

---

TUESDAY, 14 MARCH 2023

---

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT

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

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

The House met at 14:15.

The Speaker took the Chair and read the prayer.

The SPEAKER: Please be seated. Order, members! Before we begin, I would like to remind members of some of the logistical arrangements. As has been the practice, 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 via Microsoft Teams. Our Standing Rules have accordingly been amended to accommodate such hybrid Sittings.

The hon members experiencing challenges in connecting to the Sitting are requested to contact the WCPP ICT colleagues who will assist to resolve their connectivity challenges.

Allow me also to highlight some of the important directives, that the quorum requirements for the Sitting of the House are provided for in the Constitution and the Standing Rules. Members present in the Chamber and via Microsoft Teams have all the privileges and immunities imparted by law. Members who are considered out of order by the Presiding Officer will have their microphones muted and called to order.

The Serjeant-at-arms will record the members' attendance.

Members, in instances where these Directives do not cover a particular eventuality, the Standing Rules will apply. In instances where the Rules cannot be applied, the Ruling by the Presiding Officer is final.

Members, all microphones have been muted. However, for those members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams, you are requested to use the raised-hand function of the system when you desire to raise a point of order and the Presiding Officer 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 completed speaking. Hon members are required or requested to please ensure that their microphones are unmuted when the Presiding Officer recognises them, and when they are done speaking to please mute their microphones.

Hon members participating in the Sitting of the House via Microsoft Teams are requested not to sign into Microsoft Teams on more than one device, unless the second device is utilised with earphones for Language Translation Services, as all these actions result in the disruption of the sound during the Sitting.

The media and members of the public have also been granted access to the MS Teams Meeting as guests of the WCPP. However, members of the press may not use the chat room or speak or activate their cameras while the Sitting is in progress. If an individual, who is not a member of this House, activates their microphone and video camera, such an individual will be exited from the Sitting immediately. I request that those here today who are not members of this House, to please observe the decorum of the House.

For this Sitting, members, Language Translation Services are available in the Chamber as usual, and on Microsoft Teams via the respective channels. Hon members participating in this Sitting of the House must please access the Language Translation Services via a second device, for example, your cell phone, and if you have earphones available to please use them for the Language Translation Services.

Hon members, I would like to draw your attention and remind you that no interjections are permitted during the hybrid Sittings. To this end, I draw the hon members' attention to Rule 40 of our Standing Rules.

Hon members, that is the logistics for the day, but before we start I would like to refer back on a matter at the House Sitting of 9 March 2023, where a point of order was raised on an alleged unparliamentary language used by the hon Peter Marais.

At the time, hon members, I indicated that I would consult the audio recordings of the proceedings to determine what was said. The recording was inconclusive, and I informed the House that I would wait for the transcriptions of the proceedings and make a ruling at the earliest opportunity, which was today.

Having studied the transcript, I am ready to make the ruling. I have also informed the hon Peter Marais of my intention, and I have requested him to be present at today's Sitting. I have now been informed, members, by the hon Marais, that he is not able to attend the Sitting of the House due to circumstances beyond his control. As my ruling requires a response from the hon Marais, I will make the ruling at the next Sitting day when he is in attendance. I so rule. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Oh, you are not serious! I cannot believe that.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, is that a point of order?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, it is.

The SPEAKER: You may address me.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: The Rule, which Rule?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Are you a Speaker now, are you self-appointed?

[Interjection.] Then you rather keep quiet. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip, please speak to me.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, you would have known that the unparliamentary utterances that were made by an hon member in this House were a bone of contention. Not only that, but it was an insult to the Africans and blacks in particular and your comments or your address today is not fit enough to address the issues and perhaps my point of order to you is that you need to address the matter as urgently as possible. Not unless today you want to tell us and the people of the Western Cape that this Parliament harbours and protects racists and that is a point of order which I want you to take into consideration as and when you are taking your decision, because as it is, it is not acceptable, and it is an insult to us as the African National Congress, and perhaps I must place it on record that the ANC is going to take further actions in this regard.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. That is not a point of order, but let me just clarify this ruling. I have indicated to the House that I am ready to make a ruling. The member that the ruling affects or is addressed to is not present in the House. That is nothing or this is no new convention. This has always been the case where a member needs to be present when a ruling is made. I am not going to entertain any further points of order on that because I have already made the point. The member is not here. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): This is not your House, Chair. This is not your House. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, hon members, it is not up for debate. [Interjections.] The member is not here. I need to, as part of the ruling... [Interjections.]

Members, as part of... [Interjections.]

Members, when there is a member on the floor I allow you an opportunity to raise your point of order. I am now on the floor so please allow me the same opportunity to address the House.

Hon Chief Whip, I have seen you. Can you please take your seat, I am still busy responding.

Hon members, there is – in order to... [Interjections.] Hon members!  
Hon members, on both sides of the House, can I please ask that you allow me  
to continue and finish.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): You protect the racists!

An HON MEMBER: Exactly!

Ms R WINDVOGEL: Ja, because they are racists [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: I have indicated when I started that I am able to make a  
ruling. The member which I... [Interjection.]

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Make the ruling!

The SPEAKER: I cannot make the ruling in the absence of the member  
because that does not address the point. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Chair, where in the Rules...  
[Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Members, please. [Interjections.]

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

The SPEAKER: Hon Leader of the Opposition.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Hon Speaker, I would like to address you on what you have indicated and I am sure other members will want to do the same. There is no Rule in this House which says that a member needs to be present when you make a ruling, number 1. The hon Marais could indicate to you next week, the week after that for reasons beyond his control he is not here. He called African black members of this House refugees. He told some of them that they come from Zimbabwe. That is racist, and it is insulting. There is no convention. There is no convention which says that he has to be here. He could string this House along for months. We would like you to share the ruling with us so that the House is aware and when that member is in this House, he can consider doing what the ruling might ask him to do so, so, Speaker, there is not a Rule about this. It is a convention. We ask you to understand the racist insults of this bigot, hon Marais, and understand that there is a sensitivity here from all of us and hopefully from the other side of the House as well. Thank you.

