself has given up on them?

It is because of this betrayal that the DA-run Western Cape Government has been forced to step up and do what the National Government will not. Through the Law Enforcement Advancement Plan, LEAP, we have placed boots on the ground, increased visibility, and restored a sense of safety in areas where SAPS has failed. But the Western Cape cannot and should not be expected to replace

SAPS.

We cannot replicate their investigative mandate, no matter how hard we try. Particularly when the National Government refuses to share that power to investigate in the first place. Our message today is simple. We will not allow the National Government's failure to define our destiny. We will not allow women and children to live in fear. We will not be silent while the ANC looks the other way and attempts to shift the blame again and again and again, as they are right this moment.

Expand investigative policing power. Arm our police with tools, not excuses. Strengthen our local police, funded in the Western Cape by the Western Cape, with supplementary powers to investigate. Allow the Western Cape to build safety where dreams, not dealers, thrive. Hon Speaker, to the people of the Western Cape, I say this: the DA will not stop fighting for your safety. We will continue to expose the failure of SAPS, to hold the National Government accountable, and to build the partnerships that restore peace, justice, and dignity in our community. Because safety is not a privilege, it is a right. I thank you.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon Van Minnen. I now recognise the hon Michels.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker. The DA is something else, really. I mean, they are part of the National Government. They are part of this National Government. †So wat hulle basies sê is dat hulle is *equally responsible*. [So what they basically say is that they are equally responsible.] They blame the National Government, meaning they are equally responsible for what they blame them for. †'n Jaar gelede het die Premier in die eerste Wetgewer erken dat die begroting van Onderwys en Gesondheid gesny was om gemeenskapsveiligheid te herlei, dat dit herlei word vir die implementering van die Wes-Kaapse Veiligheidsplan.

Die Wes-Kaapse Veiligheidsplan, waarop die DA-regering al meer as R2 biljoen *ge-spend* het en vandag vra hulle vir ingryping van die Nasionale Regering. So wat hulle sê, *it was a R2 billion rand wasted*. Die Premier sit al vir jare op 'n verslag van die Polisie Ombudsman rakende die verhouding tussen die bendes en die Suid-Afrikaanse Polisie diens in die Wes-Kaap en sy voorganger, Helen Zille, het geweier om 'n kommissie aan te stel om die beweringe van die DA-beheerde Burgemeesterskomitee, lede van die Stad Kaapstad en lede van die Provinsiale Uitvoerende Komitee wat tenders aan bendes gee.

Agbare Speaker, die sistemiese probleme wat lei tot die toename in kindermoorde, kan by die voete van die DA-regeerde Stad van Kaapstad en die Wes-Kaapse Regering gelê word, die DA beskerm die bendes ten koste van die lewens van jong onskuldige kinders op die Kaapse Vlakte. As die NCC is ons gekant, is ons nie gekant teen die versoek vir die ingryping van die Nasionale Regering nie, maar hoekom nou, op die vooraand van 'n plaaslike

regeringsverkiesing?

Tot en met die DA ophou om die bendes te beskerm en te beloon met tenders, gaan nie eens die ingryping van die Nasionale Regering ons onskuldige kinders beveilig nie. [Tussenwerpsel]

[A year ago the Premier acknowledged in this very Legislature that the budget of Education and Health had been cut to relay Community Safety and that it is being redirected for the implementation of the Western Cape Safety Plan.

The Western Cape Safety Plan, on which the DA Government has already spent more than two billion, and today they ask for intervention of the National Government. So what they are saying, is that it was a R2 billion rand wasted. The Premier has been sitting for years on a report of the Police Ombudsman on the relationship between the gangs and the South African Police Service in the Western Cape and his predecessor, Helen Zille, refused to appoint a Commission to investigate the allegations of the DNA controlled Mayoral Committee, members of the City of Cape Town and members of the Provincial Executive that award tenders to gangs.

Hon Speaker, the systemic problems that lead to the increase in child murders can be laid at the feet of the DA governed City of Cape Town and the Western Cape Government, the DA protects the gangs at the expense of the lives of young innocent children on the Cape Flats. As the NCC, we are opposed...we are not opposed to the request for the intervention of the National Government, but why now, on the eve of the local government elections?

Until the DA stops to protect and reward the gangs with tenders, not even the intervention of the National Government would safeguard our innocent children [Interjection]].

†Die SPEAKER: Agbare Michels, jou tyd is verstreke.

[The SPEAKER: Hon Michels, your time has expired.]

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Sorry?

The SPEAKER: Your time has expired. Just for noting, there is a digital clock, hon member, on the screen that you can follow while you deliver your speech for next time.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Oukei, die NCC vra dus dat die DA uit die water uitstaan ...[Tussenwerpsel] [Mr J MICHELS: Okay, the NCC therefore asks that the DA stands out of the water...[Interjection]]

The SPEAKER: Your time has already expired, hon member.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. I now recognise the hon Marais.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, the

ANC has ushered in a culture of incompetence and corruption between 1994 and 2024. This has led to a national socio-economic and security crisis we are faced with today. We have a shortage of police officers to the size of our population ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, please take your seat. There is a point of order in the Chamber. Hon Ngqentsu, is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Ja, thanks, Chair. Can the vacillating member, is he prepared to take a question?

The SPEAKER: I will ask the member if he is prepared to take a question. Hon Marais, are you prepared to take a question?

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Speaker, I will take a question next week when we have tea.

The SPEAKER: Order.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): When we have tea together, not today.

The SPEAKER: All right. The hon member is not prepared to take a question. You may continue.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): Thank you very much. Hon Speaker, we also have a

shortage of detectives in the Western Cape, the largest shortage of all the provinces. High vacancies in terms of state prosecutors, further exacerbating the low conviction rate, especially in child-killing criminal cases. Backlog of forensic DNA samples not processed yet. The hon Ian Cameron quoted 140,000, more than 140,000 outstanding for processing, resulting in criminal cases being withdrawn from the Court roll.

These systemic issues allow criminals to re-offend time and time again. It is a travesty of justice. But, hon Speaker, the Western Cape Government must respond to these challenges and rescue our children living in gang-infested areas. We must respond by building more schools of skills for training so that kids who drop out of school can have a skill before they are approached by gangs.

We need to bring back the Walking Bus initiative, which was a community-driven initiative stopped by the DA for financial reasons. Hon Speaker, these are things we have to do, and the Freedom Front Plus calls that the Western Cape Safety Plan be a youth-focused crime prevention initiative and strategy. In conclusion, hon Speaker, the minimum sentences for child-killing should be increased to 20 years without the option of parole. That is what this House must call for. Let us have more devolution ...[Interjection]

The SPEAKER: Hon Marais, your time has expired.

Mr G MARAIS (FF+): ...of powers for the Western Cape. I thank you, hon

Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, are we busy with statements?

The SPEAKER: No, we are not at the statements yet. We are still busy with the Subject for Discussion. Order, members! I can answer the member. The member directed the question to me. Hon Brinkhuis?

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I am covered. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Minister Marais.

The MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Hon Speaker, children remain among the most vulnerable members of our society when it comes to crime. They are too often the victims of violence, abuse and neglect. And tragically, in many cases, the perpetrators are not strangers, but people they know, trust and have allowed into their lives.

This reality makes it particularly difficult for law enforcement to prevent such crimes, as much of the violence occurs behind closed doors, hidden from public

view. It is therefore crucial that as communities we do not turn a blind eye. Friends, neighbours, family members and colleagues all have an important role to play in protecting those who cannot protect themselves.

When we see the signs of abuse, we must not remain silent. Silence and inaction allow the cycle of violence to persist and perpetrate itself from one generation to the next. Speaking up and reporting incidents of violence against children is not merely an act of courage, it is a moral duty that each of us shares.

Hon Speaker, the Western Cape Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety continues to empower ordinary citizens to assist the police and other law enforcement agencies in creating safer communities. We are doing this through the establishment of Neighbourhood Watches, Farm Watches and by providing support to Community Policing Forums.

These structures play an invaluable role in strengthening partnership between law enforcement and communities. By promoting citizen involvement, we are building a collective network of vigilance and accountability. Citizens who play an active part in creating safer neighbourhoods remain an essential pillar of our province's safety ecosystem.

As a Provincial Government, we are doing everything within our power to support the South African Police Service in their policing efforts. One of our key contributions has been the deployment of more than 1,200 additional law enforcement advancement plan officers to areas experiencing the highest levels

of violent crime and murder. These officers are strategically placed where the need is greatest, supplementing the efforts of SAPS in restoring order and saving lives.

We also provide strategic and data-driven support through initiatives such as the Hotspot Policing Project, which channels policing resources to specific areas within police precincts based on crime pattern analysis. This evidence-based approach has already yielded positive results, contributing to measurable reductions in violent crime in targeted precincts over recent crime reporting quarters. However, hon Speaker, despite these advances, the proliferation of illegal firearms continues to exacerbate the cycle of violence, especially violence against children.

These weapons empower criminals to commit more deadly acts, turning disputes into fatalities and transforming entire neighbourhoods into battlefields. It is an unbearable reality that children are often caught in a crossfire of these senseless territorial wars. I have repeatedly called on the SAPS to intensify their efforts to remove illegal guns and ammunition from our streets.

Every illegal firearm confiscated represents not only a weapon taken out of commission, but a potential life saved. In the recent months, through coordinated operations involving SAPS, the Cape Town Metro Police and LEAP officers, large quantities of firearms and ammunition have been successfully seized. These successes demonstrate what can be achieved when different law enforcement entities collaborate effectively.

Nonetheless, the SAPS in the Western Cape remains severely under-resourced. This chronic lack of resources poses a major obstacle to effective policing and undermines the fight against violent crime and gangsterism. For years, the Western Cape Government has appealed to the National Government to allocate additional policing resources to our province, appeals that have too often gone unanswered.

While we welcome the 1,000-plus new recruits allocated to the Western Cape in December 2025, this measure alone cannot undo the consequences of more than a decade of neglect in national policing priorities. It will take sustained investment and strategic planning to rebuild SAPS' capacity to the level that our communities urgently require.

Hon Speaker, I am cautiously optimistic following the statements made by Acting Minister of Police, Professor Cachalia, who recently acknowledged both the magnitude of the policing challenges facing the Western Cape and the lack of a coherent national plan to address gangsterism.

This recognition is an important first step. We trust that it will now translate into urgent, tangible action, including the development of a comprehensive strategy to dismantle organised criminal networks and reclaim our communities from the grip of gangs. Yet, it must be said that policing alone cannot solve the deeply entrenched problem of gangsterism. Crime and violence are not created in a vacuum. They are symptoms of broader socio-economic realities.

Unemployment, poverty, inequality, substance abuse and the breakdown of social inclusion all contribute to the conditions that breed criminality. If we wish to build truly safe and healthy communities, we must address these root causes in partnership with citizens, civil society and the private sector. This integrated approach lies at the heart of our Western Cape Safety Plan 2.0. The plan recognises that true safety extends beyond the presence of law enforcement.

It is about prevention, empowerment and opportunity. By tackling the underlying drivers of violence, economic exclusion, limited opportunities and social disconnection, we can create an environment in which crime struggles to take root. An integral component of the Western Cape Safety Plan will be the development of Local Community Safety and Development Plans. These will be tailored to the unique challenges and dynamics of each community. We know that every area has its own story, its own struggles and its own strengths.

The Mitchell's Plain Safety and Development Plan focusses on empowering, up-skilling residents, addressing the socio-economic challenges that drive people, particularly young people, into the arms of gangs. The plan places a strong emphasis on youth development, creating meaningful opportunities that steer young people away from crime and towards productive futures.

Hon Speaker, the safety of children and all residents of the Western Cape will always remain our foremost priority. We cannot rest until every person,

regardless of where they live, feels safe in their home, their street and their community. Together, through vigilance, compassion and collective responsibility, we can and will create a safer, more just Western Cape for all. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! Order! I recognise the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this is a very important debate because as the ACDP, Lord, we believe children are a gift from God and need to be protected according to the Constitution and the Children's Act.

Hon Speaker, we have – in South Africa we celebrate Child Protection Week and that is from 29 May to 5t June, and the theme was “Working together in enduring violence against children”, but, hon Speaker, we must all work together.

When I say that, it is Government, civil society, families, individuals, to safeguard our children, but, hon Speaker, let me also say there was an article released by the Institute of Security Studies, 5th of June 2025, where there was a conference out in Colombia and our Minister, the National Minister, Social Development Minister, was there, and Ministers from 102 countries, and they made a few commitments.

Let me just remind the House what the Minister committed to.

1. To implement evidence-based parenting programmes in 52 districts to ensure a safe home environment for our children and to reduce the abuse of children and corporal punishment by parents and caregivers.

It is also said South Africa pledged that psychosocial services will be available 24 hours a day to parents and caregivers in distress, and they said ultimately this will potentially decrease the violence against children.

So, hon Speaker, we can debate, but this is everybody's problem and we all need to step up to reduce the violence against the most vulnerable. I thank you.

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

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, this debate is fundamentally dishonest. The DA has been in control of the Western Cape on its own for nearly 20 years. If the best it can do is blame National Government for spiralling violence, we must ask what is the point of having a Provincial Government at all?

Besides which the DA is in the National Government. Children have been let down by Government at all levels, let down by indifferent policing, let down by increasingly irrelevant provincial politicians, nominally in charge of housing, schools, health, transport, safety, and let down by a City hellbent on

proclaiming itself the best run in the world, but only in certain areas.

A few years ago, hon Speaker, I was introduced to a 14-year-old girl who was abducted from the streets of Mitchells Plain and taken to Strandfontein Beach, where she was raped throughout the night. She survived because the perpetrator was interrupted in the act of slitting her throat from ear to ear by an off-duty policeman who happened to be walking his dog. She is back at school now despite never having received proper trauma or HIV counselling. In fact, the Western Cape's Provincial Hospital did not even tell her she was HIV positive.

Several appointments with social workers were missed due to not having money for transport. Social Services has not bothered to visit the home. She lives in a road that opens into a bleak courtyard of sorts. There is no food in the home when I last visited. It is a cold, anti-social environment. A number of houses in the immediate vicinity are smokies or tik houses. To get to school she must pluck up the courage to walk past these places. She wears a light scarf to cover her scar. She survived by a miracle.

It takes daily miracles for hundreds of thousands of children to survive life in the ghettos, let alone develop with dreams intact. Her story strips the DA's concern about the so-called systemic issues responsible for child killings ...

The SPEAKER: Hon member Herron, your time has expired.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): ...every truth or reality. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I now recognise the hon member Lekker. Can I please have the podium for hon member Lekker? Can I please just make sure that hon member Lekker's time has not started? Thank you very much, hon member Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, hon member Ngqentsu is correct in broadening this debate to the crisis of violent crime in Cape Town as the main issue.

The killing of children is part of that broader epidemic. Every day in the Western Cape feels like a day of mourning. In the past 96 hours there were over 30 deaths reported. Between September and November alone Cape Town has averaged seven murders a day, seven families shattered, seven futures stolen. Far too many of those who pull the trigger or fall at the trigger's end, are children.

Between January and June 2024, the Western Cape recorded 2 250 murders, a horrifying reflection of a province in crisis. Of these 1 384 were African, 884 were Coloured and only 12 were White. Even more alarming is that 1 559 of the victims were young people under 35 years of age. This is not random violence, it is the direct outcome of deep structural neglect and inequality.

Where nearly 800 000 youth in this province are not in education, employment or training, and the government programmes reach barely 6 000, the result is a

generation abandoned to poverty, drugs and crime. The blood on our streets is the tragic consequence of a system that has written off its poor and working classes.

Hon Speaker, our province resembles a war zone and many of its foot soldiers are minors. This debate demands honesty, compassion and political courage, not finger pointing, because while the DA Government points fingers at National Government, the truth sits squarely here at Wale Street.

This province has failed to protect its children. In light of this the ANC says the mothers whose sons have been forced into gangs, whose daughters battle addiction with no treatment bed in sight and who have buried their children for the crime of being born into poverty, we see you, we hear your silent cries and we cry your pain as part of our moral and political duty. The horror in our townships is not sudden. It is a systemic, predictable document and legislated against.

The Children's Act Section 150, paragraph 1, states that:

“A child in need of care and protection includes any child exploited, exposed to harm or addicted without access to support.”

Tell me, hon Speaker, are children recruited at gunpoint in Philippi not exploited? Are children forced to kill at 16 not exploited to harm? Are children addicted to metame without treatment not abandoned? If the Children's Act

were implemented here half of the children in the Cape Flats would be under statutory protection today. Instead, they are receiving coffins.

UNICEF warns against treating exploited children as criminals, calling it a double punishment. Victimized first by criminals, then by the State, that is precisely what happens in the Western Cape. Children forced into gangs are treated as offenders, not victims. There is no provincial programme to prevent or rescue children from gang recruitment.

This House has raised the issue repeatedly and the DA has ignored it. The Department of Social Development's own Annual Report exposes these failures.

- 9 885 teenage pregnancies in 2023, including 281 children aged 10 to 14 years.
- A doubling of HIV prevalence among adolescents between 2017 and 2022.
- Youth Cafes programmes reach fewer than 15 000 young people out of over 2 million youth.
- Only 22 128 people receiving meals, while nearly 20% of households face food insecurity.

In light of these failures we must ask where is the Children's Commissioner to advocate for the rights of children? The Office of the Children's Commissioner had reportedly completed, capitulated by the Winde's Government. No proper office space, no adequate staff, no funding to fulfil the basic legal obligations. The DA has staffed the one institution designed to investigate and prevent

abuse and exploitation of children, and then has the audacity to prevent or pretend to care, and what about the Department of Education?

In the Western Cape every year thousands of children are left without school places, dropout rates keep rising and schools in gang areas have no real safety support, with less than 80 school resource officers for the hundreds of schools. Our schools are not conveyor belts towards learning, they become conveyor belts towards gangs.

Yet despite the horrors the DA-led Government refuses to implement and fully ensure that the Khayelitsha Commission, and particularly Recommendation 12, which has been called by a multisectoral testimony of gangs, is surviving.

Hon Speaker, while the DA blames National Government, children in this province are being hunted like prey, trafficked into criminal networks, sent to kill or be killed.

The SPEAKER: Hon member Lekker, your time has expired.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): The recruitment of minors into gangs in Cape Town has become documented in ...[Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon member Lekker.

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I now recognise the hon member Mackenzie.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker, and thank you, hon members, for this debate.

I am going to frame my speech “structural neglect” from the hon member Lekker’s speech. I like the words that she used, so I am going to go that way, because I think it is important that we understand why we are here, and then I want to start with the following numbers.

Question number 12833, dated 15 April 2016, Question number 10008 dated 29 May 2020, Question number 13280 dated 22 September 2017, and I have got about 10 or 15 of the questions.

These are the parliamentary questions that I asked, 2016, 2017, hon member Herron, and 2020. This is what hon member Lekker framed as “structural neglect”.

The first question I asked in 2015, April 2016.

“What is the conviction rate for gang-related crimes?”

And I am going to focus on one station specifically, because I want to show

you the structural neglect of where we are today.

“What is the conviction gang rate at the Mitchells Plain Court for 2014/2015, 2015/2016?”

Then-Minister Dan Plato got the information from SAPS. The reply states as follows:

“Mitchell's Plain Court 0,123% in 2014/2015, and 1,0878% 2015/2016.”

Hon members. That was in 15 April 2016, nine years ago.

Second question.

“How many police station vehicles are currently operational at Mitchell's Plain police stations, how many vehicles are currently operational at Lentegeur police stations and what are the details regarding the opening of Tafelsig Police Station?”

Hon members, that was in 2016.

The other pertinent question in 2017, where the R1 R5 assault rifles disappeared from Mitchells Plain, Belville and Lentegeur Police Stations. That was in 2017, nine years ago, eight, nine years ago. This is what I warned, as hon member

Lekker referred to, is a structural neglect.

The hon member spoke about the horrible deaths the last few days. We have been talking about this for a minimum 11 years. Eleven years the communities have been bleeding, children have been killed because of the structural neglect of the African National Congress, because they failed over the period of nine years.

Hon members, and I asked the question the other day to one of my colleagues, Mr Cameron, to ask the question in Parliament ...[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: You are Government, take responsibility.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...what happened to the guns that were stolen in Mitchells Plain Police Station and in Lentegur Police Station, hon member Herron? Because everyone asks the right questions.

Of course those kids need to be in school, of course those kids need to be in sports facilities, but you cannot let a kid go to school, or allowed to go to school when the bullets are flying and those guns, because of the structural neglect by the ANC and the failure to allocate resources for crime detectives, prosecutions over the last nine years, has resulted in those children being killed.

The only persons – interesting, the people who are shouting are the same people who shouted eight years ago when I asked these questions. Those hon members have done absolutely nothing over the last nine years when we raised these questions over the last nine years.

When children were being murdered, when guns were being stolen at Lentegur and Mitchells Plain Police Station eight years ago, they defended Brigadier Lamoer, they defended Bheki Cele, they defended ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...[Inaudible 2:41:02]. When I served ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...there as a member of this Legislature ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...asking Major General why ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Order, hon members!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...[Inaudible.]
intelligence collapsing, they defended him.

The SPEAKER: Order!

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: The result of
structural neglect ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...is because of their
failure to hold those members to account.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat. Order! Order! Hon
member Lekker, order! Hon members – order! There is a member on the floor.
There is – hon members! Hon member Lekker, I am on the floor.

Hon members, we have come to the end of the debate. There is a member on
the floor. The manner in which this – drowning out the speaker on the floor is
unparliamentary and we cannot let the House degenerate into this state.

If you do not agree with the input of a member there are other parliamentary
mechanisms to challenge that. Screaming and trying to drown out the speaker
is not the mechanism. Can I please ask that all members, both on my left and

right side, allow the hon Minister who is – order, hon members!

Hon members, we have still got a long way to go throughout the day. This will be the last warning and I request to please adhere to the Rules that you have all agreed to, and use the mechanisms and the parliamentary privilege at your disposal, but please do not infringe on the right of another member.

Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon members and hon Speaker, I am going to give these question numbers again, because this is on the Western Cape Parliament's website. These are facts, not my opinions.

Question number 12833, Question number 13218, Question number 10008 and Question number 1380. These are facts that were answered in this Parliament, information received from the South African Police Services, to answer to these questions I asked nine years ago.

So, the structural neglect of communities on the Cape Flats, whether Khayelitsha, Gugulethu, Mitchells Plain, the ANC must take full responsibility for, and we are now bearing the brunt of their failure to deal with matters we raised more than eight, nine years ago. Yes, she calls it “*foeitog*”. Tell that aunt in Mitchells Plain “*foeitog*” whose child was killed the other day. That is what they think of people. “*Foeitog*”. It is not “*foeitog*”, it is facts. It is fact that people were murdered and killed by guns that were stolen in Mitchells

Plain Station. Fact that people were murdered and killed with guns that were stolen in Lentegeur Station, but it is “*foeitog*” to them. To us it is the daily reality of what we deal with every single day, because we have raised these matters. We have warned them about the consequences on their failure to hold the ANC to account for appointing people who cannot do the job.

Let me take one station again, Mitchells Plain Police Station. In a period of under three years, Brigadier Hartzenberg; Brigadier Jantjie was there for 30 days; Brigadier Alexander, the Ghulam? [2:44:52] was forced to retire; Brian Muller. You cannot appoint somebody to a police station for 30 days. We warned them about these things.

So the consequences of that, the consequences of mismanagement, not knowing how to govern, is resulting of children being murdered, and we are cleaning up after that. We have to allocate R1,5 billion for LEAP officers. We have to implement programmes in trying to deal with that.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please take your seat, and I am now speaking to the members on my left-hand side. Hon members, I have asked you to allow the member on the floor to make his contribution. You have had an opportunity. This constant running commentary is not allowed. Interjections are allowed, but this constant running commentary, I cannot let it continue.

So this is the last warning and I ask you to please work with me in order to get through the debate. Hon Minister, I am on the floor. Hon member Ngqentsu,

is that a point of order?

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): No, I was trying to avoid this, hon Chair. The MEC ought to ensure that he makes a meaningful contribution so that all of us can be able to listen. If he is not there is going to be this chaos.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, and the Chair is not – it is not my job to adjudicate on the content or the contributions of members. I see the hon member Walters. Is that a point of order?

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Chair, I just wanted to point out that you are making a ruling, and I do not think we should bicker about it.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Order, hon members. Hon Minister, you may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, can I perhaps also just say, while I have got the floor, hon member Herron, it is important that that critical information reaches my colleague, hon Minister Londt, because I know that he always, and he is very responsive in dealing with children that need social assistance, and I know he will always assist, but let me inform hon – via you, hon member Benson once more, meaningful stats. Let me give him the statistics.

The current vacancy rate at the National Prosecutions, answered by Shamila

Batohi, is under 20%. 20%. Gangsters need to be prosecuted and they must go to jail, but if you have no prosecutors, positions not filled, it is impossible to send gangsters to jail.

Another meaningful – what are we doing? I wish we could take it over. Ask your colleagues to devolve it and we will do the job like we do. Give us the NPA to – give us the [Inaudible 2:47:46]

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

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Yes, hon Speaker. Hon Speaker, I am going to ask that you caution hon Minister Mackenzie to please speak through you and not to antagonise the members on the opposite side.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip. Hon Minister ...[Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Hon Speaker, apologies. I cannot help if facts antagonise people.

The SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that – I am not, I have not even ruled. Can I – hon Minister, can I please remind you to please speak to the Chair? You may continue.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: Thank you, hon Chairperson. Hon Speaker, I will speak through you.

Hon Speaker, currently detectives are carrying a load case of 150 cases each, often without vehicles. Now if you want to send somebody to jail who has committed a crime, killed a child, you need to equip a detective with the appropriate tools and with a National Government that cannot do that, it is impossible for that detective to do the work.

Just recently the Standing Committee on Police visited the Anti-Gang Unit, a unit that is supposed to deal with the issue that we are debating now and let me quote you from the Parliamentary Report in that other Parliament. It says here:

“They have a lack of resources and tools, they have not received specialised training, and the officers are being investigated with collusion with gangs.”

That is the current status of the police run by the ANC Government. We do not run that portfolio in National Government. I heard comments about the GNU. We are in the GNU, but we have a responsibility to fight for the people of this province, and we will continue to do so.

So when you have a Gang Unit that is in collusion with gangs, there is lack of resource, that does not have vehicles, of course you cannot fight gangsterism and crime, and that is at the crux of what we are dealing with at the moment.

Hon Speaker, our justice system has completely, completely collapsed, and we, as always, are trying to come up with solutions in dealing with national problems, like we always do, and the sad part of what Justice Thulare has said many years ago – and that you, hon Premier Winde, for having the gall to do what National Government failed to do, because they should have appointed somebody to investigate what a High Court Judge has said.

The former Commissioner who made jokes in front of the Ad Hoc Committee the other day, because it is a joke to them, people dying, people killed. Instead of him doing that, instead of him appointing a commission to investigate the High Court Judge saying, “Your officers are sitting at the same table with gangsters,” he was laughing in front of Parliament the other day.

That is the thinking. Not dealing with what we deal every day, the auntie that cries, the mother that cries for the child is being murdered. That is the reality that we face every day.

So we want a national Anti-Gang Intelligence Task Team, because they must use financial and SARS data to track these gangsters. We want a full review of the criminal justice system ...[Interjections.]

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

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...to focus on

convictions, backlogs and the capacity, because that is how you deal ...[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

The MINISTER OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND SPORT: ...with gangs and crime. Thank you, hon Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, hon members, the debate is now concluded. That brings us to the end of the debate.

Hon members, we are going to suspend – no, it was not, hon member Lekker. We are going to suspend the proceedings for lunch. I just need to get some guidance from the House. I want to propose a 30-minute suspension for lunch. So I am going to put two proposals, 30 minutes and 45 minutes, and I will be directed by the House. Can I ask the Chief Whips of both parties just to give me an indication.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Presiding Officer, we have no objection to a 30-minute lunch. We are very efficient in eating as well.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Is there any objection? No objections. So the House will be suspended for 30 minutes and we will resume thereafter. The House is suspended.

[The House is suspended at 12:49.]

[The House met at 13:30.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, please be seated. Hon members, we will proceed in terms of Rule 202, which is Questions as printed on the Order Paper. I wish to advise hon members that once the hon member, the hon Minister or the hon Premier has started the reply to the oral question as printed on the Question Paper, hon members must use the chat facility function, or raise their hand and get the attention of the Presiding Officer if they want to ask a follow-up question. There are four opportunities for follow-up questions, but the hon member who has posed the initial oral question as printed on the Question Paper, will have the first opportunity for a follow-up question. Thereafter hon members may then use the remaining opportunities to ask any follow-up questions. I now – I will repeat that last sentence again.

I now recognise the hon Premier.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL REPLY

New questions to the Premier:

1. Mr M K Sayed asked Mr A R Winde, Premier:

Whether his office has received any formal complaints or documented evidence regarding governance irregularities at the Hessequa

Municipality; if so, what is being done about it?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker, and apologies for running in a bit late. To the hon member Sayed, thank you very much for this question.

My office receives a wide variety of feedback about various municipalities, some of which is supported by evidence and some of which is not. Wherever necessary we refer allegations to hon Minister Bredell's Department for investigation and possible action.

The question cited gives little detail as to the matter referred to and I would ask the hon member to provide more clarity on exactly the information that he seeks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITIONS: Hon Deputy Speaker, I think I am very surprised with the hon Premier's response, because I made reference to this particular matter around issues of the appointment of Mr Albert de Klerk in the Hessequa Municipality in a previous Sitting.

So the hon Premier is aware. I asked it as a follow-up question in a previous thing. The hon Premier has even been copied in many of the emails, but nevertheless. In light of the formal correspondence, which the hon Premier

may be aware, which was sent to MEC Bredell on 7 November, where the Public Protector was copied, the PAIA Regulator was copied, the Speaker of Hessequa Municipality was copied, and that raised unresolved concerns regarding governance irregularities, exclusion of councillors from selection panels and binding Section 14(2)(a) arbitration award, confirming the unlawful dismissal of Ms Sophia Cloete.

The hon Premier has received – these things are in and we can see where people are copied.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please ask ...[Interjections.]

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Will the hon Premier – okay. Will the hon Premier confirm whether his office or the Department of Local Government has reviewed or intends to review Regulation 17(3)(b) appointment report of Mr Albert de Klerk and the broader governance environment within the Hessequa Municipality?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. I think first of all, hon Deputy Speaker, and to the hon Leader of the Opposition, if you are really serious about getting a real answer, I mean we know that if there is a question around who the person is, you say, “The name is supplied,” and then of course we can get all of the detail.

We have 87 000 staff in this Government. We have all of our municipalities with thousands of staff in that government. You cannot ask a vague question and then refer to another question that you asked weeks ago. That is not how you ask questions. I mean are you really looking for a real answer or is this about politics? Just supply the name or even say – the practice is, “Name supplied.” You do not have to have it in the document. You just say, “Name supplied.” Then we can get the exact answer and if you want to ask if there is a review of a regulation you can ask exactly the same thing. You cannot stand here and say, “Are you prepared to review a regulation?” I mean that is not real proper ways of asking questions in a House and asking for a real result.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The second follow-up question is to hon member Sayed, and then hon member Walters. I recognise hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Chair, this is unfortunate that the hon Premier, instead of responding, because he has – because this information has been sent to him. He even spoke to the matter in another Sitting before. He now goes and wants to question the manner in which – in fact there is a letter from MEC Bredell on 7 November to the complainant after the complainant wrote to the hon Premier.

So, I mean I find this very, very strange and in this regard I want to know whether the hon Premier will direct that the binding arbitration award and pending PAIA complaint be formally acknowledged and addressed by the

municipality? Simple. Not to say whether they are right or they are wrong.
Thank you [Inaudible.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I have gotten the question. Thank you, hon member Sayed. I recognise the hon Premier.

The PREMIER: So I do not know whether his Whip needs to do this or his party. You know, I know they are doing an oversight on the effectiveness of this Opposition that we have here, but there needs to be a workshop and the workshop has to say it cannot have whether his office has received any formal complaints or documented evidence regarding governance irregularities at the Hessequa Municipality, and if so, what is being done about it, and then come here and say it was to do with this person and this thing.

Ask the question, “Have you – what is happening to this person and this issue?” and then I will give you the answer. You cannot just have an open-ended question like this, that we have got to suck it out of our thumb as to what this issue is. If the hon Leader of the Opposition is serious about doing oversight and asking serious questions, he must ask the question with the detail for the answer that he wants to get, and we will give him all of the detail of the answer that he would like to get. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Premier. [Interjections.] I recognise the hon member Walters. Hon members, there is a member on the floor.

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, given the reference that was made that the Public Protector's office was also included in the communications there, is there in fact a Public Protector's process? I think one should also be aware of multiple processes taking place at the same time.

So my question is, is there a Public Protector's investigation or report in this regard, and would this process, hon Chair, influence such an investigation?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I am not going to direct how a member asks a question or how the hon Premier responds. There will be further advice from the administration if any hon member needs further guidance. I have noted what the hon Premier has said and there will be ongoing conversations with each and every hon member in this regard, but that particular question, I note that it is directed to the hon Premier.

Hon Premier, I recognise you.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Unfortunately, hon Deputy Speaker, I must give the same answer to the hon member Walters. Is there a Public Protector investigation into the case? What case? Whose case? I cannot answer that unless you say, "It is this person delivered on that date from email X, Y and Z, and it was investigated by the Local Government investigators."

I mean, quite frankly we need to be serious about whether we are interested in answers or not, and so to the hon member Walters, I am sorry. Is there a Public

Protector investigation into what or who? I really do not know.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I see no further hands in this regard. Before we proceed to Question number 2 I will make the following comment, that hon members are familiar with the Rules and the various parliamentary privileges that we have in order to pose questions, oral questions, written questions, as well as substantive motions. We will proceed accordingly to Question 2 and I recognise the hon Premier.

2. Ms A P Bans asked Mr A R Winde, Premier:

In the light of the recent assault on a learner at the Milnerton High School: What concrete steps has the Western Cape Government taken to confront and eradicate racism at schools and in the broader society?

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Now to the hon member Bans, thank you very much and for asking a question that has relevance and detail, because I can now answer this question. It is not an open-ended question of, "Have you received an email?"

I get thousands of emails. So this question, I thank the hon member for this question. It is a serious issue that she is raising here.

Although the question itself, I think, is misdirected, but I am informed by the Department of Education that the Milnerton High School bullying incident was not race-related, and in her question it says:

“What concrete steps has the Western Cape Government taken to confront and eradicate racism at school with reference to Milnerton High School?”

So first of all I want to say that the racism question, the Education Department said, no, it is not a racism incident. This is a bullying incident. The school is following all the necessary protocols in terms of the WCED's “Abuse No More” policy and disciplinary procedures.

1. Upon hearing the allegations on Friday, 17 October, the School Governing Body immediately initiated an investigation. The school was not aware that a video had been circulated.
2. Counselling support was initiated.
3. The video was made public on social media platforms on 21 October.
4. An urgent SGB meeting was held on Tuesday, 21 October 2025, where it was resolved to place the accused learners on precautionary suspension.
5. The alleged perpetrators were suspended and subsequently arrested. A criminal case was registered with SAPS and the accused learners appeared in court on 23 October 2025.