Ms A BANS: And business as usual!

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you, hon member, hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

The CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, Speaker. Speaker, we all are bound to the Rules of this House, otherwise it would be absolute chaos.



An HON MEMBER: Which Rules?

The CHIEF WHIP: Speaker, I rise on Rule 66(5) which says that a member who is aggrieved may not challenge a ruling in the House. That member should follow the process of writing to the Speaker, who must then convene a Rules Committee within reasonable time to address the principle of the ruling. This should apply only to substantive matters. I so move, Speaker. Thank you. [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I see the hon Chief Whip and then the hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. I honestly do not know what makes a member to rise on a different Rule from the Rules that we are dealing with, and from your comment that you have made you said you are not in a position to make a ruling in the absence of member Marais. There is no Rule such as that and this House cannot be led to a different direction that is not even covered by the Rules. The statement that you have made has no backup in any legislation of this House and therefore we cannot allow such a situation to happen at our presence at our own peril because we have our own Rules that guide us here and you cannot create your own Rules out of a pain, Speaker.

Maybe if one does not understand what it means to be labelled as a refugee,

they will stand up and speak contrary to that because they do not see themselves as refugees.

I was born and raised in Nyanga-East. My mum was born and raised at Klip, and that is in the area of Grassy Park. How do we then begin to be called foreigners in our own country? That is an insult and we cannot accept it as legislators and if you are dilly-dallying, hiding behind frivolous Rules that do not even exist, you must tell us today. There is no such a convention, Speaker. Tell us today that you are protecting and harbouring racists in this Legislature!

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Chief Whip of the Opposition. Hon Deputy Chief Whip.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker, and we note what you have said. I just wanted to know and I think it is important where in the Rules, because it says there is a convention, but where in the Rules exactly does it say that a member must be present when there is a ruling being made about the member, because there were cases in this term where the former Speaker ruled and the member was not present, because, and I am asking this, because as the ANC we are contemplating action and the Speaker must place on record that Rule which says that the member must be present so that when we do take action we have it on record on the part of the Speaker. Also, Speaker spoke about the Rules Committee. That is a Committee that hardly convenes. In fact when last did the Rules Committee

sit?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon members. I see hon Kama is online. Is that a point of order? Hon Kama?

Mr M KAMA: Yes, can you hear me, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I cannot hear you, hon Kama.

Mr M KAMA: Can you hear me now?

The SPEAKER: Yes, I can hear you.

Mr M KAMA: Speaker, I think I am also rising on a point of order because I do not think the Chief Whip of the House was really assisting you, because you have not made a ruling and these actions, Speaker, that you are about to embark on, do not only make the pain much more worse, but it also undermines the very same ruling you had made when this point of order was raised initially, because your commitment then was that you are going to rule in the next Sitting of the House, because you had to go and look into Hansard and revert back to the House.

Now to say that because the member is not in the House and the member is aware that you are going to make a ruling in this House, does not assist, Speaker.

I think this House collectively, whether one is of any particular race, has a responsibility to commit itself to protect our democracy, which was founded on non-racialism, and for this House to dilly-dally in a moment that it should restore the hope in the people of South Africa, that never again shall they be discriminated against according to their race. This is a very serious matter, Speaker, where you need exactly as the Leader of the Opposition is saying, you need to be able, as the Speaker of all of us in this House, to be able to say to the citizens even of this province, that racist utterances are not allowed in this House. You have an opportunity to make that call and choosing not to make a ruling in this instance, because of the very same member, who we believe has broken the Rules of this House, really is an undermine, and it puts this House in a very bad image. I thought, Speaker, one should raise that point. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Kama, that is a comment and not a point of order. Hon members, I said it from the beginning, the ruling I can deliver. In order to deliver the ruling, I need a response from the person that the ruling is addressed to. I mean, this is nothing new. This has always been done. It is convention in the House and because it is such an urgent and important matter, I am not going to deliver this ruling in the absence of the member that I need to address. I take it as seriously as you are and for that reason, I went out to make sure that we are 100% correct, that the pretext, the text or the context of those utterances and the post-texts were all taken into account.

Hon members, the way that I am dealing with this I would deal with any other member that is in this House, with exactly the same manner. This is nothing new. Hon members in the past have been afforded an opportunity to be in the House when rulings were made. Rulings were delivered to people in the House in order to afford that member the opportunity to address the House on that point of order. I please ask members that we do not politicise this issue, but that we rather in the interest of the people... [Interjections.] [Simultaneous shouting.]

No! No members, members I allowed you an opportunity when you were on the floor. [Interjections.] [Simultaneous shouting.]

When you were on the floor I allowed you an opportunity. [Interjections.]  
Hon Dugmore.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Thank you, Speaker. I would like to address you. I would like to address you on your explanation. The reality is we have established there is no Rule. Secondly, that you refer to a convention.

The reality is by reading out the ruling, you as Speaker can then instruct member Marais to come to the next session to respond, because I believe that in your ruling, you are weighing up the very perpetrator, the very racist who called our members here foreigners, insulted them, said: "Go back, you are

from Zimbabwe.” So now you are protecting the perpetrator, whereas if you made the ruling it would be clear to everyone that you are asking him to do X, Y or Z and then he could be called to the next session. In fact, you could, if you were serious, with respect, you could organise a special session for him to come and do this, but he cannot simply say for unforeseen circumstances he cannot join us. What if he says that the next time? What if he says the next time? It is just not, so it is a convention, and we are reaching a new situation here and I think the choice that lies before you, is do you recognise the feelings or the circumstances of an alleged racist perpetrator over the insult that has actually been delivered to victims, and one can say to this House in front of everyone who is here, who wants to listen to the budget, as we do, that you will then – you have made it clear as to what the request will be and then he just gets called at the next meeting to give him your response.

I think it is a new situation, Speaker, and we appeal to you and I think previously the Deputy Chief Whip has asked that if it is necessary, because we, from the ANC, we do not want to delay people's time here. We want to listen to this budget. We came here for that, but even if it involves a five minute break where you can ask the Whips to meet, but a convention is a convention until it is no longer a convention.

That is what I would argue, Speaker, and please assist this House and consider the feelings of those who have been insulted and those against whom racism has been practiced. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you very much, hon Speaker. I want to support the sentiments raised by the hon Dugmore. Convention is what it is – convention. It is not a Rule and it must not be cut and dry. It is because it is essentially, because we sometimes use conventions and niceties as to why racists feel comfortable in our country and in our province. This has to come to an end. There is no reason as to why the ruling cannot be delivered and member Marais can respond when he is in the next Sitting, or as to why we cannot take a break, tell him that he must come here, because he is the perpetrator. This is an extraordinary circumstance. It is not like a ruling about “somebody said something funny or something.” This is racism. It really shows that we are not serious.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Deputy Chief Whip of the Opposition. I now see the hon Chief Whip of the Majority Party and then hon Nkondlo and then I am going to close. The Deputy Chief Whip? [Interjection.]

I did say that, hon Klaas, if it is not a new point of order, you cannot rise on a point of order, on a point of order, and you have already had an opportunity. Hon Baartman.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, I would actually

like to rise on two points of order, one relating to Rule 66(3) where a point of order must adhere to a procedure, a practice or operation of the House, but also relating to 66(5). A similar way that has been practiced in this House that when someone has been accused of something the ruling must be made when they are present, an example, Code of Conduct matters, when the matters are ATCd the House have to vote on it, and then the respective Speaker or Presiding Officers have to then confront the accused person and then there is a possibility that the respective person must then do a particular action. So if a particular ruling is going to require member Marais, for example, to withdraw or to apologise or to be reprimanded or any other mechanism that the House must employ, we do not know what that might be. So the accused person must be here so that they are able to face the consequences of their actions. Every accused in our whole country, these are the rights we fought for. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Read out the Rule. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: They must face the consequences of their actions. So in terms of 66(5) you said at the end of your sentence, that the ruling that you made was that you are going to wait for the person to be in the House. That was a separate ruling to the actual ruling and therefore I ask that the same way with the Code of Conduct, the same way in the courts of law of our country, that we make the accused come to this House to face the consequences of their actions. Thank you. [Interjections.]



The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Nkondlo. [Interjections.]

†Me R WINDVOGEL: Dis 'n skande man, 'n skande!

[Ms R WINDVOGEL: It's a disgrace, man, a disgrace!]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, there is a member on the floor. Hon Nkondlo.

Ms N D NKONDLO: Thank you, Speaker. Speaker, I just want to rise to actually direct my point to you that it is my understanding that the issue that we are dealing with is about the decorum of the House, which is why at most, even in the National Assembly, you would have members rising on the point whether what a member in the House says is parliamentary, because it has to do with the decorum of the House.

The second point that I would like to raise, hon Speaker, is whether which Rule, if indeed the premise of our conversation rests on Rules, which is this Rule that allows you to make a conclusion on the basis of convention, than a Rule, if exactly that Rule is absent in the Rulebook. Again, I would like to understand the extent to which in this House, as part of the decorum of this House, we would enable, because this matter – from where I am sitting – has got little to do with the member. It is about the decorum of the House and whether this House, which members individually, take an oath of office, which has got to do with them adhering to the Constitution of this country. One of those is to ensure to remain as public representatives upholding the non-racial character of this particular Constitution, whether you want to then

sit and hide behind Rules for you not to rescue and restore the image of this House, that no member, whether present or absent, will actually stand in a platform in this House and allow it and actually abuse privilege of this House by uttering racist statements on other members, let alone by inference to other members of the public. So those are the issues I want to address to you as the Speaker. Can you please consider that even in the last Sitting I asked you about the statement of member Marais? Let alone what he subsequently made comments on, whether do you allow a member to make a statement that has got racial connotations in it, and you never ruled on that matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Nkondlo. Thank you very much for that point of order. On Friday I did in fact, before I – on Thursday – said that I will rule together on that matter too, because it all links and that is part of the ruling. Hon Klaas.

Mr T KLAAS: Speaker, I disagree on what you have said. The main thing is that we are here and we were here because we know that you are going to rule on this point and all of us we are waiting for you to rule, but you do not do that, you just give us duck and diving. You speak that and speak that and you do not give us a point because when you said you are going to rule the member was here, so he knows very well what you are going to do today, but because he wants to use your points that we do not understand even in the Constitution that you said he is not here, but he knows what will happen, and even when you address him, maybe you did say to him: “Hey, this thing”, but

the main point that we need here is that gives us what is happening on that Hansard, and we do not want what are you going to rule, but we want you to be fair and state what has been said on that Hansard. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright, thank you very much, members. Members, I have indicated that I will deliver the ruling when the member is in the House. If you are aggrieved by this verdict, you are more than happy, you are more than welcome to challenge me on Rule 66, and for that reason I am no longer going to take any further points on this matter, and I now move on...  
[Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: A point of order, Deputy Speaker.

The SPEAKER: And I see the Chief Whip.

## **BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, according to the Order Paper I move the first motion in my name:

That, notwithstanding Rule 163, the House considers the principle and finalisation of the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill... [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order!

The CHIEF WHIP: ...(2022/23 Financial Year) [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: On a point of order!

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, Speaker!

The CHIEF WHIP: [B 1–2023] on Monday, 27 March 2023. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, Speaker. [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: Speaker! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members, please! Order, members!

The CHIEF WHIP: I so move, Speaker. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Members, there was a motion, the first motion in the name of the Chief Whip. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: A point of order!

Ms A BANS: On a point of order, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Are there any objections to the motion ... [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: Speaker, Speaker, on a point of order!

An HON MEMBER: A point of order! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: Can I be recognised, Speaker? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: A point of order! [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: Can I be recognised, Speaker? [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: Hon members! [Interjections.]

Ms A BANS: Can I be recognised, Speaker? [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order!

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans, please take your seat.