6. The SGB initiated formal disciplinary proceedings.
7. Psychosocial support has been provided by the school counsellor and the WCED District support team.
8. The District Safe Schools office activated SAPS, SAPS POP, Metro Police and traffic on the 22nd and the 23rd to ensure the safety of teachers and learners at the school, and manage protests by political organisations.
9. Contingency plans were established for the NSC examinations.

Then with reference to the question, racism in schools. The WCED does not tolerate racism in our schools and where allegations are made, they will immediately be investigated by the school governing body, who are responsible for establishing and enforcing school codes of conduct under the South African Schools Act 84 of 1996. The school curriculum covers this topic extensively and school codes of conduct address it.

In the school curriculum learners are taught about different cultural groups and major religions, and concepts as discrimination, stereotyping and bias. In the higher grades issues such as promoting nation building, citizens' rights and responsibilities, and respecting differences in terms of race, gender and ability, are covered in the curriculum.

The WCED aims to ensure that these topics are discussed and understood by

learners, and where incidents occur, they are immediately investigated by the school and governing bodies.

Hon Deputy Speaker, if I can maybe just go a little bit further, because, you know, obviously we were all made aware, it was circulated, and then of course we saw the reactions that happened and rightfully so, people see this kind of horrendous bullying behaviour. It is horrendous, it is deeply disturbing, but for me, what I think the whole of society has to start to think about.

So we have bullying and, I mean bullying happens – I presume all of us, when we were at school we either were subjected to it or we knew about it. Hopefully none of us were the bullies at school. Bullying is an issue and there are a lot of bullying, anti-bullying projects, etcetera, but now we have got a bullying case in a school, a horrendous case of bullying in a school, but what I witnessed after that was the bullying of citizens and political parties outside the school. The behaviour of citizenry was horrendous.

Then what I saw on social media, the bullying that took place, I asked myself a question, and then we just had a big debate in this House where young people are bullying with guns and killing each other. We have a big problem in our society. We really do. We have a problem and we have got to really think seriously as the whole of society, how do we deal with it at school level like these programmes, and if they are not working sufficiently, what do we have to change? What inputs can we get from this House, the representatives of the whole of our province? Because these are issues as society we have to deal

with.

I think what happens in the crime space is how this is just exacerbated through systems and it is a serious issue, and I see in the answer that we have got from our programmes, that we have programmes in place, but we also need to say what else should we be doing and how do we use this House as a space to say bring in new ideas, change things? Because quite frankly what has been happening is absolutely unacceptable, but I thank the hon member for the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the hon member that posed the question has submitted an apology. I have seen one, hon member Ferlon Christians, and then hon member Sayed, in that order. Hon member Christians.

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

Hon Deputy Speaker, we are all against bullying, but the question I want to pose is, it was eight perpetrators; two adults and six juveniles. I wonder what is going to happen with them? They are the perpetrators, but now there are criminal charges and all of that.

Some of them are excellent rugby players, and I want to know from the hon Premier what is done also to counsel them, and – we do not know their backgrounds, we do not know anything about them, and the media is going and political parties are going to, but I think it is very unfair how this was exposed.

So my question to the hon Premier is does he know of at least the Department or somebody that reached out to these perpetrators to give them opportunity just to – they are derailed and I condemn the bullying, but I am asking from the ACDP's side what is done to also address those youngsters? It seems to me they have got no future, it seems to me they are going to end up in the road, on the street.

So that is my question. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

The PREMIER: Thank you very much. Again, as I said, this is a serious issue. I mean quite frankly, the victims were the ones that were the most unfairly treated, and of course there was psychosocial support, etcetera, but the perpetrators, there are consequences. Every one of us have consequences from our actions and of course, ja, they, I think – I mean I cannot really answer the exact question because I would have to go and investigate and find out what other processes have been put in place.

Obviously as a minor going into a police system where you have charges against you, there are going to be consequences to that process and that family are going to have to deal with those consequences.

I sincerely hope that a lot of other people seeing this are questioning themselves and their own behaviour, and maybe this is the time to put out a message to say if you are one of those people who you know you are a bully, ask for help. Let us find ways to help those people, because I was listening to a debate on this specific issue where the – I cannot remember the organisation, but they deal with bullying specifically in schools and they were saying that often these people who are bullies are actually insecure in themselves and that is the way of expressing themselves.

We need to find ways in which they can actually put up their hand and say, “Please give me a hand because I need help,” because when it ends up in a police station with charges that end up in court, those consequences are dire for that family, but that individual for the rest of his or her life. Of course, perhaps the same thing can be said for the victims because they also will carry that baggage for the rest of their life.

This is serious stuff that the whole of society, we have to deal with this, and I mean I have mentioned the programmes that we have got in place, and we would welcome any further input to say, “Here is another idea.”

I mean I think about the programme that we have now launched in the violence prevention space and through hon Minister Wenger's team, where we are intervening where it comes to 13-year-olds across all of our schools, and this is probably the space that we can maybe even get more traction because it is the biggest, I think it is the biggest 13-year-old intervention that we have ever

had in South Africa. I do not know if there has been that kind of depth in questions.

Now we maybe need to change those questions, because every two years we go back to this, but let us draw what we can out of it, and perhaps this is a lever that actually enables us to go to a step further, because, I mean it really is – the consequences are horrendous for all parties involved and not only at the school, wherever else it happens.

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

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, thank you very much, Hon Deputy Speaker. I was not intending initially to participate, but when I saw the responses obviously of the hon Premier and hon member Christian's input, I was then prompted.

I think we need to foreground to say that all parties that were involved around the issue of Milnerton, whether it is protesters, whether it is the authorities, whether it is the Department in terms of what they were trying to do, let us not lay blame. I think everybody played a role in terms of finding a solution. Let us not victimise people who stood up for what is right. I want to put that on the record.

However, I do think and I want to ask the hon Premier this particular question,

and it would be unfair, and I think it is important that it is taken to the hon Premier, because the Department has been involved in the process, but what is the Provincial Government doing to ensure not only that parents are bullies at schools? Because this was not purely bullying, I do not believe this was bullying, this was violence, and it is similar to the violence that we are seeing on the Cape Flats, where young people are picking up guns and being used by extortionists.

What is the Western Cape Government doing to ensure that beyond the punitive issue, which is important and putting programmes in place, which we have called for, sustainable programmes, what is the Provincial Government doing to ensure that parents, parents of alleged perpetrators and young people who are vulnerable to doing these things, are actually engaged and are made to be part of the conversation to find meaningful solutions? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Sayed. Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: So, I think straight off hand, I mean I think about – I have just mentioned the, I have just mentioned the Planet Youth programme.

There are also some very interesting parenting support programmes that are in place through the DSD Department. I have attended some of those parenting programmes myself. Sometimes – maybe just reflecting on the first time I ever went into a parenting programme and listening to those, I want to call them lecturers I suppose, in this classroom with a group of parents, and I thought to

myself, probably one of the biggest responsibilities human beings ever have in their life is to bring another life into this world, and then enable that life to grow and nurture that life, so that that person becomes a meaningful, positive person in our society.

It is a big responsibility to become a parent and we never get taught how to be parents. We learn how to become accountants and lawyers, and we learn how to do all sorts of other things at school. We learn sports, we learn – but where is the parenting course?

When you find out that you are going to become a parent you start reading books and you kind of learn as you go, and the second child, if you are lucky enough to have one, becomes much easier than the first. That is my own experience, but we never actually get taught how to do this and that was what hit me in that parenting programme.

So, ja, absolutely. I mean we have got programmes, but we probably all have to ask ourselves that question, is what else should we be doing? How do we actually turn society around? I agree, it was the expected reaction. Everybody felt that reaction when you saw that, because you got angry, you got cross, but how do we as society manage that?

I always think of Gandhi and when he was protesting, and it was going to be massive confrontation and he got everybody to sit down. What a change in getting your message across.

So I think like imagine when all of that tension were with the police and parents and political parties, all about bullying, and everybody is like fighting with each other. Imagine everybody said, “Let us just sit down and let us just talk about this, because it is a serious issue,” and sure, we have to look for – if it is not, if we are not finding change, we have got to try new things and different things and innovate.

So I think we have all got to be asking ourselves that question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I see the hon member Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you, †Sekela Somlomo. Owam umbuzo nje kukufuna ukuqonda ukuba njengoko sinekomishinala yabantwana, eseofisini yakhe umphathiswa wephondo, ndifuna nje ukuqonda into yokuba ikhona ingxoxo okanye incoko ababeke banayo. Yena kwakunye nekomishinala le yabantwana apha ephondweni malunga nayo lengxaki. Ukuba isombululwa njani, kuba kudala sizibona ii-incident ezinjena ezikolweni. Enkosi. [Thank you, Deputy Speaker. My question is just to understand that since we have a children’s Commissioner, who is in the office of the Provincial Minister, I just want to understand if there was any discussion or conversation they had. He and the children’s Commissioner, here in the province, regarding this problem. How is it being resolved, because we have been seeing incidents like this in schools for a long time. Thank you.].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon member Nkondlo. Hon Premier, I trust that you got the question?

The PREMIER: Yes, I did, thank you. It is a great question, but I actually do not know what that answer is, but I am happy to ask the Commissioner that answer, that question, but perhaps that is also an opportunity.

Right now there is a lot of debate on whether the Commissioner should actually be reporting directly to Parliament and not even be under the Premier's Department.

So first of all I ask the question. Second of all maybe that is also something that as a Parliament we should be asking that question too, because we have a Children's Commissioner. Absolutely, fully agree with that.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have neither seen any further hands online or in the House. We will proceed with Questions that stood over from Thursday, 25 September. I now see the hon Minister, Minister Londt.

Questions standing over from Thursday, 25 September 2025, as agreed to by the House:

3. Ms W F Kaizer-Philander asked Mr J J Londt, Minister of Social Development:

Which targeted suicide-prevention strategies has his Department

implemented in high-risk communities in the province, particularly among the youth and for rural populations?

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Can I just confirm this is the question put by hon member Kaizer-Philander? Thank you so much. So I will give a short response and then we can unpack if needed.

The Western Cape Department of Social Development provides psychosocial support services to children and youth who have been referred to the Department due to suicidal ideation. Further statutory interventions are then implemented based on a safety and risk assessment. These services are available at all the Department's local offices.

The Department also funds NPOs to run preventative programmes at schools to address self-harm and suicide. The Department's secure child and youth care centres also implement a suicide and self-harm prevention policy.

Any acts of self-harm are reported and a multidisciplinary team immediately starts an intervention. The child in question is also put on a suicide watch, which includes checks at 15 or 30 minutes intervals 24/7. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I see the hon member Kaizer-Philander.

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Minister has covered me in terms of the partnerships in his reply, as well as the interventions by the Department. I am thus covered on this question. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I see no further hands in the Chamber nor online. We will proceed with Questions that stood over from Thursday, 2 October. I recognise the hon Minister, Minister Meyer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. I see no further hands in the Chamber nor online. We will proceed with Questions that stood over from Thursday, 2 October. I recognise the hon Minister, hon Minister Meyer.

Questions standing over from Thursday, 2 October 2025, as agreed to by the House:

Tourism promotion and creation

3. Mr F C Christians to ask Dr I H Meyer, Minister of Agriculture, Economic Development and Tourism:

(a) What plans does his Department have to (i) promote tourism, (ii) increase tourism and (iii) promote job creation and (b) what are the challenges going forward?

†Die MINISTER VAN LANDBOU, EKONOMIESE ONTWUKKELING EN TOERISME: Dankie, agb Adjunkspeaker. Vir hierdie belangrike vraag rondom die hele kwessie van toerismebevordering, agb lid Christians. 'n Baie belangrike vraag oor wat die planne is vir die Departement in opsigte van toerismebevordering, wat daar gedoen word ten opsigte van werkskepping en wat ook die toekomstige uitdagings is.

Eerstens, ek wil baie dankie sê aan die agb lid vir daardie vraag want dit is 'n werklik belangrike vraag. Ek het vanjaar ook die Toerisme Africa Travel Indaba bygewoon daar in Durban. Dit is die grootste toerismeplatform vir die bevordering van toerisme op die Afrika-kontinent. En daarom is ek baie bly vir hierdie vraag want daar het ons heelwat dinge gehoor.

Een van die belangrike aspekte daar, ek het ook kontak gemaak met die Suid-Afrikaanse Toerismeraad en was aan ons ook verduidelik dat die grootste toerisme-invloei, veral hier in die Wes-Kaap, was verlede jaar van die Verenigde State van Amerika, gevolg deur Nederland. Ons is nou in 'n nuwe seisoen. U weet dat President Trump het die Withuis betree op 20 Januarie. Daardie situasie het radikaal verander, maar ons grootste groep toeriste kom veral uit ook Europa want daar is ook groot groei. In die Midde-Ooste, hier na die Wes-Kaap, ons sien ook groot vloei van toeriste uit verskillende lande in Europa, spesiaal ook van Duitsland wat geldelik ook groot hier is in die Wes-Kaap.

Die vraag rondom die Departement se betrokkenheid direk by toerisme. Ek

dink agb lede van hierdie Huis en die agb lid is bewus dat

[The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. For this important question around the whole issue of tourism promotion, hon member Christians. A very important question on what the plans are for the Department with regard to tourism promotion, what is being done with regard to job creation and what the future challenges are.

Firstly I want to say thank you to the hon member for that question because it is a really important question. This year I have also attended the Tourism Africa Travel Indaba in Durban, it is the largest tourism platform for the promotion of tourism on the African continent. And therefore I am grateful for this question because there we heard a lot of things.

One of the important aspects there, I have also made contact with the South African Tourism Board and it was explained to us that the largest tourism inflow, especially here in the Western Cape was last year from the United States of America, followed by the Netherlands. We are now in a new season. You know that President Trump entered the White House on 20 January. The situation changed radically, but our greatest group of tourists come especially also from Europe because there is also large growth. In the Mideast, here to the Western Cape we also see a large flow of tourists from various countries in Europe, especially also from Germany who financially is also large here in the Western Cape.

The question around the Department's involvement with tourism. I think the hon members of this House and the hon member is aware that] Wesgro is the Western Cape trade and tourism promotion agency and they are doing outstanding work in this particular regard. This is an agency of this Government reporting directly to me and I am very proud of the work that they are doing in this particular regard.

Well, I earlier this year, precisely because of the tone of your question, was also concerned about what municipalities are doing to promote tourism because tourism is fundamentally something that happens in the area of jurisdiction of a municipality. Municipalities therefore sit with the tourism assets. They sit with parks. My hon Minister promotes Sport Tourism. He cannot promote Sport Tourism unless he liaises with the various Mayors in the various towns. So, this is very important for us.

So, I wanted to put Tourism at the centre of the economic strategy of municipalities and therefore, this year I hosted a Municipal Economic and Tourism Summit. In that summit we discussed a number of issues because one of the tasks that I have at hand, is to double our tourism numbers into the Western Cape. Also, by 2023, we saw that Tourism had added about R28 billion gross value to the Western Cape economy. That time, it created about 258 000 jobs.

Recently, about two weeks ago, we launched the Season Readiness for Tourism. We invited all the tourism agencies, including the City of Cape Town, as well

as the people from the South African National Parks. †Tafelberg mense was ook daarby betrokke. [Table Mountain people were also involved there.]

One of the things that we also promote, hon Deputy Speaker, is the safety of our Tourism Readiness. We want people to be safe, and we have also promoted and appointed safety tourism officers. We have also provided practical safety tips for people because I do not want anybody to be harmed when they come and visit.

But we have also seen a massive growth in cruise line tourism. I think the hon member would love to be on a cruise and I really recommend that you take part in a cruise line. It is a very fantastic, a great journey as we have seen, for example, in the previous year. This year we have launched ...[Interjections.] You can get an invitation, hon member. You do not have to talk to that side. The hon Minister ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, please respect the decorum of the House and ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...respond via the Chair.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND

TOURISM: I apologize, but I will talk to the hon member during the break.

Well, what we have seen in 2024, last year, hon Deputy Speaker, through you to hon member Christians. Last year we have seen 127 000 passengers on the cruise lines right here in Cape Town, coming from around the world. What we have seen is that they have created a R1,8 billion GDP to the Western Cape. In addition to that tourism, you need tourist guides. We have also trained some tourist guides through a training programme about, I would say, a month ago.

Earlier this year, I travelled to Prince Albert in the Karoo and there were huge concerns about tourism matters, specifically in terms of the tourism office that was closed. I have therefore seen that a town like Prince Albert in the Karoo is a tourism mecca, like with many other towns. Unfortunately, we have seen that there was a disconnect between the municipality and the tourism agencies. I therefore called for an urgent intervention. That intervention took place. I have then subsequently, about a month ago, paid a visit to Prince Albert and officially then opened a new tourism visitors' hub in Prince Albert.

I think the hon Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport will know that they also have a Jazz Festival and hon member, I think a Jazz Festival in Prince Albert is something that you will appreciate. I will talk to you after this session in Parliament because we want to bring more jazz to Prince Albert. I am thankful for the tourism people in Prince Albert, but also in the Karoo.

What we also do, hon member, one thing that we have seen that is growing

globally, is adventure tourism and I will invite the hon member, through you, the hon member Lekker. There is now adventure tourism. We have opened the longest K3 zipline in the world. I hereby formally, in this House, invite my good friend, the hon member Pat Lekker, to join me the next time when we go on the longest zipline in the world because adventure tourism is in your blood. The way you look at me now tells me a story that you have accepted the invitation. ...[Laughter.] Therefore, I think this is going to happen.

Hon member ...[Interjections.] No, we are not going to eject, no. No. No, she must be safe because one of the functions of our tourism strategy is tourism safety and I will personally look after the safety of the hon member. Personally. ...[Laughter.] She is a dear hon colleague. As she would like to know where ...[Interjection.]

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

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Is there a reason? ...[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need any reason. You can take your seat.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: No, but we have values in this Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, please take your seat, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Okay.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the hon Minister Londt, rising on a point of order.