Ms A BANS: Can I be recognised, Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Hon Bans, please take your seat! [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, Speaker, a point of order.

Ms A BANS: I have been up on a point of order. Can I just be recognised?  
[Interjections.] [Shouting simultaneously.]

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order, Speaker!

Ms A BANS: Why Speaker?

An HON MEMBER: On a point of order!

The SPEAKER: Hon members, you are leaving me with no other option but  
to... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: Speaker, on a point of order!

The SPEAKER: I will refer... [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: A point of order, Speaker.

Ms A BANS: There is another point or order.

The SPEAKER: Who is that, why is everyone shouting? I did not recognise you on the platform. Hon Bans, please take your seat.

Ms A BANS: Speaker! [Interjections.]

The SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity. Please take your seat. Hon members, there was a motion. [Interjections.] There was a motion... [Interjections.] [Shouting simultaneously.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): This is not your House!

The SPEAKER: There was... [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] Hon members! [Interjections.] [Simultaneous shouting.]

Hon members, hon members, I will not be strong-armed from the floor to do my job as the Speaker. Let me be categoric; make this categorically clear. [Interjections.] Hon Chief Whip?

An HON MEMBER: We equally will not allow you to allow members to incite us in this House.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker.

An HON MEMBER: We will not allow that.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker?

[Microphones muted 00:35:40-00:36:15]

Mr T KLAAS: Hon Speaker! Hon Speaker!

[Microphones muted 00:36:20-00:36:55]

Mr R D MACKENZIE: Hon Speaker, the sound is muted.

Mr T KLAAS: Hon Speaker, we cannot hear what the Chief Whip is saying.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): ...behave yourselves.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon members.

Ms N D NKONDLO: You are not the Speaker of the DA.

The SPEAKER: Okay, hon members... [Interjections.] Hon members, can I just... [Interjections.]

Hon members, can you just calm down. [Interjections.] [Simultaneous shouting.]



Hon members, I mean the lack of disrespect amongst members is shocking. The reality is I have already... [Interjection.] Hon Windvogel, I am on the floor. [Interjections.]

Ms R WINDVOGEL: So what!

The SPEAKER: So what?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: You are creating the very... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: So what?

Ms R WINDVOGEL: You are creating the Rules... [Inaudible.]

The SPEAKER: I am not going to be strong-armed to rule on a matter that I have already ruled on. If you have an issue... [Interjections.] [Simultaneous shouting.]

No, hon members, I have already said that I am going to rule. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): The sound is off, I am not raising...

[Microphones muted 00:38:01-00:38:07]

The SPEAKER: Okay, what is your point of order?

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Yes, thank you, Chair. It is not on this issue. Members of the media as well as members in the House, but who are on the hybrid, are raising a concern. There was a stage when the sound was muted. Then it was on, but now it is muted again. [Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: People must know!

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): So if we can just make sure that the Technical Team sorts that out before we go any further please, please. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: Alright, can I just ask that the Table staff please check why the sound has been muted on the hybrid system. [Interjections.]

An HON MEMBER: The sound is back on.

The SPEAKER: Alright, the sound is back on. Hon Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Deputy. Can they also just check that the YouTube is also not muted, please?

The SPEAKER: Can I please get an indication that the YouTube Channel is working from the Table staff? I have been given the assurance from the Table

staff that YouTube is working. [Interjections.]

Hon Windvogel, if you want to address me can you please rise. Hon Dugmore, and then the Leader of LOGB.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Speaker, you are aware of another convention where in this House we are able to approach the Table and to propose a motion. Now we want to do that and ask for a division. You have made a ruling in this House. We argued and we also even suggested to you that one of your staff can call hon Marais, ask him to go link in virtually, deliver your ruling. So we would like to actually vote on that motion that you call that we suspend proceedings, I will deliver that motion now to the Secretary in writing and we would like that motion to be debated immediately, to debate that motion, to call hon Marais to this House or to be virtually there, and that is what I am going to do now. I would like to alert you that I am going to deliver it to the Table in a few minutes and as our Chief Whip indicated, this motion printed on the Order Paper here, is actually a motion. I am not sure whether you heard but our Chief Whip asked for a division on that motion. That means there has to be a vote on the first motion that appears on the Order Paper today.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, hon Leader of the Opposition. I see the Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Speaker, I would like to raise two Rules of

order, because two matters were raised. Firstly, in terms of Rule 133(2) I did not see four members rise in the support of the division and therefore I would like to request the Presiding Officer forthwith declare what the decision on the first motion was, and in terms of Rule 151, dealing with notices of motion, subsection (2), written notices of motion delivered to the Secretary after 12 o'clock on any working day may be placed on the Order Paper of the second Sitting day thereafter, not earlier, unless in a particular case the Speaker determines otherwise and then 151(3) regarding a unanimous vote of the House must take place before even any Notice of Motion must take place. Thank you, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. I am not going to go into the details or that point of order raised or responded to by the Deputy Chief Whip, because I did not even put the motion to the House yet. The Chief Whip was still on the floor when it was stopped. So I now recognise the Chief Whip of the Majority Party for Motion number 1.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker. I move in my name:

That, notwithstanding Rule 163, the House considers the principle and finalisation of the Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2022/23 Financial Year) [B 1–2023] on Monday, 27 March 2023. I so move, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. I am putting the motion. Are there any objections to the motion?

The SPEAKER: There is an objection.

[Microphones muted: 00:42:47-00:43:05]

The SPEAKER: Okay, members, I now need to put the question to the House. Those in favour of the motion being adopted please say “yes”.

HON MEMBERS: Yes.

The SPEAKER: Those not in favour of the motion approved, please say “no.”

An HON MEMBER: No.

The SPEAKER: I think the yeses have it.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): What about the division now?

The SPEAKER: Okay, in order for members to have their respective votes – okay members, I have now noticed the call for the division. In order for the members... [Interjections.] Hon Marran!

In order for the members to have their respective votes on the question before the House to be recorded correctly, I will enquire from the Chief Whips and the Parliamentary Leaders to indicate their respective party's positions on the questions. For political parties represented in the WCPP by more than one member I will also enquire from the members of such parties whether any of such members wishes to record a vote different to that of their party.

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

The CHIEF WHIP: Support of approval, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Are there any individuals members of the DA who wishes to record a vote different to the vote of their party?

Will the Chief Whip of the ANC please indicate whether the ANC is in support of the approval of the question? Hon Dugmore, please take your seat. Hon Chief Whip?

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Speaker, we are not in support of the question.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Are there any individual members of the ANC who wishes to record a vote different to that of the vote of their party?

An HON MEMBER: Nothing, Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Will the Parliamentary Leader of the EFF please indicate whether the EFF is in support of the approval of the motion?

Mr T KLAAS: No.

The SPEAKER: Are there any other individual members or member of the EFF who wishes to record a vote different to the vote of their party, because there is more than one member?

I have received an apology from the hon August representing GOOD and now will the hon member of the ACDP please indicate whether the ACDP is in support of the motion on the question before the House?

Mr F C CHRISTIANS: Speaker, I support.

The SPEAKER: I have received, thank you very much, hon Christians.

I have received an apology from the Freedom Front Plus.

Will the hon member of the Al Jama-ah Party please indicate whether the Al Jama-ah Party is in support of the approval of the question before the House?

Mr G BRINKHUIS: Thank you, Speaker, Al Jama-ah is not in support, thank you.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Members, just give me one second. All right, thank you members. I just need to indicate that there is a total of 35 members present; 25 members “yes” and 10 “noes”. The motion is therefore agreed to.

I see the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, I move Motion 2 on the Order Paper in my name:

That the House, for the purposes of considering the appeal by the Deputy Speaker against a finding of the Conduct Committee at its meeting of 30 November 2022, hereby appoints the following members to serve on the Appeals Committee:

Van der Westhuizen, AP (DA)

Maseko, LM (DA)

Plato, D (DA)

Sileku, I (DA) (Alternate)

Dugmore, CM (ANC)



Cassiem, A (EFF)

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Chief Whip.

Members, I place the Motion number 2 in the name of the hon Chief Whip as printed on her name for a vote in the House. Are there any objections to the motion being moved?

An HON MEMBER: Objection.

The SPEAKER: Hon Chief Whip of Opposition.

The CHIEF WHIP (ANC): Thank you, Speaker. The ANC is in objection and we cannot allow any processes that seeks to undermine the very same decorum of this House. We are not going to object and we are not going to sit here, but we are going to make sure that the ANC only comes to this House when you brought Peter Marais to answer for his sins.

The SPEAKER: Alright, members. The Motion 2 put in the name of the hon, of the Chief Whip of the Majority Party, are there any objections to the motion being agreed to?

No objections? Agreed to.

Hon Leader of the Opposition?

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Could I just, just before the ANC leaves, I would like to formally table the following motion with the Secretary.

The SPEAKER: Hon Dugmore, you are not allowed to read the motion. You can submit the motion, but you cannot read the motion.

The LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION: Okay, but you know that the motion is about bringing hon Marais to this House.

The SPEAKER: Okay, alright, hon Leader of the Opposition. Thank you very much.

[ANC exits the House and online platform.]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, members. I now see the Chief Whip of the Majority Party.

(Motion)

The CHIEF WHIP (DA): Thank you, hon Speaker, I move the third motion in my name on the Order Paper:

That, in terms of section 62(5) of the National Constitution, read

with Section 2(3) of the National Council of Provinces (Permanent Delegates Vacancies) Act, 1997 (Act 17 of 1997), Ms Linda Nellie Moss be appointed as a permanent delegate to the National Council of Provinces.

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon members. Are there any objections to the motion being moved in the name of the hon Chief Whip?

No objection. Motion agreed to.

Thank you, hon members, the Secretary will now read the First Order of the Day.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

1. Introduction and First Reading – Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2022/23 Financial Year) [B 1–2023]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much, hon Secretary. I now see the hon, the hon Minister Wenger.

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Thank you, hon Speaker, hon Premier, Cabinet Ministers, hon Leader of the

Opposition, hon members of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Executive Mayors, Deputy Mayors and Mayoral Committee members; representatives from the National Treasury; members of the Consular Corps, Heads of Department, special guests, people of the Western Cape.

I table today, the additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill of 2022/23 [Bill B1–2023] to first attribute emergency funding to Vote 14, Local Government, to assist in the provision of basic services in municipalities as a result of the unforeseen and unavoidable severe loadshedding, and second for the appropriation of an additional allocation to Vote 5, Education, as part of the Education Infrastructure Grant.

On 25 January 2023, I authorised the use of R88,815 million from the Provincial Unforeseen and Unavoidable Reserve Fund to the Department of Local Government, Vote 14, as per Section 25 of the PFMA, in order to meet the Province's responsibilities to support municipalities and responding to the effects of loadshedding on the continuity and treatment and supply of water and sanitation services through the provision of alternative energy supply.

At municipal level, electricity is used for the pumping and treatment of raw water for the distribution of potable water and for the collection and treatment of wastewater and water discharge. Reservoirs, water purification plants and wastewater plants all need large pumps to operate. Consistent and severe load shedding has made it very difficult for these facilities to continue

to operate as needed. Municipalities have expressed that one of their most critical emergency needs is assistance with once-off funding to acquire backup energy supply, such as generators for the operation of this critical infrastructure. The devastating impact of sustained high levels of load shedding on basic service delivery across many municipalities in the province affects the fundamental rights of citizens. There is no reasonable prospect that it will end anytime soon, and the knock-on effects on our water services could not have been foreseen, which is why we urgently need to stabilise energy requirements and ensure municipalities can provide essential and basic water and sanitation services. This funding will also help mitigate against the real risk of spillage of raw sewage into water courses and interruptions of potable water supply, both of which have potential adverse health implications for citizens.

Strict conditions have been attached to this expenditure, and each of the municipalities are required to sign a transfer payment agreement as an internal control mechanism to ensure compliance with the conditions of the grant framework.