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Hon Deputy Speaker, hon Minister Meyer is so gracious in the invitation, but I was unable to hear if there was a 'yes' or a 'no' to that invitation. Can you just ask for the ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable ...[Interjection.]

The MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: ...for the clarity whether that is a 'yes', or a 'no'.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister, that is not a point of order. Hon Minister, you are quite correct. We have values and Rules, so thank you so much for abiding by it. I will now allow you to proceed.

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: On a more serious note, I know hon Lekker and I will discuss this afterwards and I will come back to the House with a firm commitment on her side.

What we also see, hon members, we now see globally, and this is the repositioning in terms of the question. There is war in Europe. We are now entering the season. Europe just came out of a double heat, what do you call it, heatwave and we have also seen people coming to this part of the world, and we will have to look into creating greater opportunities for people wanting to come here. Also, our currency makes it more viable for people to come here to the Western Cape.

So, yes, Tourism, hon member Christians, through you, is fundamental through the Growth for Jobs strategy. There are seven pillars. The second pillar is to increase by threefold our exports and double our tourism numbers. But hon member, what I want to see happening more in this province is rail tourism because we have a vibrant rail network and this is something that we are pushing very hard. I know in this House, for the last 20 years, the hon Premier spoke about the Choo Tjoe train. I think people will be very happy to know that the concession has been assigned, making it possible for people to get onto the Choo Tjoe train in the Garden Route.

Hon members, I have also met with the tourism officials and the Municipal Manager of Hessequa Municipality. I have a second meeting with the owners of the Atlantic Rail. They are based in Mossel Bay, as the hon members will know. Atlantic Rail have now also arranged with the Hessequa Municipality, that if you do not like adventure tourism and you perhaps wonder whether it is safe. Hon member Lekker, if that is not an option you want to consider, I hereby invite you to take part in rail tourism. On 29 November, the train will

depart from Hartenbos, and it will go to Albertinia.

So, hon member, if you are not comfortable with flying through the zipline, there is a more comfortable, a more safe option of a train journey: rail tourism. So, these are some of these matters that are foundational to these opportunities.

Lastly, hon member, we have asked every municipality to give us their plans for tourism because they must make the plans and we must support them. So, they have raised issues of infrastructure because you also asked about what some of the obstacles are or †probleemareas [problem areas.] It is the whole issue of infrastructure and sometimes, some of this infrastructure is very simple. There is a beach, but there is no toilet. Then, we can come and put in a toilet there. Tourism Infrastructure. Sometimes they just want somebody to supervise there so that there is safety. That is something that we can do.

We also have a second fund to promote tourism and that is for the tourism product development. Sometimes municipalities sit with a wonderful environment, but there is no product. So, you need to develop a product and Wesgro also has a process whereby municipalities can apply for two tourism grants. One for infrastructure and one for product development. I am very happy that our Department is working very closely with the hon Minister of Sport because sport tourism, cycling tourism, is also very important for us.

Then, we have also published what is called a Tourism Blueprint 2030. This also looks at the Cape of Great Events Strategy and the hon Minister can speak

to that. I want to address a closer remark. The hon member asked what the obstacles are and hon Deputy Speaker, I think in this House, in fact, my predecessor both hon member Wenger and hon member Maynier have spoken about this in this House at length. That deals with the issue of visa regimes and how the visa regimes negatively impact on tourism.

But during the Travel Tourism Indaba, I have also met with groups. In fact, I also met with five journalists from India to listen to what their concerns are. There was also a blogger there to see how we can bring things up to date. There are now great opportunities for people.

One thing that I have seen through the work of this Government, we have now also put officials, in fact they are interns, at the airport to assist with the tourist numbers at the e-gates. You just scan your passport. There is nobody, it is an e-gate and then, you move. We have put them there to assist processing and moving tourists more quickly. Also, for the Cape Town International Airport, we have a WhatsApp group, both the hon Premier and myself and the Mayor of Cape Town are on that group. If there are any problems at the airport, we can immediately intervene. So, those things are also happening there.

Ja, I think, hon Deputy Speaker, I see there is a follow-up from the hon member who asked the question.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see the hon Christians.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, I posed the question, but I did not get an invitation to anything. ...[Laughter.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Neither have I. ...[Laughter.]

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): [Laughter.]... No, hon Deputy Speaker, thank you hon Minister for that comprehensive answer. One of the worries with the negative publicity with America now, they are not even coming to the G20 and you know, being worried about people of America being discouraged with the negative publicity, from coming to South Africa. Getting a large number of people coming from America here, will that impact us and I heard about the plans that you have to invite other countries as well. But I think that is going to have, those tariffs, that is going to make a big, big, big blow in our tourism. So, did you think about that, and I know you are speaking about other countries, but will we be able to make up for those losses? Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon member, we can talk about one of these options. If the hon member declines, I will make the next opportunity available.

Okay, let us get serious. Hon Deputy Speaker, I think what we have seen now and this is now as recently as about a week ago. We had a delegation here from Georgia in the United States and they are part of the Regional Leaders Summit.

They have committed themselves to continue both travelling, research, scientific engagements, tourism, economic development. They have committed themselves to the Western Cape and South Africa in general.

I have also met with another gentleman from the Minister of Finance from Canada. He has got the most beautiful name, François-Philippe Champagne. As he said, who can go wrong with a name like Champagne. Well, we have now also, in fact, after that, I sent a delegation also as a result of the developments that you now refer to, I have sent a delegation also to Canada.

One hon member of the Cabinet that you do not see here now is now in the United States. We will continuously engage with the US Embassy. We will continue on our quarterly basis, something that my predecessors have started. On a quarterly basis as the Minister, I meet with the Consul-General of the United States. We discuss many of these things. The hon Premier just alerted me that there are three flights per week from Delta Airlines into the Western Cape. There is now also a new direct flight, Norse. It is a Norwegian company, but they have direct flights now also from London into Cape Town.

Delta Airlines is now having five flights to Cape Town. We will continue to engage with our counterparts in the United States as a significantly important partner. There is in politics also and many times, there is the noise. I am not coming to the G20, I am not coming to do this and coming to do that. Then, there are the businesses that say let us trade, let us meet the people, let us continue our economic diplomacy. So, there are quite a lot of economic

diplomacy and business delegations coming to the Western Cape, and I believe that will certainly benefit our industry. Despite the comments from the White House, our citrus exports have also increased to the US. So, I think sometimes there is noise of the body politics ... [Interjections.] No, no, no, no! Nothing, not like that. No.

So, what we are saying, hon member, although there are due political shifts in the world every year. Remember, we said that the second biggest growth, not actual numbers, the second biggest growth for tourists into the Western Cape came from the Netherlands. That is why the National Minister hosted what they call a Vakantiebeurs. This is the biggest tourism event between the Netherlands and South Africa, and we also took part through my staff in that particular engagement.

I think there is something to this place. When people come to visit here, they do not see us wanting to make the Western Cape great again. We want to make humanity great again and I think it is the humanity that brings people here to the Western Cape. Tourists that come to the Western Cape experience something they cannot experience anywhere else around the world. It is the hompf, it is the cultural hompf and it is the real hompf of the people. It is about people first.

So, for us, we have now repositioned the Western Cape as a mega tourism and also in particular, sport tourism here. Importantly for me, the capacity because the capacity of the airport, the hon Premier and I have regular engagements

about the Border Management Authority because when there are big liners and huge numbers, then we want to see that things happen. I was politically also appointed by this Cabinet to oversee the B20. That went extremely well. In terms of the airport, I conducted oversight at the airport. I was at the VIP lounge. We walked through every place at the airport. We wanted to make sure that tourists are ready.

I am particularly happy, hon member Christians, that we do everything possible to support our local industries, small businesses in particular because tourism is the lifeblood. But I do not want to see tourism only in Cape Town. I want to see tourism in the rural areas. That is why I have asked the municipalities what their own commitment is to cultural tourism in every single town.

Here, is the thing, hon member Christians. At the Municipal and Economic Summit, I gave the Mayors a T-shirt which says: I am the Chief Tourism Ambassador in my town. I did that. I want them to take ownership in selling and being proud of their towns. We also communicated to them that if they want people, if they are proud, your streets must be clean. It must be safe. So, the Mayors must walk with pride and accommodate tourists. They must feel welcome.

Many years ago, I went to Canada. Twenty years ago. At the airport, the immigration official gave me a chocolate with a maple leaf. When I left Europe, I was told that the immigration officials are not so nice. On my arrival, I got a chocolate with a maple leaf from immigration. So, the way you are

received at the airport, cleanliness, friendliness, that is what we are working on.

I am so happy to say that one of our best general managers for the running of Cape Town International Airport, understands tourism globally. It is sad for the hon Premier and me, but we are happy because the man that runs the best airport here has now been offered a job to promote tourism in Dubai. He is based in Dubai now, but he is overseeing three different airports. Those skills come from the Western Cape.

Obviously, ACSA has stepped up to that level, but I think there is a greater partnership and about three weeks ago, I met with the general manager at the airport, the group executive at the airport and some of the board members. We had a great discussion about the future growth that is going to take place at Cape Town International Airport, but that growth will also be expanded to the airport in George.

So, from rail tourism, adventure tourism, cruise line tourism: these are all the opportunities that we want to expand, and there are many private rail operators.

I want to put on record my thanks and appreciation because the hon Premier and myself and the Mayor of Cape Town and hon member Isaac Sileku have met with hon Minister Barbara Creecy. We have met with her Deputy Minister. We have met with the team. I have met separately with the Group Executive of Transnet, as well as the Chairman of Transnet and we have found each other

around a common understanding of what is urgently needed to grow the economy both from a tourism side, but also from an infrastructure and port and logistics side.

And R5,2 billion has been set aside not only here, for the country, and last week, I invited the man who is responsible for Operation Vulindlela too and that project is turning things around. Somebody here mentioned the word in this, I cannot remember who it was, structural reform and I am happy to report that the structural reform processes are now starting to gain traction. I want to thank the hon Premier because he pushed for this meeting with Barbara Creecy. Michelle Phillips concluded as follows. She said: everything we promised, we have now delivered. I want this House to know that everything that they have promised, they have actually delivered. So, there is a better relationship.

Last year, hon member, to conclude, last year from a tourism perspective and the harbour, last year we have seen, the World Bank brought out a report, Mr what do you call it? Micros, my good friend. Last year we had the worst ranking, the World Bank every year, they rank the improvements in the harbours around the world, the ports.

Last year Cape Town was the last. †Heel laaste. [Very last.] I want to thank my colleagues in the National Government, I want to thank the Mayor of the City of Cape Town, the hon Premier and the leadership because this year they brought out also a report. Last year we were last. You would be happy in this House that this Cape Town Port has now received, according to the World Bank,

the best performance improvement. They are now, not me, according to the World Bank, number one. I am happy for that because that means that greater tourism can also take place.

So, hon member, thank you for that and thank you for the question. And if hon member Lekker does not take up the offer, it will be extended to you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note hon member Sayed and hon member Bosman directly afterwards, with five minutes remaining. Hon member Sayed.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: No, thank you very much. You know, the hon Doctor was so comprehensive that he has now responded to most of my questions. But it is fine. Let me maybe just shoot from there because he raised certain issues, particularly around some of the infrastructure. It was some of the Tourism and some of the markets.

Now, I wanted to specifically because we are and South Africa is a BRICS country, and I have seen Tourism from some of. So, with regards to Tourism from the Far East, I wanted to get a sense as to are there any specific programmes in place to encourage Chinese tourism, in particular, and for the Chinese tourism to then benefit from our economy. We are hoping that that is not going to be also compromised by the persona non grata status but thank you. Maybe, hon MEC can respond. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Hon member, that is a new question. I am happy to come back.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I note the hon Chief Whip, hon Bosman.

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the hon Minister spoke at length about the role of local tourism officers. So, I just wanted to ask. My constituency includes a town called Calitzdorp and I just wanted to ask. In terms of the local tourism offices and in terms of the impact of Treasury Circular 131 that classifies local tourism offices and the services they provide as a tenderable service.

What is your Department doing to expand on the success of local tourism offices by making sure that those local tourism offices stay open, even though the National Government is trying to sabotage them with this Circular 131? Is there any intervention with the National Department of Tourism to make sure that local tourism offices across the Western Cape get to stay open?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: Ja. I think, thank you, hon Chief Whip. This Circular has certainly created huge instability in terms of the tourism industry. There is huge unhappiness amongst the various municipalities and the tourism industry. My Department has engaged with National Treasury and will continue to do so and also engage with our own Provincial Treasury.

What we are going to do, hon Chief Whip, very soon, I have just got, hon member Nkondlo, I just got the notification yesterday that there is now an urgent Tourism MINMEC. I think the Leader of Government Business has now recently requested that we get proper timeframes for the MINMECs. I cannot just wake up and there is a MINMEC, but this is an important MINMEC where I will put this item on the agenda and my staff is watching in their offices, this current debate. So, I will talk to them directly now to put this item of the Chief Whip, namely the funding of local tourism offices also on the agenda and to see what type of support we can get also from the National Minister of Tourism.

This is an important matter because when I travel through towns there is one question that I normally ask. I first go, when I go anywhere. In every town there is normally an 'I' that is an Information Office. When I go there, I ask them about tourism. Many of them told me that the tourism office has been closed. Now certainly, that cannot be and this ...[Interjection.] Come again? †Wat is verkoop? [What was sold?] Okay, I will talk to you at teatime. [Interjections.]

There is something that I think we need to do in terms of promoting Tourism and there are different formulars. Some are inhouse Tourism, others are LTO. Some municipalities have the capacity; others do not have the capacity. To the hon Chief Whip, I will be very, and I must choose my words now, parliamentary. I will be very strategic to just simply allocate money for a local tourism office in Kannaland, knowing the governance architecture and financial

responsibility.

But what I do need, I have also invited a member of the Beideslandtag. He was a former Mayor and what he did, I invited him also to the Municipal Economic and Tourism Summit to speak to us about something that is called a Tourism Levy. Hon member Christians, there is a tourism levy in other countries, and they also have what is called a debt levy. They then use that money to fund the Tourism offices. All of you have travelled around the world. The first thing when you book into a hotel in Europe, they charge you eight ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly conclude, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: You get charged €8 and that is your tourism tax at the hotel, and they use that for that particular purpose.

But hon Deputy Speaker, I would very much like to conclude by welcoming our student who is from Switzerland, I mean from Sweden. If she could please stand. This is her first time in the House. Thank you very much. She is an intern here. I want to welcome her, and all the knowledge that she gained from both sides of the House, she will certainly take back to her country.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM: I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Minister. Hon members, that concludes Questions for Oral Reply. Outstanding replies will be printed in Hansard. We promptly commence in terms of Rule 204, Question to the Premier without Notice. As per the Order Paper, I now recognise the hon Petrus. But before the hon Petrus commences with his question, I want to again clarify that the relevant hon member posing the question has two follow-up questions that are linked to your original question.

QUESTIONS TO THE PREMIER WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Premier, the informal sector and SMMEs play a vital role in economic opportunities and job creation, especially for our people in informal settlements and townships. Can you please tell the House how many informal businesses were helped by your Government to become formal businesses?

The PREMIER: Again, hon member, thank you very much for that question and absolutely, it is a critical question on SMMEs. The majority of our 560 000 SMMEs in the province are SMMEs. Our Department also has programmes which say, they are called the Booster Fund, and how that boosts SMMEs to grow their businesses.

But the question that you ask is how do SMMEs in the informal space become formal and that is a very interesting question because the question that South Africans asks themselves from a data point of view is how many informal businesses do we even have in our country because they are informal. They are below the radar. They do not pay tax. They are not registered. They do not have those costs.

In actual fact, if it was up to me, I would try and lift that barrier to entry so that they could actually grow bigger before they had to formalise because as soon as you add extra costs onto those SMMEs, they then find it harder to make ends meet because suddenly, you have to pay more money to various things instead of investing it back into your business to grow.

So, in actual fact, the answer to the question, you know, and how many businesses, I would have to get the research to go and see what we can find. But I think if you look in the public domain, we have just had the data that comes from Stats SA. In the information from Stats SA, it is very difficult for them to even differentiate between tourism jobs and finance jobs and back-office processing jobs because they couch it all into the finance sector. They do not even measure informal sector or those SMMEs that are not in the registered space.

Exactly the same thing applies to this conflict at the moment where we have got businesses saying to us that in actual fact, the unemployment rate is not true. It is much lower than we think it is because informal businesses are much

more than we actually think they are. But it is so difficult to get the correlation of those two data points on what Capitec Bank says and Stats SA says.

So, I cannot give you that answer because primarily, those businesses who want to remain below the line do not make themselves known and even the businesses that the various Government programmes support, they are not tailored to that informal sector in general because they ask you questions about registration, about your tax number, about all of those things so that you can get help from Government at any of those Government spaces.

That is why I was always so excited by the Booster Fund because it was about how do we help. You just go from one employee to two or two employees to four, and it was not about those questions. That is why, for example, and it was also about how we bring in other business leaders to help advise those companies.

So, unfortunately, I cannot and I do not think the Department can, and I do not think Stats SA can, and I also do not know if Capitec Bank can give you that exact answer. Sorry.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Petrus?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Speaker. Thank you, hon Premier. So, there is no official policy to assist, with the reasons that you have mentioned, informal ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Petrus ...[Interjection.]

Mr B PETRUS (PA): ...businesses?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is that your question?

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Yes, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

The PREMIER: I have just said that there is. There are interventions into the informal sector. I mentioned one of those programmes called the Booster Fund. There are a whole range of those. I think specifically, the Broadband Project is probably the biggest enabler into the economy. The decision of investing millions every single year for the last 15 years into Broadband has been specifically for that because the data that the World Bank gave us was that it had percentage points difference on the growth of a region or the jobs in a region, if you implement those programmes. So, it is about programmes as opposed to policy.