Further, Deputy Speaker, please note that the authorised amount was reported to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the Auditor-General within 14 days. Expenditure in this regard is included in this Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill for the current 2022/23 financial year. The allocations to municipalities have been published in the notice and will also be formally gazetted, as per the requirements of the Division of Revenue Act,

2022, and the Department of Local Government will publish regular reports on progress associated with expenditures by all beneficiary municipalities.

Deputy Speaker, the National Treasury and Government in the *Government Gazette* published on 21 February 2023, allocated an additional R115,462 million to Vote 5, Education, in the 2022/23 financial year as part of the Education Infrastructure Grant. It has thus become necessary that an additional allocation be appropriated as part of this Bill.

This comes as a result of the National Department of Basic Education stopping the transfer of funds to the Provinces of the Eastern Cape in the amount of R100 million and Mpumalanga in the amount of R311,94 million and reallocating these funds to Gauteng in the amount of R296,487 million and to the Western Cape in the amount of R115,462 million.

The R115,462 million allocated to Vote 5, Education, for the Education Infrastructure grant, will inter alia assist to accelerate construction, maintenance, upgrading and rehabilitation of new and existing infrastructure and education, including district and circuit accommodation. To address the achievement of targets set out and the minimum norms and standards for school infrastructure, to address damages to infrastructure and to enhance capacity to deliver infrastructure in education.

Deputy Speaker and hon members, I herewith introduce and read in for the first time, the Additional Adjustment Appropriation Bill, B1-2023, for the

2022/23 financial year. Thank you. [Applause.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker took the Chair.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. The Secretary will now read... Hon Klaas, do you have a point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Yes.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Hon Klaas, hon Klaas, can you focus on me.

Mr T KLAAS: Why are you asking me yourself? The Speaker must ask me.  
[Interjection.]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Minister LOGB! Hon Klaas, just take your seat for a second. Minister, do you have a point of order?

The MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: Yes, hon Deputy Speaker, if the member could just indicate on which Rule he is rising.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Hon Klaas, do you have a point of order?

Mr T KLAAS: Speaker, before that, did he ask – did he hear me speaking before he asked me that question? I will ask through you to ask him.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Okay. Hon Klaas, no, hon Klaas. Hon Klaas, this is an esteemed House, we follow Rules. Please speak to me. What is your point of order? I am listening.

Mr T KLAAS: Thank you. I just want to say to you that I am also leaving because I cannot continue with the racist...

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: I respect your choice.

Mr T KLAAS: Thank you.

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: I respect your choice to leave. You may leave the House.

[EFF exits the House]

The SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We may now proceed.

†Die MINISTER VAN PLAASLIKE REGERING, OMGEWINGSAKE EN ONTWIKKELINGSBEPLANNING: Nou gaan ons sien.

[The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: Now we'll see.]



The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: The Secretary will read the Bill a first time.

The SECRETARY: Western Cape Additional Adjustments Appropriation Bill (2022/23 Financial Year) [B 1–2023]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr Secretary. In accordance with Rule 188(1) the introductory speech, the Bill and papers laid upon the table will be referred to the relevant committees for consideration and report.

The Secretary will read the Second Order of the Day.

2. †Indiening en Eerste Lesing – Wes-Kaapse Begrotingswetsontwerp [W 2–2023]
2. [Tabling and First Reading – Western Cape Appropriation Bill [B 2-2023]

The DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary, I now recognise the hon, the Minister Wenger.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: Hon Deputy Speaker, today I have the honour of tabling before you the 2023 Overview of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, Overview of Provincial and Municipal Infrastructure Investment, Estimates of Provincial Revenue and Expenditure, Western Cape Appropriation Bill, B2–2023, the *Provincial*

*Gazette* of Allocations to Municipalities and the Budget Speech for discussion and deliberation in the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and its Committees.

This budget builds on the Medium-term Budget Policy Statements framework of hope, tabled in November last year, as we continue on our pathway from recovery to growth for you in the Western Cape.

Almost a month ago, Premier Alan Winde in his State of the Province Address set out a bold vision to deliver a better future for the people of the Western Cape.

The Premier spoke of the fierce urgency of now. He said:

“As the Government of the Western Cape, we are delivering a clear difference for our residents now, not plans or platitudes, but recognisable tangible action.”

And today, I set out how we will fund this action over the next three years in pursuit of realising a future full of hope in the Western Cape.

Deputy Speaker, I often think of what this future might look like. When I read to my four-year old at night, and he asks me questions about a world he is just discovering, I worry about what kind of tomorrow we are creating for his generation. I worry, as all parents do, about the seemingly endless darkness that we have been plunged into. I worry about children that go to

bed hungry, about access to quality education, and healthcare services for the most vulnerable. I worry about how the rising cost of living will impact our fight against poverty and I worry about the unacceptably high levels of crime, especially violent crime against women and children in South Africa.

I am, as I am sure members of the Legislature are, compelled into action to take urgent steps to make it better, as is our responsibility. I am reminded of the words of Amanda Gorman, poet and activist who said:

“There is always light if only we are brave enough to see it; if only we brave enough to be it.”

Delivering hope, as the Premier said last month, will require the fierce urgency of now from all of us. It requires courage and grit, and it requires action. Showing this fierce urgency of now will require that we face up to the headwinds ahead of us.

The World Bank estimates that global economic growth will slow from 2,9% in 2022 to 1,7% this year. High levels of inflation and commodity prices continue disruption to global supply chains, and the risk to global food supplies brought on by Russia's invasion of the free and sovereign nation of the Ukraine, means many countries, particularly in the euro area, face possible recession.

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: As the impact of the invasion of Ukraine continues to reverberate around the world, the National Government's so-called neutrality on this war has been brought

into question by simultaneously engaging in military exercises with the aggressor. These reckless and anti-human rights actions are threatening relations with key trading partners and could come at a great cost to the Western Cape economy, even though our position on this matter of geopolitics could not be more different.