The interesting thing is, you know, I was just looking at these documents. I held them aside here. If you have a look at specifically the jobs that are measured in our system, and you have a look at the graph. Go onto Stats SA's graph and go and have a look at the latest jobs in our system and you look at

the graphs this bottom one is the Western Cape. I mean, the broad unemployment rate is narrower than any other province: any other province! The narrow is way lower. I mean, together they are lower than the narrow from any other province.

I mean, an unbelievable stat is that in the last five years in South Africa, in the last five years, the number of jobs that have been created in five years in our country is 400 000, which in itself is actually not a very good number of jobs. But 400 000 new jobs in the whole of South Africa. Of those new jobs, I wish I could ask you a question to reply and to say to you, guess how many of the 400 000 jobs come from the one province called the Western Cape? But I will give you that number: 360 347 of 400 000. Almost all of them in the last five years, come from this very province.

So, when you look at policies and programmes, obviously there are things that we do in hon Minister Meyer's Department and the economic support, the cutting the red tape, the Broadband. All of these programmes are making a difference because by far, we are seeing a much better employment rate and a much lower unemployment rate.

Then, of course, those 360 000 exclude the latest job stats which have just come out now. I have just shown you one graph. Here is the other graph. The highest graph in this chart is the Western Cape. Those are the number of new jobs created across South Africa by province in the last Quarter. Guess which province had more jobs than any other province in South Africa? The Western

Cape: 70 000 new jobs that you can add to the 360 347 jobs.

Then, of course, you would say okay, so how do those jobs equate to the informal sector or based on that question, how do those jobs equate to poorer communities? So, I have said it before in this House and I will say it again. It is hard to get that data, which was the first part of my answer. But the second part of my answer is where we do have interaction between our departments and the sectors in government, I mean, the sectors in the private sector.

The real interesting one is there is GIS mapping of jobs in the BPO sector. Jobs in the BPO sector, they measure where people live. They might work in town, or they might work in Bellville, or they might work in Athlone, but where do they live if they work in the BPO sector? The most people that work in the BPO sector live in Mitchells Plain: 16% of BPO workers live in Mitchells Plain. The second most live in Khayelitsha, the third most in Langa, the fourth most in Athlone, and so it goes down by every single residential area, and they map that whole sector which has got now more than 80 000 jobs that just serve the international BPO market.

That is the kind of granular data that we actually need Stats SA to move towards, in every single sector, whether it is formal or informal, so that you can actually really get down to where are jobs? What kind of jobs are they? How much do people earn and then, what further interventions are needed. That is on the jobs numbers which are really good at the moment. We can talk about investment conferences and the strategy of the Department et cetera, et cetera.

But it comes back to the original part of your question which is SMMEs, small businesses. How do we get them to help them to open? What are the seed funding capabilities and capacity? What is the failure rate to success? How different is it from any other country? How do we measure it? The Department has all of those answers. They measure entrepreneurship ratings versus us, versus other like emerging market countries.

So, the real data and evidence in this question that you have asked, if you really are interested in drilling down into that kind of data, it is the perfect kind of question when the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture come. They can drill down into exactly where those interventions are, how many of those interventions, who was helped, and to what value.

[The Temporary Chairperson takes the Chair.]

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Thank you, hon Premier. Hon Petrus, this is your last opportunity.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): I am done.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Okay, we move to the next question. Hon member Stephens.

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon member. Hon Premier, we heard

quite a lot about child killings today and gangsterism and violence. Therefore, I ask what urgent concrete measures is our Government implementing to stop the relentless killings of children in the Cape Metro, and restore a sense of safety and hope in our communities?

The TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON (Ms N D NKONDLO): Hon Premier.

The PREMIER: So, obviously, that was a critical question in the debate. It is the critical question that we are facing and I mean, there are so many facets to answer this. It begins with devolution of power. It begins with how do we build a new policing model in society? But it links through to a question earlier as well, is the behaviour of society and how we, as human beings, treat each other. Because of course, the killing and the gangsterism and the crime have causalities, what causes it. Is it something that happens and in actual fact, in our system it gets worse over time.

So, if we start with the policing side. We already know that in 2019 when I became the Premier, we had 20 000 police officers. Now, we have got 13 000 police officers. There is problem one. In 2019, we had less than 4 million people living in the City, now we have got more than 5 million people living in the City. Another million people: 25% growth in population and a massive reduction in policing.

If we look at investigations, which we spoke about earlier, 8 500 investigator posts not filled. Not filled! We cannot fill them. I would love to be able to

fill them. In actual fact, in this province, it is just under 1 000 posts for investigators just in this province, that are not filled. I have called for devolution of power for years. Give us the budgets, give us the power, we will show you we will change that.

But now, we are having a different conversation. We are saying okay, well, let us see what else we can do to work together. Do you know that there are LEAP officers, 1 200 of them through the City of Cape Town working in six hotspot areas. Those areas are where more guns are taken off the streets now by those officers, the 1 200, than the 13 000 officers in the system.

Now, this says there is a major problem. What are we doing about it? How are we bringing about change? I have asked this in this House. Why is this House not all united saying let us bring a change and let us all invite Minister Cachalia to come here. I must say that I have had very positive engagements with him to say come, let us find solutions. He came and visited here, and we are waiting now. I actually wrote to General Patekile yesterday to say please, let us engage now on the new gang strategy because remember, when the Minister was here, he engaged across political lines. He went on the ground, and he has devised a new anti-gang strategy. So, now we are waiting for it to say how can we partner with this strategy so we can bring about those changes.

But then coming back more towards your actual question. So, what about the interventions that we speak about here all the time? I think the one that I referred to earlier called Planet Youth. We must start asking questions about

that project because for me, it is a super exciting project. It is the biggest intervention in our country at the moment, by far. I mean, really by far!

Sure, it is early days, but you can already see the questions are being asked. We are not doing this as a thumb-suck. It is being done in other countries around the world, and we have gone and found. Hon Minister Wenger. Her team have gone out. They have gone and found what is an intervention that can actually bring about change for youth in our region because they are being slaughtered at the moment and it is unacceptable.

I think the other project that is also a part of violence prevention that is also in the Violence Prevention Programme and run by the Department of Health, which is also a really amazing programme, and that is this one that is called Khulisa Care. You have heard about the first thousand days, and those interventions, but Khulisa Care in stunting.

When a child is born underweight and does not have the right nutrition, by the time that child gets to school, that child is set up to fail because their brain formation has not had the food that it needs in its formation stage, to become a child that is able to be that learning sponge at school and build their future. They are at a disadvantage from day one.

Then, what happens is they become the child that drops out of school. That becomes the child involved in gangsterism. That becomes the child that ends up with a gun, shooting another child. I think that is a second intervention that

is really going to bear fruit over time. I am actually super excited about it because it is a proper partnership. It is a partnership with the private sector, it is a partnership with our communities, it is a partnership through our hospitals and an NGO, the DG Murray Trust. It really is one of those things that you look at this, and you go, but wow, this has so much potential, and we could showcase this to the world if it works.

I do not see any reason why it is not going to work because of how it has been designed. These are the kind of interventions. And then, right down to how do community watches, safety programmes, walking with the communities, how do we ourselves across society because, you know, and I hear what people say. We blame the police because we have too few police and we call for change, and we try something. But at the end of the day, we have all got to play a role: National Government, Provincial Government, Local Government, civil society, NGOs, and we have got to try things. We have got to bring up new ideas, new things and that is going to give us that ability to really have an impact. Because it is not only one government that can bring about that change, it is all of us together.

[The Deputy Speaker takes the Chair.]

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

Ms D R STEPHENS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Will your Government take the decisive step of formally requestion the deployment of

the South African National Defence Force to stabilise high-risk areas and to protect innocent lives? Thank you.

The PREMIER: I think that is a very interesting question and maybe, it is something that you should put to us to have a discussion at the Safety Council. My immediate gut answer to that is I do not think so. I requested this once before. I have been in government for quite a long time and in 2019 I just became the Premier. We were having shooting across the Cape Flats just before an election again and all sorts of. It feels a bit like *déjà vu*, and I said we need the military. That was not the first time. I think it was the second or third time that the military, in the last 30 years, have been brought in to deal with the gang violence. It did not have the effect that I was hoping it was going to have.

Because one would imagine that what happens is, the military come in. They stabilise the system and then, you let the police do what they need to do. I think the real problem is that even when that happens, the military are trained for something else. They are not trained for policing but let them do what they are trained for. Let them secure an area and let the police do. But then, we have got too few police, and we have got too few military people as well. I mean, the military system is totally underfunded and totally inefficient. So, you are going to add another inefficiency to another inefficiency and in 2019 it did not give us the results.

So, that would be my gut is I do not think it is actually going to make a

difference. But I have heard it today and I have heard it a second time today, and there is nothing wrong with your party sending us a formal request to say at the Safety Council, will we consider it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon member Stephens, do you have your final follow-up? Thank you so much. Hon member Sayed, we have 30 seconds.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Okay. There is no point. We will do it another time, thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. ...[Laughter.] I ...[Interjection.]

The PREMIER: At least we gave you some time.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I wanted to be very clear that I provided the opportunity and that hon member Nkondlo heard me provide the opportunity. But also, thank you, hon member Nkondlo. I sincerely trust that nature calls are also a parliamentary term, so thank you so much for quickly helping and assisting.

Hon members, we will proceed in terms of Rule 145. There will be an opportunity for Member Statements. I recognise the Democratic Alliance.

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the success of last week's Investment Summit stands as powerful proof that the Western Cape Province is open for business and that the Western Cape Government is a trusted partner for investors seeking certainty, stability and real opportunity.

The summit held in Cape Town brought together global investors, local business leaders and Government to advance our shared vision of building a R1 trillion provincial economy by 2035 through the Growth for Jobs Strategy. Through this summit, the Western Cape showcased the deal book worth billions of rands in pre-vetted investment-ready projects across renewable energy, agribusiness, logistics and the creative industries. All sectors critical to driving inclusive growth and job creation in this province.

Already, more than R50 billion worth of investment commitments have been secured and that is expected to unlock more than 45 000 jobs in our province that will catalyse private sector development across our districts.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this success reinforces what we have known long ago. When Government provides clean administration, clear policy direction and efficient service delivery, the private sector responds with confidence. Investment Summits like this one are proof that public-private partnerships are the engine of our province's economic future that gives substance to the Growth for Jobs Strategy, and they turn planning into tangible results, growing the economy, growing jobs and creating a shared, prosperous Western Cape for all.

I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip. I see the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, we rise today to express concern over a consistent pattern of secrecy, ethical lapses and a lack of transparency within the Office of the hon Premier.

Firstly, the hon Premier has refused to release the full report into the George building collapse which claimed the lives of 34 workers. This continuous withholding of information denies grieving families and the public the closure and accountability they deserve. The hon Premier must give an Executive undertaking that he will not take three years to make the George building collapse report public.

Secondly, while the hon Premier finally released the police Ombudsman's findings into alleged gang infiltration within senior ranks for SAPS, this decision comes far too late. Communities have lived in fear and uncertainty for months. Transparency delayed is accountability denied. We can only hope the same delay will not apply to the release of the George building collapse report.

Thirdly, the hon Premier failed to declare to the Registrar a sponsored trip to New York in the United States last year, raising serious concerns about ethical compliance and accountability in the Office. We have reported this to the

Registrar and await a response. Together, these incidents reveal an administration increasingly resistant to scrutiny, transparency and accountability are not optional in a democracy, hon Deputy Speaker. They are the foundation of public trust. The people of the Western Cape deserve leadership built on integrity, not concealment. I thank you.

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

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Hon Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Thank you for the opportunity. Hon Deputy Speaker, before I begin, allow me to thank hon MEC Baartman and hon MEC Bredell for the assistance provided to the municipalities of the Central Karoo. Your budget allocations of millions are noted and highly appreciated. Also, allow me to thank hon MEC Meyer for the Western Cape Investment Summit. Thank you for that.

However, hon Deputy Speaker, I must again raise the same pressing question: what are this Government's concrete plans, programmes and projects for economic development and growth in the Central Karoo? What are the timelines for implementation and what tangible outcomes can our people expect? Time and time again when I ask these questions, I am met with the same answer. We must speak to the municipalities. That response, hon Deputy Speaker, is convenient if you do not have a vision of your own for this province. But this Government does have a vision, and it has policies, policies that we are told to be proud of.

One of those policies speaks directly to economic development and growth and indeed, we have seen this practice elsewhere. In Atlantis, we have seen it. The Atlantis Special Economic Zone. In Saldanha, where millions were allocated and ...[5:01:07 - Audio distorted.]. So, I ask again, hon Deputy Speaker, where is the plan for the Central Karoo? Our people do not need bailouts; we do not need charity. We need to Government to implement its own policies. Help us to make our municipalities economically and financially sustainable. When people have jobs, our local economy is growing. We will be able to pay for our own services and strengthen the municipalities ourselves.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I thank you and I thank this House for considering the Central Karoo not as a burden, but as a region ready to play its part and indeed, a bigger role in the economic life of this province. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. Hon Sayed, you are rising on a point of order.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Yes, hon Chair. Hon Chair, I was speaking and now I am reflecting. The hon Premier used, when I was speaking, the word 'rubbish' twice. Is that parliamentary? Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will listen to the Hansard and revert back to the House on that particular order if needed. Thank you so much, hon Sayed. I now recognise the DA.

Prof N MBOMBO (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the safety regulations and future of our Mobility sector remain central to the Western Cape's mission to build a well-connected, inclusive and law-abiding transport system. Vehicle operating licences and the rise of illegal operations affect thousands of law-abiding operators who play by the rules while others continue to undermine road safety, public confidence and the sustainability of this sector. Every day, commuters rely on safe licence operators to get to work, school and home, yet their safety is too often placed at risk by unlicensed and illegal operations.

The National Land Transport Amendment Act introduces important changes to strengthen commuter safety and transform the industry. As such, hon Deputy Speaker, next week Wednesday, the Standing Committee on Mobility will receive two crucial briefings. Firstly, from the hon Minister of Mobility in the Western Cape Mobility Department on the current state of vehicle operating licenses. Secondly, hon Deputy Speaker, from the Western Cape e-hailing Association and the e-cabs, on the readiness of the e-hailing and metered taxi industries to implement the new law. These discussions will focus on safety, transformation and the support the Western Cape Government provides to ensure fair competition and compliance under this new framework.

The Democratic Alliance commends the Western Cape Government for leading a moral, accountable Mobility system that balances innovation with regulation. We call on all stakeholders, operators, platforms and enforcement agencies to work together to restore order, ensure compliance and put commuter safety first. †Kufuneka sisebenzisane ukuze sikhusele abantu bethu, size sakhe

inkqubo yokuhamba ethembekileyo nekhuselekileyo. [We must work together to protect our people and build a reliable and safe transportation system.] The Western Cape continues to serve the national standard for responsible mobility governance. †Enkosi kakhulu, Sekela Somlomo. [Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Mbombo. I recognise the EFF.

Ms A CASSIEM (EFF): Thank you, hon Deputy Chair. The EFF is shocked that the decision of the South African Municipal Workers Union medical scheme to exclude a number of private hospitals serving Black communities from its network. The decision is negatively affecting low-earning municipal workers across the province, more especially on the Cape Flats when one takes into account exclusion of private hospitals such as Melomed Hospitals in Mitchells Plain and Gatesville, among others.

Some of its purpose is primarily to serve municipal workers who include cleaners, drivers, general workers and essential public servants who have an average salary level which leaves a limited disposable income for healthcare beyond their medical aid contributions.

In October this year, SAMWUMED members were notified that the number of hospitals serving their communities would not be part of the network. This decision was taken despite these hospitals offering affordable and high-quality

care on their doorsteps where the majority of these members live and work.

The EFF is possession of an affidavit penned by an affected member outlining what a mother, who is a pensioner, had to go through after they were told to remove her from Gatesville Melomed Hospital, which is on her doorstep, to that of another. Other than the shift affecting the member financially as they now have to travel long distances to get to their new hospital in a white suburb, the transition also ...[5:05:50 - Audio distorted.] and resulted in her developing another medical condition.

As a result, thousands of working-class families continue to face the devastating impacts of a decision made without proper consultation, guidance or the consideration of their socio-economic realities, while at the same time isolates patients and impacts their mental health, recovery and social support system.

In conclusion, in light of the above and for the fact that the affected workers work for municipalities in our province which our hon Ministers here exercise oversight, the EFF would like to once again request intervention in this regard. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Cassiem. I see the NCC.

†Mnr J MICHELS (NCC): Dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*. Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die afgelope naweek is 'n persoon in 'n *hit-and-run* plaas buite Citrusdal, Old

Dam Farm, dood opgetel op die plaaspad. Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ons het 'n persoon in Grabouw wat op 'n plaas bly, wat vir 1 000 units R100 moet betaal. Huurders, plaaswerkers moet hoër huur betaal.

Plaaswerkers *face* daaglikse uitsettings in die Wes-Kaap. Alle wyke in munisipaliteite in die Wes-Kaap waarvan plase deel uitmaak van die geografiese grense word verteenwoordig deur DA raadslede, wyksraadslede. Op die huidige oomblik bevind plaaswerkers regoor die provinsie hulle in mees onmenslike haglelike omstandighede wat geskep word deur plaasboere. Hulle DA wyksraadslede is doodstil oor die situasie wat die belange van plaasboere wat ook die befondsers is van die DA, meer belangrik ag.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die NCC as die enigste kampvegters vir die beskerming van die regte van plaaswerkers in die Wes-Kaap, doen ons 'n beroep op die LUR vir Behuising. Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ek *take note* van die gelag uit DA geledere want dit is wat hulle dink van ons plaaswerkers.

Agb *Deputy Speaker*, as die NCC doen ons 'n beroep aan die LUR vir behuising, vir landbou om te *engage* met die boere so dat daar 'n moratorium geplaas kan word op alle plaasuitsettings tot en met daar 'n plan van die Wes-Kaapse Regering is om ons plaaswerkers van behuising te voorsien. Dankie.

[Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the past weekend a person was picked up dead on a farm road in a hit-and-run at a farm outside Citrusdal, Old Dam Farm. Hon Deputy Speaker, we have a person living on a farm in Grabouw who pays R100 for 1 000 units. Lessees,

farmworkers have to pay higher rent.

Farmworkers daily face evictions in the Western Cape. All wards in municipalities in the Western Cape of which farms form part of the geographical borders are represented by DA councillors, ward members. At the moment farmworkers across the province find themselves in the most atrocious conditions that are created by farmers. Their DA ward members are quiet about the situation that regards the interests of the farmers who are also the funders of the DA, as more important.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the NCC as the only campaigners for the protection of the rights of farmworkers in the Western Cape calls on the MEC for Housing. Hon Deputy Speaker, I take note of the laughter from DA ranks because that is what they think of our farmworkers.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as the NCC we call on the MEC for Housing, for Agriculture to engage with the farmers so that a moratorium can be placed on all farm evictions until there is a plan from the Western Cape Government to provide our farmworkers with accommodation. Thank you.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much ...[Interjection.]

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Agb Premier ...[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: ...hon Michels. I recognise the ANC.

Ms N D NKONDLO (ANC): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Under the Zille Administration, the DA-led Western Cape Government announced the Conradie Park Better Living game changer with great fanfare, their so-called model of inclusive, affordable housing that will heal the spatial wounds of apartheid. Yet, over a decade later, that promise has decayed into cruelty and exploitation, a place where profit tramples dignity and the poor are treated as intruders in their own homes.

Behind the glossy announcements and ribbon-cuttings, lies a daily nightmare of the poor. Tenants report evictions without due process, arbitrary fines of up to R1,500 and the silencing of residents who try to organise. They are forced to buy electricity through an expensive private app at some of the highest rates in the world, whilst the management profits. Even the elderly and SASSA recipients are being suffocated by exorbitant tariffs and corrupt billing.

We have learned of a tenant, a rent-paying person, sleeping in his car because the biometric system denies him access to his home. Others live in fear of being locked out, fined or humiliated. The DA's Conradie Project has become a monument to hypocrisy and a reminder that under the DA, poverty is punished and dignity is disposable.

The ANC caucus stands firmly with the people of Conradie Park. We call for an immediate investigation into these abuses and will be referring this matter to the National Department of Human Settlements and the South African Human

Rights Commission. The ANC will not rest while our people suffer under blue-branded oppression. The poor deserve protection, not persecution. I thank you.

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

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the DA-led George Municipality continues to deliver essential services to the community. On water security, over R1 billion from the BFI Grant has been spent with work completed six months ahead of schedule. Through the Integrated Transport Network, roads in Pacaltsdorp and the CBD are continuously redone and resurfaced, ensuring safer and more reliable transport for residents. In Safety and Security, a 24/7 law enforcement component will be launched to provide continuous protection for the community. Housing remains a priority.

Over the past month, nearly 400 homes have been handed over through targeted housing blitzes. Additionally, Buffalo Tank toilets have been installed in informal settlements, including Wilderness Heights, Syferfontein, and Thembaletu, improving sanitation for many families.

In Social Support, a second threshold for indigenous support has been added for the first time and the threshold for the first tier. Previously said, a two times SASSA has been increased assisting more families in need. The upcoming George Festival will celebrate the vibrancy and the spirit of the community.

Hon Deputy Speaker, these initiatives demonstrate that the DA-led George Municipality continues to deliver effectively across water security, infrastructure, housing, social support and safety. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Booysen. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

†Mnr G P MARAIS (FFP): Baie dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*. Agb *Deputy Speaker*, die Vryheidsfront Plus wil graag ons teleurstelling uitspreek teenoor die hartelose besluit van die DA-geleide Drakenstein Munisipaliteit om die tydelike huurkontrak van die munisipale eiendom in Wellington, die SAF Marine Centre wat aan die Community Youth and Family Services verhuur was te beëindig. Dit was gelei deur mnr Henry Jacobs se gemeenskapsleier.

Nou, hy is al om meer as 'n jaar besig om programme vir die gemeenskap te lei en die jongmense besig te hou. Maar vandag is ek teleurgestel teenoor die DA. [Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the Freedom Front Plus wants to express its disappointment on the heartless decision of the DA led Drakenstein Municipality to end the temporary lease agreement of the municipal property in Wellington, the SAF Marine Centre leased to the Community Youth and Family Services. It was led by Mr Henry Jacobs' community leader.

Now, he has been busy for more than a year to lead programmes for the

community and occupy the youth. But today I am disappointed in the DA.] The DA has ended the contract without any explanation, knowing that there are community upliftment projects for the youth, for women and it is in a very poor area of Wellington. Wellington will be much poorer on 1 December 2025 when he and the organisation and their projects are expected to come to an end.

The DA will pay a very heavy price in the 2026 elections for having closed down community projects of this nature. Ironically, tabling a debate today to discuss the seriousness of crime in the province and then, turn to the closure of this particular facility. I call on the electorate out there not to forget what the DA has done and that the DA's Drakenstein Municipality will pay a heavy price in terms of what they have done to the Wellington community of Wyksvlei and the surrounding areas. Very disappointing! I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Marais. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, today on 13 November 2025, this morning, another 3 young men from the community of Manenberg were gunned down, cold-bloodedly gunned down. When is this going to end?

Hon Deputy Speaker, Allah tells us in the holy Quran by the token of time humanity is at a loss, except those who make effort on their faith and who do

righteous deeds and those who encourage one another to be upright and those who encourage one another to be patient. I thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, the ACDP remains committed in supporting and advocating for the rights and protection of victims of gender-based violence in the Western Cape and across this nation.

On Tuesday, 25 November to Wednesday, 10 December 2025, launches the campaign 16 Days of No Violence Against Women and Children across the world and in our country. With police statistics from 2022 to 2025 showing high levels of sexual offences that are increasing day by day is a major, major concern.

Hon Deputy Speaker, gender-based violence in the Western Cape reflects a national crisis as well as challenges unique to our province. The Police Service in the Western Cape consistently records some of the highest sexual offence rates in the country. In the year 2022 to 2023, SAPS data showed over 7 000 reported sexual offences in this province with Nyanga, Delft, Khayelitsha among the top stations, called 'rape stations'.

By 2023/2024, the GBV response fund dashboard highlighted that South Africa

recorded a woman killed every two and a half hours with the Western Cape contributing significantly to these statistics.

Hon Deputy Speaker, GBV in the Western Cape and across the country is not only a criminal justice issue, but also a societal emergency demanding sustained action from Government, civil society and communities alike. I thank you.

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

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

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

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, in January 2026, we will celebrate two towering figures in our nation's cultural history, David Kramer and the late Taliep Petersen, as they receive one of the highest honours our City can bestow: the Freedom of the City of Cape Town. This prestigious award which places them alongside South African greats, such as President Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, is a fitting tribute to two men who have profoundly shaped our country's musical and theatrical heritage.

Through their unforgettable collaborations, David and Taliep give voice to the stories, troubles and triumphs of ordinary South Africans. Productions such as

District Six, the musical, and Cats and the Kings. They reminded us of our shared humanity, our resilience and the unbreakable spirit of the Cape. Their work travelled from the dusty roads of the Karoo to the bright lights of London's West End, yet always remained rooted in the rhythms, humour and heart of our people.

David Kramer continues to inspire generations with his story telling and commitment to local music, while Taliep Petersen's legacy lives on through his songs and the countless artists he inspired. As we look ahead to the formal ceremony in January 2026, we celebrate not only two extraordinary artists, but two South African sons whose music told the truth of who we are. Let this honour remind us that culture, like freedom, must be nurtured, protected and shared, and may the voices of David Kramer and Taliep Petersen continue to echo through our city, our theatres and our hearts for generations to come. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Van Minnen. Hon members, in terms of Rule 145(6), I now give hon members of the Executive an opportunity for not more than five minutes collectively. I see we are doing the clock, hon Premier. I see the hon Premier. You can go.

The PREMIER: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. First of all, I will change and I do not see the hon Sayed here, but I will change 'rubbish' to 'nonsense'.

I will start off with saying the George building collapse report is not held in secret. On 30 January, I handed it over to the South African Police Service. So, it is with them. Secondly, it will be made public when it gets to court because that is how processes work. You cannot go and ask some investigator for all the documents before it has even gotten to court. That is part of the investigation.

Thirdly, I have repeatedly asked for updates from General Patekile on where we are with the rest of the investigation because then, the charges can be laid which is exactly what needs to be done: lay those charges. But there is nothing stopping the hon Sayed to ask SAPS to come and make the report public and let us see what they say.

I think fourthly, it sounds, I believe that it is the Department of Labour that has not finished their report and that is exactly what we are waiting for. But please, ask that question as well. We are trying to get that detail. It sounds like another IPID process.

And then secondly, again, nonsense. The whole reason the declaration was made and then why the hon Sayed is talking about it is because the declaration was made in annual report. We had a debate in the Standing Committee. He has laid a question with the Registrar. I have answered the Registrar, so let us see what the Registrar says. But again, I reiterate: I take away the 'rubbish' and I say 'nonsense'.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue, hon Minister.

The MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE: Thank you very much, hon Deputy Speaker. In terms of the Conradie statement made by the hon Nkondlo, just a correction. What she was referring to, were the allegations made by tenants in the social housing component of the Conradie Park Project Phase 1. The issues related or the allegations were of electricity charges which was they buy through the smart matter-based app. That is part of their contract with the social housing institute. The Provincial Government has nothing to do with it. The National Department of Human Settlements has got nothing to do with it. However, the tariff structure which they billed at per unit is actually in line with the City of Cape Town tariff book, which is published for all of us.

Tenants are also alerted to annual increases, actually ahead of the July increases by the City of Cape Town. All other components of the Social Housing aspect of what the tenant is permitted to receive, they are actually getting. The problem is when and there are a few tenants who sadly did not honour their part of the commitment as tenants to pay their rental on time and did not put sufficient arrangements in place with Own Haven, which is the Social Housing Institute. I know this got a bit of media attention in October. The Social Housing Institute did respond, but these are the correct figures. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further; I see hon member, the Minister Bredell.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Agb *Deputy Speaker*, ja, baie dankie. Agb Michels is uit die Huis uit. Hy is nuut, so sal hom maar verskoon want hy moet onthou die goed word opgeteken in Hansard. Hy het gesê dat mense betaal R100 vir 1 000 eenhede krag. Hy moet tog vir almal van ons sê waar koop hulle daardie krag, asseblief. Dit is so die feit, dit is feitelik verkeerd.

En dan om plaaswerkers. Kan hy asseblief, my kollega is nie hier nie, maar as daar enige bewyse is van plaaswerkers wat mishandel word bring dit vir ons. My kollega sal dit opvolg. Maar dit is gemaklik om net so algemene stelling te maak en dan op ander mense te trap. Ook, om te sê dat boere die DA befonds. Kan hy vir my sê watter befonds die DA want so kan ek dan sê wie Knoflokskraal se erwe verkoop het, as ons net goed kan sê want ons weet redelik min of meer wat daar aangaan. Dankie, agb *Deputy Speaker*.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Hon Deputy Speaker, yes, thank you. Hon Michels has left the House. He is new, so we'll overlook but he must remember these things are recorded in Hansard. He said that people pay R100 for 1 000 units of power. He should really tell all of us where they buy that power, please. It is so the fact, it is factually wrong.

And then around farmworkers. Can he please, my colleague is not here, but if there is any evidence of farmworkers being abused, bring it to us. My colleague will follow it up. But it is easy to just make such a general statement and then tread on other people. Also to say that farmers are funding the DA, because so

I can then say who sold Knoflokskraal's erven, if we can just say things because we fairly know what is happening there. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I see no further members of the hon Executive. That concludes Member Statements.

MOTIONS

We will proceed in terms of Rule 151 and all notices of motions by hon members are required to be delivered to the Secretary for placing on the Order Paper. These motions have been duly submitted and published on the Order Paper below the line.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): I give notice that I shall move:

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

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

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): I give notice that I shall move:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

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

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

Ms W F KAIZER-PHILANDER (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

That this House debates the failure of the National Government to adequately address the systemic issues that are leading to spate of child killings.

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

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

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

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

Ms B M VAN MINNEN (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

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

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

Mr M BOOYSEN (DA): I give notice that I shall move:

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

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will proceed in terms of Rule 150. I would like to inform hon members that in terms of Rule 150 pertaining to Motions without Notice, condolence and congratulatory were submitted to the Programming Authority prior to this plenary on 11 November 2025. Hon members are also reminded that Motions without Notice pertaining to congratulatory and condolence, will not be allowed in this Sitting that have not been processed by the Programming Authority.

I have been informed that in the Programming Authority meeting of 11 November 2025 political parties submitted the names of the hon members in the desired order of speaking and who had wished to move a Motion without Notice in this sitting of the House. I will therefore, just for noting and for the purposes of the Minutes, call out the hon members whose names have accordingly been submitted and approved.

The following hon members' motions have been approved by the Programming Authority and are as follows: hon Bans, hon Sayed, hon Sayed, hon Ngqentsu,

hon Ngqentsu, hon Ngqentsu, hon Lekker, hon Van Minnen, hon Van Minnen, hon Johnson, hon Masipa, hon Van Minnen, hon Johnson, hon Van Minnen, hon Bryant, hon Booysen, hon Van Minnen, hon Kaizer-Philander, and the hon Bryant.

MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

That the House notes with deep sorrow the passing away of Narriman Gadija Bazier Samuels, affectionately known as 'Ma G', who passed away on Saturday 1 November 2025 after a courageous battle with heart and chest ailments at the age of 60; notes that Ma G was a beloved community activist, mother, grandmother, and elder who dedicated her life to serving the people of Mitchells Plain; notes that her tireless activism, compassion and selfless spirit touched the lives of countless residents and made her a pillar of strength and hope in her community; recognises her remarkable contribution to community development through her leadership in various initiatives, including the Walking Bus Project, the Mitchells Plain Crisis Forum (MPCF), the Freedom Park Neighbourhood Watch and the Community in Blue initiative; notes that, even in the face of illness, Ma G remained deeply committed to her calling, often saying, 'my people need me', a testament to her unwavering sense of duty and love for her community; pays tribute to her strength, compassion and lifelong dedication to improving safety and unity in Mitchells Plain; notes that her

nurturing leadership inspired and mobilised many, and her passing away leaves an irreplaceable void in the hearts of those who knew her; and expresses deepest condolences to her family and to the Mitchells Plain community.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates Westridge teenager Triston Fortune, a Grade 10 learner at the Bergvliet High School, on his appointment as the Western Cape Child Ambassador and Deputy President of the Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament; notes that Triston's achievement is a source of great pride for his school, community and the province as a whole, as it highlights the leadership potential and civic mindedness of young people from Mitchells Plain; recognises Triston's remarkable journey as a young leader who has consistently demonstrated a passion for advocacy and youth empowerment; notes that his leadership roles include serving as a member of the Junior City Council and as Chairperson of his school's Representative Council of Learners (RCL), where he has shown commitment to representing the voices of his peers and promoting learner engagement in governance and education matters; commends Triston for viewing his new ambassadorship "not as a title, but as a responsibility" and for his vision to represent every child in the Western Cape and across South Africa; notes that his advocacy priorities,

education equality, mental health awareness and the fight against hunger reflect a deep understanding of the challenges facing children today and a desire to contribute meaningfully to their resolution; and notes that Triston's achievement stands as an inspiration to young people across the province, reminding us that age is no barrier to leadership and that the future of our nation is indeed in capable and compassionate hands.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates Moied Baleg, a Grade 12 learner at the Settlers High School in the Western Cape, for his remarkable achievement as the overall winner of the Old Mutual South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO); notes that Moied, selected from more than 115 of the country's top Grade 10 to Grader 12 contestants, distinguished himself through his exceptional mathematical talent and perseverance, earning the prestigious gold Dirk van Rooy medal; notes that his outstanding performance is a source of tremendous pride not only for his school and family, but also for the broader Western Cape and the nation; notes that Moied's success demonstrates the power of hard work, strong mentorship and the vital role that dedicated educators and institutions play in nurturing young mathematical minds; and salutes his achievement and wishes him every success as he continues his academic journey.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes with deep sadness the tragic passing away of Mr Mzukisi Zwakala, a taxi owner who was brutally gunned down in Lwandle; notes that Mr Zwakala was found inside his vehicle with multiple gunshot wounds to his head and body, in an attack that also left two other people wounded, including a woman; notes that his untimely death has sent shockwaves through the local community and the broader taxi industry, once again highlighting the devastating toll of the ongoing violence in the sector; conveys heartfelt condolences to Mr Zwakala's family, friends and colleagues, and acknowledges the profound loss suffered by all who knew him; and further condemns the senseless acts of violence that continue to plague the taxi industry, undermining livelihoods and endangering the lives of both operators and commuters.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and extends heartfelt congratulations to Loukmaan Adams, Dr Isaac Balie, Thandi Swartbooi, Joline Young, Nkosikho Juqu, Marco Olivier, Charmain Plummer, Eleanor Damon, Mxolisi Patrick Holo