Hon Deputy Speaker, here at home in South Africa, we face serious challenges. Last week it was confirmed that the national economy contracted by 1,3% in the Fourth Quarter of 2022 and that real GDP was, in fact, 0,1% less than before the implementation of the COVID-19 lockdowns, showing that nationally we are sadly worse off now than before the pandemic. The national economic outlook also remains anaemic with growth forecasts of 0,6% in 2023 and 1,6% in 2024.

At the heart of many of these challenges is a failing National Government, unable to provide the clean governance, power and decisiveness needed to change South Africa's trajectory. In the 2023/2024 financial year alone, National Government will spend R340-billion on debt-servicing payments. This is four times more than the total annual allocation to the Western Cape. While we welcome efforts by the National Treasury to consolidate debt, the opportunity costs, especially on frontline services, are hard felt.

However, just as we took urgent action, worked together and chose hope over fear to overcome the severe drought of 2017 and just as we took urgent action to save lives and livelihoods during the COVID-19 pandemic, we will again

face our challenges head-on. With the right data to inform an evidence-based approach to strategic decisions, by rolling up our sleeves and working together, we can, and we will succeed. And there is reason to have hope.

In the Third Quarter of 2022, the Western Cape economy was estimated to be 1,3% larger than the First Quarter of 2020. According to the latest quarterly labour-force survey, we have now surpassed pre-pandemic employment levels thanks to an exceptional Fourth Quarter of 2022 in which the Western Cape created nearly 99% of net employment gains in South Africa. [Applause.]

Over December last year, hotel occupancy in the province was better than before the pandemic and international tourism has almost recovered to pre-pandemic levels at 97% when compared to 2019. Last year, nearly 32% of all building plans in the country were passed in the Western Cape and we are the leading province for building plans passed by value. And, our agriculture sector's growth outperformed all others over the last ten years and is a significant export earner, accounting for 51% of all national agricultural exports.

These are all reasons to have hope in the future and we must push on and push forward because we have more work to do to lift people out of poverty, to increase opportunities for our residents and to deliver a better future.

Hon Deputy Speaker, that is why today, we table a Budget of Action. The budget boldly seeks to remove obstacles that stand in the way of creating a

more prosperous future that our children deserve. I am therefore pleased to announce that over the three year Medium Term Expenditure Framework, we will spend R242,31-billion to build a better tomorrow. Since the MTBPS, an additional R1,1-billion has been set aside to ramp up our energy security and decrease our reliance on Eskom with R39,82-billion allocated to boost economic growth and to create opportunities for our citizens.

This means we are allocating an additional R709,14-million to our Growth for Jobs priority over the 2023 MTEF. Over the next three years, this Budget of Action will also spend R4,76-billion to make sure citizens are safe in their communities. An additional R396,09-million has been added to this important priority over the 2023 MTEF and this Budget of Action will spend R170,91-billion, including an extra R966,85-million over 2023 MTEF on our citizen's wellbeing, including on key services such as Education and Healthcare.

Hon Deputy Speaker, the University of Cape Town academic and energy expert, Prof Anton Eberhard, in an opinion piece earlier this year, summed up the current power crisis when he said that:

“Inaction has consequences.”

Here we are four years later, actually, 25 years later if we consider the 1998 Energy White Paper, and Eskom is in meltdown. Undeniably inaction has consequences. The single biggest threat we face right now which

compromises our collective future, is the missing-in-action, stable energy supply of electricity upon which all else rests. Every single day of 2023, citizens and businesses both big and small, have dreamed about the power needed to carry out even the most basic tasks. The consequences are dire.

In 2022, the real GDP loss to the Western Cape because of loadshedding, was estimated at R8,2-billion. This is why hon Premier Alan Winde in his State of the Province Address, set out to tackle this challenge head-on with a R1,1-billion plan to drastically ramp up our energy resilience and decrease our dependence on Eskom. This R1,1-billion plan is put into action in this budget to give you power.

Upfront, we have allocated R598,47-million to reduce the impact of loadshedding, to boost the Green Economy, to set up a strong pipeline of green energy projects, scale up support to municipalities to help them get more power into the grid and to identify critical transmission infrastructure upgrades. A further R501,52-million is earmarked for energy projects in the pipeline and is a critical element of our ability to respond in an agile and flexible way. There are four pillars of the Western Cape's Energy Resilience programme which I will share some highlights of today.

First, R11,5-million over the MTEF will be allocated to develop the Western Cape Integrated Resource Plan in relation to grid generation and financing planning. This plan will use an evidence-based approach to provide a least-cost plan for new generation in the province and provide policy certainty.

Second, R11,1-million will be allocated over the MTEF to the Demand Side Management Plan work, which seeks to identify short-term options for the Province to mitigate some loadshedding by managing demand. A critical part of this plan is also to ensure that Demand Management is incentivised.

Third and receiving the lion's share of this upfront funding, is our new Energy Generation Programme on which we will spend R444,5-million over the MTEF. This will include project preparation support so that we have expertly designed and well prepared projects to deliver more energy, faster.

And finally, R15,8-million over the MTEF will be earmarked for the Network Development Plan which aims to understand where we can use current municipal distribution networks and crucially, to identify where we need to push Eskom to accelerate their planned network developments. Just as this approach tackles increasing our energy independence in a multifaceted way, our response will be driven by the whole of Government.

The Department of the Premier is allocated R95,5-million and will be leading, coordinating and driving strategic components of the Western Cape Energy Resilience Programme. This includes emergency powerpacks for vulnerable households and leading the preparation of the Western Cape's Integrated Resource Plan, the Municipal Pooled Buying Project and the Demand Side Management Programme. The new Department of Infrastructure has been allocated R148,7-million of the Energy Budget to



further drive municipal independent power producer procurement, which includes project preparation facility, grid infrastructure development work and exploring gas power.