Mtshamba and Fanie Jason on their well-deserved recognition at the 2025 Western Cape Cultural Awards; notes that their outstanding contributions, from Loukmaan Adams’s musical innovation, Dr Balie’s lifelong dedication to heritage, and Thandi Swartbooi’s tireless work in preserving indigenous dance and music, through to the pioneering preservation efforts, community empowerment and creative excellence represented by all the awardees, truly enrich our province and its cultural heritage; celebrates the broader cohort of winners – honoured across diverse fields including the arts, culture, language, heritage, libraries, museums and archives – as individuals who, through their creativity and commitment, reflect the vibrant spirit of our collective journey “from darkness into light”; and notes that their achievements affirm that culture is not just a reflection of our society, but its beating heart that inspires us all to continue nurturing its growth for future generations.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes and congratulates Lelethu Jikela from Khayelitsha on his outstanding achievement after being named the winner in the category Community Development at the Forty Under 40 South Africa awards; notes that his recognition is a powerful affirmation of more than 15 years of dedicated work through the Jikela Studios, using music, culture and mentorship to uplift the youth, women and people with disabilities in

under resourced communities; notes that Lelethu's journey, from local stages to national acclaim, not only celebrates his personal commitment, but also highlights the transformative power of creativity rooted in community; commends his visionary leadership and ambition, including his goal to establish a music school in Khayelitsha; and wishes him continued success as he builds sustainable opportunities for young creatives and helps to reshape the cultural economy in our country.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes and congratulates Mr Dan Marokane, Group Chief Executive of Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd, on being named the 2025 *Sunday Times* Business Leader of the Year, one of South Africa's most distinguished honours in corporate leadership; notes that this recognition celebrates his visionary stewardship and steadfast commitment to Eskom's renewal, marked by progress in restoring energy security, rebuilding public trust and steering the organisation toward long-term sustainability; notes that Mr Marokane's leadership embodies resilience, integrity and collective purpose, qualities that continue to inspire confidence in Eskom's turnaround journey; notes that his decision to dedicate the award to every Eskom employee underscores his inclusive and transformative leadership style; applauds Mr Marokane's outstanding achievement; and wishes him continued success as he leads efforts to redefine Eskom for a

better and brighter future for all South Africans.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House expresses its profound condolences after the passing away of Mr Alfred Rietmann, a creative and resilient artist, a much-respected mentor and a brilliant theatre practitioner at Artscape; notes that Mr Rietmann's contribution to the performing arts community in the Western Cape has left an enduring legacy of excellence and inspiration; notes that his work uplifted countless young artists and enriched the cultural life of our province; and extends deepest sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues. May his remarkable spirit rest in peace.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes that on Saturday 25 October 2025 the Helderberg Stroke Support Group (HSSG) hosted its Stroke Awareness Summit in Somerset West, in partnership with the Busamed Paardevlei Private Hospital, to tackle one of South Africa's leading causes of disability; further notes that the event was held at the hospital's new mental-wellness facility, Thrive, in anticipation of World Stroke Day on 29 October;

acknowledges the HSSG's contribution over the past 40 years in building a network of support for stroke-affected individuals in the Helderberg region, focusing on prevention, education and rehabilitation programmes; and commends the HSSG, its partners and volunteers for their continued commitment to improving community health and stroke awareness.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Swartland Community Cadet Squad, led by President Chantal Snell, for their outstanding performance at the South African School Band Association National Championships held in Durban; notes that the 20-member community-based squad represented both Swartland and the Western Cape with pride, earning a Gold Certificate for Best Community Band despite competing against larger and better-resourced schools; further notes their dedication in raising their own funds and travelling over 1 600 kilometres to participate; and commends the cadets for exemplifying the values of teamwork, discipline and perseverance, while continuing to inspire the local youth through music and community involvement.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the ten Nyanga youths who successfully completed the Thrive somatic intervention training programme, becoming the first cohort of 'Thrive Initiators' dedicated to tackling bullying and violence in their schools and communities; notes that this programme equips young people with vital tools in self-awareness, emotional intelligence and communication, thereby empowering them to lead with empathy and transform conflict into understanding; acknowledges that these young leaders are setting a powerful example in Nyanga – showing that meaningful change begins within – and that healing, respect and leadership can grow from the heart of the community itself; commends Thrive and its founder, Brian Segal, for investing in youth-driven transformation and for helping to build safer, stronger and more resilient communities across the Western Cape.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the 1st Somerset West Company Boys' Brigade on celebrating its 90th anniversary on Sunday 27 October 2025, with a commemorative march through Somerset West; notes that the event also marked the 142nd Founder's Day of the Boys' Brigade movement in South Africa, with participation from eight Western Cape units; and commends the Boys' Brigade for 135 years of youth development and

community service in South Africa.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Western Cape learners and teachers who won 14 awards at the 2025 National Skills Competition in Johannesburg; notes that this national event, hosted by the Sasol Foundation and the Kagiso Trust, showcased excellence in technical and vocational education; commends our learners and teachers for their outstanding achievements and Nathan Joseph for his leadership; and acknowledges, during National Teachers' Month, the dedication of teachers who inspire excellence in our schools.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Helderberg Cricket Club (HCC) on their commanding seven-wicket victory over Kensington Cricket Club in a First Division C clash at the Helderzicht Sports Grounds on Saturday 25 October; notes the team's brilliant bowling performance, which set up a decisive and well-deserved win; and commends the players, coaches and management of the HCC for their continued commitment to sporting

excellence and community pride.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates the Western Cape Government on the launch of its Water Resilience Strategy (2025–2035), a groundbreaking plan to secure the province’s water future through sustainability, innovation and collaboration; further congratulates Minister Anton Bredell, Minister Tertuis Simmers and Minister Ivan Meyer for their visionary leadership in developing a strategy that not only protects vital water resources, but also supports economic growth, job creation and community well-being; notes that the plan sets ambitious goals to expand water supply, improve efficiency and ensure all municipalities have diversified and sustainable water sources; and commends the Western Cape Government for taking proactive steps to build resilience against droughts and floods, to safeguard agriculture and to ensure every resident has access to clean and reliable water for generations to come.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes the preparation of the Western Cape Department of

Health and Wellness for the launch of the National Immunisation Catch-up Drive from 1 to 30 November 2025; further notes that the campaign aims to close the immunity gap caused by missed vaccinations, following a decline in infant immunisation coverage to below the provincial 95% target, which has left many children vulnerable to measles, polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus; acknowledges the Department's ongoing response to a measles outbreak in Khayelitsha and its proactive mass immunisation services being provided at schools, preschools and healthcare facilities, as well as contact tracing amid an increase in diphtheria cases in the Cape metropolitan area; and commends the Western Cape Department of Health and Wellness for its continued efforts to protect public health, to improve immunisation coverage and to strengthen herd immunity across the province.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House notes the appointment of Mr Vasili Vass as the Station Manager of Fine Music Radio (FMR) with effect from 1 October 2025; acknowledges Mr Vass's distinguished career in radio and media spanning more than three decades, including his leadership roles at Primedia Broadcasting and e.tv/eNCA, and his instrumental role in the launch of eNCA, South Africa's first independent news channel; further notes his strong academic background in Research Psychology from Rhodes

University and his lifelong passion for classical music; and congratulates Mr Vass on his appointment and wishes him and the Fine Music Radio team continued success in promoting South Africa's cultural and musical heritage.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates Mr Kenneth Uren on his appointment as the new Principal of the Paulus Joubert Primary School; notes that Mr Uren, a born and bred Paarliet, began his schooling at the Paulus Joubert Primary School in 1974, matriculated at the Paulus Joubert Secondary School, and has served as a dedicated teacher at the school for the past 31 years; and commends Mr Uren for his lifelong commitment to education, his humility and his passion for inspiring learners to live life to the fullest.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

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

That the House congratulates CapeNature and its partners in the Custodians of Rare and Endangered Wildflowers (CREW) on the remarkable rediscovery of the *Erica cunoniensis*, an endangered plant species last seen nearly four decades ago in the Kogelberg Nature Reserve;

notes with appreciation the dedication and expertise of CapeNature field staff – particularly Pupil Field Ranger Sylvia Wolita whose sharp eye led to the discovery – and acknowledges the importance of collaboration between scientists and citizen conservationists in protecting biodiversity; recognises that this rediscovery reaffirms the Western Cape’s global significance as part of the Cape Floristic Region, a biodiversity hotspot found almost entirely within the province; and commends CapeNature for its continued leadership in safeguarding our natural heritage and ensuring that even the rarest species are not lost to history.

[Motion as printed in the Minutes.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I now put the motions duly submitted and approved by the Programming Authority to the House. Are there any objections? There are no objections, agreed to. The motions will appear in the Minutes of the proceedings and in Hansard, in each individual member’s name as if the member had read out the motion aloud.

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

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

notice:

That this House notes the outcomes of the 2023/2024 Local Government Audits, which show that 26 municipalities in the Western Cape received unqualified audits, including 20 that achieved clean audits, as confirmed by the Auditor-General of South Africa; further notes that the municipalities in receipt of clean audits were Berg River, Breede Valley, Cape Agulhas, Cape Winelands District, City of Cape Town, Drakenstein, Garden Route District, George, Hessequa, Langeberg, Matzikama, Mossel Bay, Overberg District, Overstrand, Saldanha Bay, Stellenbosch, Swartland, Swellendam, West Coast District, and Witzenberg; that this House acknowledges the efforts of municipal officials and councillors whose work contributes to maintaining high standards of governance in the province; and that this House recognises that these results reflect the value of effective oversight, financial prudence, and responsible management of public resources. I hereby move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

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

That the House notes with serious concern that the Standing Committee on Police Oversight and Community Safety convened a meeting with the Western Cape Police Ombudsman as part of its constitutional oversight mandate, where it emerged that the Ombudsman's Office continues to face crippling resource constraints that severely undermine its capacity to perform its statutory duties; further notes with alarm the contents of the October 2022 Ombudsman Report, which details the infiltration of the South African Police Service in the Western Cape by underworld criminal networks. The revelations in the report expose systemic weaknesses within the police, posing a serious threat to the safety, stability, and integrity of our democratic state. Despite the gravity of these findings, the report has been in the possession of Premier Alan Winde since 2022, yet it was concealed from the members and committees of this very House and the public, with no indication of decisive action or accountability measures; that the House therefore condemns the continued secrecy surrounding the Ombudsman's 2022 Report and calls for hon Premier's public release and demands that the hon Premier and the Western Cape Government implement all the report's recommendations without delay and take urgent steps to root out criminal infiltration within the police service and supports the Standing Committee's recommendations to call for a judicial commission of inquiry into these revelations. I so move, though it was overtaken a bit by events.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved? There is an objection ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: We object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

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

That the House notes that the South African Police Service, in collaboration with a private security company, successfully seized alcohol valued at approximately R3,8 million in Somerset West following an intelligence-led operation. Nine suspects, aged between 22 and 47, were arrested, and several vehicles used in the offence were confiscated. This major bust highlights the ongoing threat posed by organised criminal networks involved in the illegal trade, storage, and distribution of alcohol across the Western Cape, a practice which not only undermines lawful businesses but also fuels criminal enterprise in vulnerable communities; the House further notes that such operations are not isolated, as police have uncovered numerous illegal alcohol manufacturing and distribution

sites in Stellenbosch, Klapmuts, and surrounding areas. The proliferation of these underground operations deprives the state of much-needed tax revenue, endangers public health through unregulated products, and strengthens criminal syndicates operating with impunity; the House expresses deep concern that large-scale illicit alcohol operations reflect broader challenges in law enforcement capacity, inter-agency coordination, and oversight of the alcohol manufacturing and distribution sector; the House calls on the Western Cape Government and relevant law enforcement agencies to prioritise a full investigation into this operation, including tracing the source of the seized alcohol, dismantling the criminal networks involved, prosecuting all offenders, and strengthening liquor regulation enforcement across the province; furthermore, the House requests a detailed report outlining the number of similar busts, arrests, and successful prosecutions over the past 24 months, as well as recommendations for preventing the recurrence of such criminal activity.

I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

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

objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I again recognise the hon Ngqentsu.

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

That the House notes with deep outrage and sorrow the brutal killing of an 18-year-old young woman in Delft, who was shot eight times in the head in what police believe to be a targeted act of retaliation. This heinous act occurred in broad daylight and has left the Delft community deeply shaken, highlighting the pervasive and unchecked violence in our townships; further notes that the victim was the daughter of a local tavern owner, who had allegedly refused to pay so-called 'protection fees' demanded by criminal syndicates. This murder is emblematic of the growing scourge of extortion networks operating in communities, which use intimidation, threats, and violence to enforce compliance, creating an environment of fear that undermines lawful enterprise and public safety; the House condemns, in the strongest terms, this barbaric act of violence and calls upon the South African Police Service and all relevant law enforcement agencies to intensify their investigations, ensure the swift apprehension and prosecution of the perpetrators, and dismantle the extortion networks that terrorise communities; the House further urges the Provincial Government to provide support to victims and communities affected by extortion, implement preventative measures, and ensure that the rule of law is upheld without fear or favour. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I now recognise again, the hon Ngqentsu.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): Oh my God, the hon Ngqentsu. I move without notice:

That the House commends the swift and decisive action of the police in responding to a community alert in Dunoon, which led to the arrest of six armed men found in possession of multiple firearms and ammunition. The police's rapid response and professionalism undoubtedly prevented a potential tragedy in a community already terrorised by criminal gangs and extortion rackets; this House notes with deep concern the rise in extortion-related crimes across Cape Town townships, where armed groups intimidate residents and business owners under the guise of 'protection fees'. These criminal syndicates have sown fear in communities, destabilised local economies, and undermined public safety. The arrest of these six suspects demonstrates the urgent need for continuous intelligence-driven policing and strengthened collaboration between law enforcement and local communities; the House condemns, in the strongest terms, the growing influence of extortion syndicates that exploit vulnerable communities through fear and violence. It calls upon SAPS, the Hawks, and the Provincial Department of Police Oversight and

Community Safety to intensify targeted operations, increase visible policing in high-risk areas such as Dunoon, and ensure that those arrested face swift prosecution and maximum penalties under the law; furthermore, the House urges the Provincial Government to expand Community Safety Forums and Neighbourhood Watch programmes, empowering residents to report criminal activities without fear of retribution; the House commends the brave residents of Dunoon whose vigilance and courage in reporting suspicious activity played a vital role in preventing possible bloodshed. I so move. Thank you very much.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. Hon member Ngqentsu, everyone missed your voice here in the Chamber. I now recognise the hon Lekker.

Mr M B NGQENTSU (ANC): They missed even my cute voice in the Chamber. ...[Laughter.]

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

That the House notes the call by Women for Change for a nationwide shutdown on 21 November 2025, aimed at protesting the ongoing scourge of gender-based violence and femicide in South Africa. The movement

coincides with the G20 Leaders' Summit and seeks to draw global attention to the daily violence faced by women and LGBTQI+ persons in our country, highlighting a crisis that requires urgent and systemic intervention; that this House recognises that femicide has reached crisis levels, as eight women have been murdered in the province this week alone. The slow pace of justice, coupled with inadequate government response, continues to exacerbate public outrage and fosters a climate of fear in communities. The planned national shutdown reflects the collective demand for urgent attention and action, including the formal declaration of Gender-Based Violence as a national disaster and the mobilisation of resources to tackle this scourge decisively; that the House condemns in the strongest possible terms, the brutal and systemic violence inflicted upon women and girls and calls on the National Government, SAPS, and the Western Cape Provincial Government to intensify their efforts through improved policing, enhanced victim support services, harsher penalties for perpetrators, and strengthened partnerships with civil society organisations; that the House further expresses its solidarity with all women, girls, and organisations participating in the shutdown and reaffirms its unwavering support for the fight to end gender-based violence and femicide, both in the Western Cape and across South Africa, recognising that meaningful change requires sustained commitment from all spheres of government and civil society. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House warmly welcomes and commends the recent efforts of the South African Police Service in the Western Cape, resulting in 26 arrests over three days as part of Operation Lockdown III, which targeted gang-related crime in hotspot areas including Manenberg, Elsies River, Kensington, Wynberg, Lentegeur, and Delft; the House notes that the arrests included charges for possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition, hijacked vehicles, drug dealing, and other gang-related offences, demonstrating the effectiveness of intelligence-driven, coordinated policing in reducing criminal activity and protecting communities; that the House further notes that operations such as Operation Lockdown III are essential to disrupting gang structures, dismantling criminal networks, and creating a safer environment for residents; that the House calls upon the Provincial Government and SAPS to sustain high-impact operations in gang hotspots, ensure successful prosecutions, maintain visible policing, and strengthen community law enforcement partnerships through tip-offs, Neighbourhood Watch structures, and Community Policing Forums. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

Ms P Z LEKKER (ANC): I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern the continuing crisis of sinkholes in the SST informal settlement of Town Two, Khayelitsha, where multiple homes have been forced to evacuate and one resident has already fallen into a collapse caused by a failing sewer pipeline; that the House further notes that, despite repeated warnings and reports dating back to 2024, the City of Cape Town has not acted with sufficient urgency. The infrastructure remains in disrepair, temporary fixes are used instead of proper engineering solutions, and blocked servitudes prevent safe access and remediation; that the House expresses outrage that residents of Town Two continue to live in imminent danger while municipal delays and structural neglect persist. The House demands that the City immediately deploy emergency engineering teams, relocate at-risk families to safe temporary accommodation, and conduct a full independent investigation into the structural failures and the City's response; further, that the House reaffirms that all residents have the right to safety, dignity, and functional public infrastructure, and declares that any community forced to live in constant hazard is unacceptable in a constitutional democracy. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the notice will be printed on the Order Paper. I recognise the hon Nkondlo.

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

That the House notes with deep concern recent reports revealing that the Democratic Alliance's Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Dion George, holds United States citizenship while serving as a Cabinet Minister in the Republic of South Africa. This revelation has sparked widespread public outrage and raises serious questions regarding national security, loyalty, and the integrity of the Executive with the GNU and the inclusion of DA members who are entrusted with access to sensitive state information and key decisions that shape the country's future; that the House further notes that many ordinary South Africans are denied security clearances, public service appointments, and other opportunities on the basis of dual citizenship, yet this standard appears inconsistently applied when it concerns certain privileged individuals within the Democratic Alliance that seem to be double-agents; the House

also acknowledges that the DA's Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Leon Schreiber, has driven legislative amendments to make dual citizenship more accessible, an act that has been criticised for potentially weakening the exclusivity and sanctity of South African nationality; that the House expresses concern that the appointment of a Cabinet Minister who holds allegiance to a foreign power, particularly one whose policies have often conflicted with South Africa's international positions, represents a potential conflict of loyalty and a serious threat to the sovereignty of the Republic. We must call for stricter scrutiny in the Legislative sector to conduct a comprehensive reviews of the Legislation and rules governing public office eligibility, so to prohibit individuals holding dual citizenship from serving in Cabinet or in any other position that involves access to State information or national decision-making processes; and further welcomes the decision announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa to remove this person from his Cabinet. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. I now recognise the hon Sayed.

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

That the House, in the spirit of African unity and solidarity, commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Angola, declared on 11 November 1975, marking the end of centuries of Portuguese colonial rule; this House notes that Angola's newly-won independence was immediately threatened by foreign interference, including the invasion by the apartheid regime of South Africa, backed by the United States, in support of rebel movements against the legitimate government led by the MPLA (People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola); we further note the heroic act of international solidarity demonstrated by Cuba, which sent tens of thousands of troops to defend Angola's sovereignty, supported by the Soviet Union and African liberation movements, including our own in South Africa; this House recalls that the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale (1987–1988) marked a historic turning point in the struggle for liberation in Southern Africa, a victory that contributed directly to the independence of Namibia and the eventual defeat of apartheid in South Africa. We salute the people of Angola for their courage, resilience, and sacrifice in the face of aggression, and honour the memory of all those who gave their lives in defence of freedom and self-determination; this House further recognises that the bonds of solidarity forged in struggle between South Africa, Angola, and Cuba remain a cornerstone of progressive internationalism and a testament to the power of unity among oppressed peoples; we therefore call on this

House to celebrate the 50 years of independence of Angola and to reaffirm South Africa's commitment to African unity, sovereignty, and justice, and we continue to strive for a continent free from foreign domination, exploitation, and oppression. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There is no objection, agreed to. I recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes that the annual campaign of 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children will commence on 25 November, coinciding with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This global campaign, observed in South Africa since 1998, seeks to raise awareness and galvanise collective action to end the scourge of gender-based violence, which remains one of the most devastating human rights violations in our country; that the House further notes with deep concern that South Africa continues to face unacceptably high rates of gender-based violence and femicide, with women and children, especially in impoverished and marginalised communities, bearing the brunt of abuse, neglect, and systemic failure. The persistence of these crimes represents a moral, social, and

institutional crisis that undermines the constitutional values of dignity, equality, and freedom for all; that the House therefore calls for urgent, coordinated, and sustained action across all spheres of government, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen prevention, protection, and prosecution measures. This includes improving victim support services, ensuring that perpetrators face swift justice, and investing in education and social programmes that challenge the toxic cultures of patriarchy and violence that fuel abuse in our society; that the House also acknowledges and salutes the tireless work of women's rights organisations, community activists, social workers, and law enforcement officers who continue to fight for justice and safety for women and children, often under difficult conditions and with limited resources. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? There are no objections, agreed to. I again recognise the hon Windvogel.

Ms R WINDVOGEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, I move without notice:

That the House notes with deep outrage and sorrow the brutal murder of two men and one woman in Montclair, where two of the victims were found inside a vehicle and the third was discovered in the boot. This horrific act of violence underscores the continuing and deeply entrenched crisis of

gender-based violence and femicide that continues to plague our country and devastate families and communities; the House condemns, in the strongest possible terms, this brutal act and calls on the South African Police Service to prioritise the investigation, apprehend the perpetrators without delay, and ensure that justice is served; the House further calls upon the Provincial Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety to intensify efforts to protect women and to strengthen community-based interventions aimed at preventing gender-based violence. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion being moved without notice? No objections, agreed to. I recognise the hon Stoffel.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Hon Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the African National Congress, I move without notice:

That the House notes with grave concern the recent ruling against the DA-led Stellenbosch Municipality, which has been ordered to pay R750,000 in damages to a job applicant who was unfairly discriminated against during a municipal hiring process. The ruling found that a fully qualified Coloured woman, holding a BA Honours degree, was overlooked in favour of an unqualified white female applicant with only a matric certificate, highlighting a clear case of racial and qualification-based discrimination; the House further notes that this ruling underscores the urgent need for all

public institutions, including municipalities, to uphold merit-based and equitable employment practices as mandated by the Constitution and the Employment Equity Act. The decision serves as a strong reminder that public entities are obliged to promote fairness, transparency, and transformation, and that any deviation from these principles constitutes a serious violation of both legal and ethical standards; the House condemns in the strongest possible terms the Stellenbosch Municipality's disregard for equity and transformation policies, and calls upon all municipalities across the Western Cape to ensure that hiring processes are fair, transparent, and strictly merit-based; the House further urges the Stellenbosch Municipality to publicly acknowledge the ruling, implement corrective measures to prevent future discrimination, and reaffirm its commitment to fostering inclusive and non-discriminatory workplaces; that the House expresses solidarity with the complainant and reiterates that any attempt to undermine transformation policies under the guise of procedural compliance will not be tolerated. Public institutions must reflect the constitutional values of equality and non-discrimination, ensuring that all South Africans, irrespective of race or gender, have equitable access to employment opportunities in government and municipal structures. I so move.

[Motion as moved by Member.]

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

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection, and the motion will be printed on the Order Paper. Hon members, that concludes Motions without Notice. The Secretary will now read the first Order of the Day.

ORDER OF THE DAY

The SECRETARY: Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill [B 10B–2023] (NCOP), dated 24 October 2025.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, the House received the report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to not support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford parties an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I wish to remind hon members again that there is a three-minute cut-off. Am I on the right page?

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Just to check, hon Deputy Speaker. You said the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs. Is it not supposed to be the Standing Committee on Premier and Constitutional Matters?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It has been a very, very long day. Hon members, let me commence and start over, and double check with the Table Staff. We did that deliberately to see if people in this House are awake ...[Laughter.] and if people in this House actually listen. So, let me commence once again. I trust that the record will reflect that the Secretary has read the Order. I will now indicate.

Consideration of the report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill, dated 24 October 2025 is hereby ratified for final mandate. I will now give hon members of this House an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I now see the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Hon Deputy Speaker, this is on the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill, alright, if I am correct? Okay, thank you.

The African National Congress supports the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill. The Bill is a critical step towards building a capable, ethical and developmental State, one that serves all South Africans with professionalism and integrity. It strengthens coherence and accountability across all three spheres of government and aligns directly with the goals of the Medium Term Development Plan, which this Government has formally adopted in the SOPA.

By promoting merit-based appointments, enhancing mobility within the public service and tightening measures against unethical conduct, it advances the vision of a united, efficient and people-centred administration. As a partner in the Government of National Unity, the Democratic Alliance should be putting aside petty party politics and support this Bill, which gives practical effect to the principles of good governance and improved service delivery. I so thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Sayed. I recognise the PA. The PA is not. I recognise the PA?

Mr N CONSTABLE (PA): Thank you. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. We do not have a very big statement, but the Patriotic Alliance supports the Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Constable. I recognise the EFF. The EFF is currently not on the hybrid system. I recognise the NCC.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker, sorry man. †Ek is nie. Ek wil gou net ... [Tussenwerpsel] [I am not. I just want to quickly...[Interjection.]]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No problem.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Hon Deputy Speaker, †ek gaan nie op hierdie stadium *participate* toe nie, *support* of gaan nie *support* nou nie. [I'm not going to participate at this stage, support or not support now.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: No problem, thank you so much. Duly noted. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. No declaration, hon Deputy Speaker. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I recognise the Al Jama-ah.

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

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, no declaration from the ACDP.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon Christians. I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): Hon Deputy Speaker, no declaration, thank you.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Chair and may I also thank the hon

Leader of the Opposition for also reminding me which Bill we are dealing with. I was wondering whether I am going to get caught there. So, thanks for that.

The Democratic Alliance in the Western Cape cannot support the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill in its current form as it poses a direct threat to good governance, accountability and a constitutional autonomy of provincial and local governments.

At its core, this Bill advances centralisation under the guise of creating a single public administration. In practice, it undermines provincial authority, weakens local decision-making and risk, eroding the distinct constitutional responsibilities of different spheres of government. Such centralisation is not only impractical, but unconstitutional as it regards the principle of cooperative governance that underpins our democratic system. This legislation needs to be constitutionally tested before being implemented.

The Bill also introduces numerous technical and governance flaws, fails to provide clear definitions for key terms. It creates opportunities for abuse and political interference, contrary to its purported intent. The absence of proper consultation mechanisms and the removal of provincial input or national norms and standards further limit accountability.

Equally concerning is the lack of a comprehensive socio-economic impact assessment or any clear fiscal framework to support its costly implementation. A reckless omission that made burden already strained provincial budgets.

While the Democratic Alliance supports professionalising the public service, in fact, we lead there, and preventing conflicts of interest, these objectives cannot come at the expense of constitutional integrity or fiscal responsibility.

The Bill as it stands, centralises power, creates ambiguity and imposes unfunded mandates without proper oversight or transparency. Until the legacy of ANC corruption and cadre deployment is fully laid to rest, like the Zondo Commission, State Capture, action being taken, this Legislation is simply not fit for purpose. †Maak vir wolf skaapwagter. [Set a fox to keep the geese.]

The Democratic Alliance cannot support this Bill. South Africans deserve an efficient, accountable and constitutionally balanced public administration, not one governed by unchecked central control.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I have to announce that there are currently 31 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore quorate. The question put before the House that the Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill be adopted. Are there any objections? There are no ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are there objections?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Those in ...[Interjections.] are there? The report is not to support. Are there any objections to the report? Are there any objections to the report?

An HON MEMBER: Ja.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'no'. I think the 'yes's' have it. The question is then approved and the report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Administration Management Amendment Bill, has therefore been adopted. The Secretary will now read the second Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Service Amendment Bill [B 13B-2023].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House received the report of the Standing

Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Public Service Amendment Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP, to not support this Bill. This mandate has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford hon members an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I now recognise the ANC.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: The African National Congress supports the Public Service Amendment Bill. The Bill marks a decisive step forward in building a capable, ethical and developmental State that places South Africa at the centre of governance. Not only on the African continent, but globally. It enhances accountability, mobility and coherence within the public administration, in particular, it speaks to the issue of political appointees in political offices as well. It gives effect to the Medium Term Development Plan and the Framework ...[Interjections.] hon Deputy Speaker?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Administration will mute the person online. If I can, once again, alert hon members on the hybrid system to not to unmute. You may continue.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Thanks. It enhances accountability, mobility and coherence within the public administration. It speaks also challenges that we face with political appointments in ministerial offices and gives effect to the Medium Term Development Plan and the framework for the professionalisation of the public service. Key pillars of the African National Congress vision for a transformed and effective State.

The ANC calls again, not only on the parties that are a part of the GNU, our partners such as the DA, but also all political parties represented in this Legislature, to act in the national interest because acting in the national interest is acting in the provincial interest and local government interest. This Bill is about strengthening service delivery, restoring professionalism and rebuilding public trust in our democratic institutions. I so thank you.

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

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you very much. The Patriotic Alliance again supports this Bill. Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the EFF. The EFF remains absent. I recognise the NCC.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Support.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Michels.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): No declaration, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Hon Deputy Speaker, Al Jama-ah, we support the Bill. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): No declaration from the ACDP, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): No declaration, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr T C R WALTERS (DA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. The Democratic Alliance cannot support the Public Service Amendment Bill in its current form as it fails to address fundamental issues of accountability, transparency and administrative integrity within the public service.

This Bill as drafted, significantly undermines the authority of executive authorities by transferring excessive powers over human resource management and disciplinary processes to heads of department. Such a shift erodes political

accountability and weakens oversight over the performance and integrity of senior officials. The proposed devolution of powers creates ambiguity between the roles of Presidents or Premiers, and Ministers or members of Executive Council, blurring lines of responsibility and diminishing ministerial control over departmental outcomes. The will of the people can be subverted, frankly.

Equally concerning is the Bill's lack of safeguards against political interference in appointments, its failure to ensure independent oversight of selection panels and the removal of executive authority's dismissal powers. These omissions open the door to politicisation, corruption and weakened governance again, contrary to its purported purpose. The absence of a comprehensive socio-economic assessment again, further highlights the Bill's shortcomings without clarity on financial implications, service delivery impact or labour relations consequences. The legislation risks creating unfunded mandates and administrative instability.

The Democratic Alliance firmly supports a professional, accountable and a-political public service. It is not a newfound discovery for us. However, this Bill does the opposite. It centralises power, dilutes accountability and threatens the independence and efficiency of Government administration. Again, contrary to its supposed aim. It should be noted that the NCOP did not properly consider the negotiating mandate of the Western Cape's Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters and left all, but one of our concerns unaddressed. The one that was addressed was cosmetic.

Until these serious flaws are corrected, we cannot in good conscience support this.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Walters. I have to announce that there remain currently 31 hon members present and entitled to vote, and the House is therefore, quorate. I am going to say the next bit very slowly, hon members.

The question put before the House that the report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Service Amendment Bill be adopted. Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: No objection.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is. There is an objection. Those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'no'.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, I think the 'yes's' have it. The

question is approved. The Report of the Standing Committee on the Premier and Constitutional Matters on the Public Service Amendment has therefore been adopted. The Secretary will now read the third Order of the Day.

The SECRETARY: Consideration of report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill [B 14D–2022].

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. The House received the Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to not support the Bill. This has been sent to the NCOP. I will now afford hon members an opportunity to make a declaration if they so wish. I now see the ANC.

Ms B N STOFFEL (ANC): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. I move on behave of the African National Congress to support the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill. The Bill brings significant advantages to the South African system of local governance. Firstly, the Bill establishes an independent authority with clear criteria and transparent procedures for determining and redetermining municipal boundaries and delimiting wards.

This independence helps to safeguard against political interference and ensures that boundary decisions are made in the best interests of communities. The Bill

also strengthens the public participation by requiring meaningful consultation with affected communities before any boundary changes are made. Mechanisms for public input, including written submissions and public meetings are built into the process promoting transparency and accountability. Furthermore, the Bill introduced a Demarcation Appeals Authority providing a fair and accessible avenue for communities and stakeholders to challenge decisions which enhance trust in the system.

Importantly, the Bill mandates its regular municipal capacity assessment ensuring the municipalities are equipped and to deliver services effectively and equitably by aligning boundary decisions with principles and spatial justice, sustainability and good governance. The Bill supports integrated development and improved service delivery for all South Africans. These reforms will help build stronger, more accountable and more inclusive local government structures. I thank you, hon Deputy Speaker.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Stoffel. I recognise the PA.

Mr B PETRUS (PA): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. As per the report, the Patriotic Alliance supports the Bill. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the EFF. The EFF remains not online. I recognise the NCC.

Mr J MICHELS (NCC): We support the Bill. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Michels. I recognise the Freedom Front Plus.

Mr G P MARAIS (FFP): Hon Deputy Speaker, we do not support the Bill. Thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Marais. I recognise Al Jama-ah.

Mr G BRINKHUIS (AL JAMA-AH): Thank you, hon Deputy Speaker. Al Jama-ah, we support the Bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I recognise the ACDP.

Mr F C CHRISTIANS (ACDP): Hon Deputy Speaker, no declaration from the ACDP.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you so much. I recognise the GOOD party.

Mr B N HERRON (GOOD): We support the Bill, hon Deputy Speaker.

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

Mr D W BRYANT (DA): Hon Deputy Speaker, the Democratic Alliance welcomes the decision of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental

Affairs and Development Planning to not support the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill.

This Bill, as referred by the National Council of Provinces, sought to restructure the municipal demarcation board into a new authority. While the principle of strengthening local government oversight is sound, the DA believes that the Bill in its current form fails to address key concerns raised during the provincial consultation process.

Through deliberations, both the DA as well as the Department, made several constructive proposals and ensuring transparency, accountability and the insulation of local government structures from political interference. These included recommendations for a multi-party selection panel to appoint members of the new Demarcation Authority and for clear safeguards to prevent the manipulation of municipal boundaries for political gain.

Regrettably, many of these recommendations were merely noted, rather than incorporated into the final version of the Bill. As a result, the DA could not, in good conscience, support Legislation that risks undermining the independence and impartiality of this vital institution.

We therefore commend the Committee for its principled position to recommend that the Western Cape's delegation to the NCOP not support the Bill. This outcome reinforces our province's consistent commitment to good governance, constitutional integrity and fair representation at a local level.

The DA remains steadfast in its belief that meaningful reform must be built on the foundations of accountability, community participation and the rule of law, not centralised control or partisan influence.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the Committee decision sends a clear message: the Western Cape will continue to defend the independence of our local government institutions and stand up for Legislation that truly strengthens democracy, not weakens it. I thank you.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon members, just give me one moment. Hon members, I can now confirm that we have 33 hon members present currently who are entitled to vote, and the House is therefore ratified. The question put before the House that the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill conferring authority on the Western Cape delegation in the NCOP to not support this Bill, be ratified and adopted. Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are no objections ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me pose the questions again. Are there any objections?

An HON MEMBER: Object.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is an objection. Those in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'yes'.

Hon MEMBERS: Yes.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the report being ratified and adopted, please say 'no'.

An HON MEMBER: No.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the 'yes's' have it. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: No!

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is therefore approved. The Report of the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning on the Independent Municipal Demarcation Authority Bill has therefore been adopted.

Hon members, it has been a baptism of fire for our newly sworn-in member

today, so once again, hon member Michels, I trust that you have thoroughly enjoyed your time in the House today.

Hon members, that concludes the business of the day. The Secretary will now end the meeting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 16:17.