A total of R60-million has been allocated to WesGro and Freeport Saldanha, to enable green hydrogen development in the Western Cape. The Department of Economic Development and Tourism is allocated R24-million over the MTEF to improve energy resilience in municipalities and will also receive R55-million over the MTEF to support SMMEs to implement alternative energy supply systems. And over the MTEF, a total of R57,5-million is allocated to the Department of Local Government to help municipalities to pilot green energy solutions, which will include the provision of specialists to find the best-fit renewable energy options, as well as the creation of a municipal energy masterplans.

The Western Cape Government will step up and step into the breach to protect citizens and the economy wherever possible and we will do so with transparency and accountability during this State of Disaster, by publishing our Best Practice Procurement Disclosure Reports on energy procurement, just as we did during the COVID-19 pandemic. ...[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Well done!

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES:  
[Laughter.] Hon Deputy Speaker, this is a budget that gives power back to the

people. We will show the fierce urgency of now required to protect our economy and deliver a future full of hope.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of the Western Cape who sent in their 'Budget Messages for Mireille' and who let me know what mattered most to them. The input sent to me mostly fell into three key areas, which tie in with and are the reason why this Government has set out to deliver Growth for Jobs, Safety and Wellbeing. Our three North Star priorities.

Oscar from Cape Agulhas wanted to know more about how we plan to create jobs by making it easier for small businesses to grow and access support. We have a clear vision for the future as contained in our new economic growth strategy, Growth for Jobs, which is near finalisation. This bold strategy envisages a jobs-rich, inclusive, sustainable and resilient provincial economy that is growing at between 4% and 6% per year in real terms by 2035. This plan contains clear targets for each key focus area that our economy needs to succeed, all of which are based on the understanding that it is the private sector that creates jobs and that it is Government's role to enable its success.

So, to achieve this bold strategy in pursuit of a better future for the people of the Western Cape, we have allocated R39,82-billion over the MTEF for this important priority. In addition to our emphasis on energy resilience, we will focus on the ease of doing business, by working to improve the efficiency of the Port of Cape Town, by implementing the municipal ease of doing business

planning and building permit reform programme, and by improving the processes which inform environmental impact assessments.

We will seek to attract more investment into the Western Cape through continued allocations to WesGro, the Free Port Saldanha Industrial Development Zone and the Atlantis Special Economic Zone. We will increase work opportunities and skills development by supporting internships and skills programmes, and by continuing the Presidential Employment Initiative and the Expanded Public Works Programme. We will boost infrastructure by building roads, classrooms, clinics, and other facilities. We will create a spatially transformed province by improving mobility.

We will make sure that we are prepared to respond urgently in the event of disaster, which includes funding to respond to increased climate change volatility and to explore innovative water resilience interventions. And we will support the growth of our agricultural sector by investing more in our critical veterinary services programme, which is key to enabling agricultural trade.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Betsy from Riversdale wants to know what our plans for current and future infrastructure are. The very foundation upon which our economy is built and in which the citizens of this province access healthcare, education and support services, is our infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure is both a prerequisite for growth and a catalyst for it. This is precisely why hon Premier Winde has announced the creation of a dedicated

Department of Infrastructure in his 2022 State of the Province Address. And so, to give life to hon Premier Winde's focus on infrastructure, this Budget of Action will spend R32,57-billion on infrastructure, which crosses over into R10-billion per financial year for the first time. [Applause.]

Over the 2023 MTEF, this includes R13-billion that will be spent to deliver and maintain transport infrastructure; R7,76-billion that will be spent on providing more housing opportunities; R7,44-billion for education infrastructure, including the Rapid School Build to build more schools and more classrooms, including increasing access for children with special educational needs; R3,86-billion that will be spent on infrastructure projects at clinics, hospitals and colleges and R1,58-billion that will be spent to improve access to basic services like water and sanitation in informal settlements.

Hon Deputy Speaker, I have heard from residents about their struggle with access to safe and affordable transport, that they need to get to work, to look for work and to get around easily. Grenville from Kuilsrivier told us that he must leave his home at 6:30 just to get to work by 8:30. To work towards improving Grenville's experience and the transport experience of all citizens, and to give life to the new Department of Mobility, this Budget of Action will spend R9,11-billion over the next three years.

In particular, we will continue to work with and support access to affordable transport with Golden Arrow busses, which provides transport services to

220 000 passengers every day in this province. We will also build on the impressive 37% decrease in road fatalities over the 2022/2023 festive season by continuing our efforts to keep roads safe, by allocating an additional R131,92-million over the MTEF to Traffic Law Enforcement. And we will allocate an extra R150-million over the MTEF to develop and implement an integrated, enhanced and efficient transport hub system, which will include the delivery of crime fighting technology and systems to support the highway patrol.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in his 'Budget Message for Mireille', Simon from Noordhoek let me know that he wants more boots on the ground to effectively bring down crime. As South Africans, we share a common fear that keeps people from living a full and happy life, and one that steals and cuts too many lives short. That fear is the fear of becoming a victim of crime. Sadly, for far too many, especially women and children, this fear has been realised and it should not be this way.

That is why we will do everything we can to make the province safer for all who live in it, by allocating an extra R396,09-million over the MTEF for Safety, bringing our total budget for this priority to R4,76-billion. To make the province safer, we will spend over the next three years R2,26-billion to make sure that our provincial policing functions have the funding they need to be effective, to work with and build up community-based safety partnerships and to continue our critical oversight over the SAPS, of which R1,05-billion is allocated to continue the Law Enforcement Advancement

Plan or LEAP programme, keeping more than 1 200 boots on the ground in hotspot areas so we can continue to make progress in reducing crime.

We also know that prevention is better than cure and so to stop crime before it occurs, this Budget of Action will spend over the MTEF, R987,38-million on the Crime Prevention and Support Programme within the Department of Social Development, specifically to support children at risk and to help them set on a better path and R49,32-million on supporting the work of the new data-led Violence Prevention Unit within the Department of Health and Wellness.

Hon Deputy Speaker, Charlotte from Pacaltsdorp in George let me know that she wanted to hear more about our plans to boost Wellness in the Western Cape through nutritional support programmes, as well as support to victims of Gender-Based Violence, amongst others. To build a strong and resilient society where citizens have the skills that they need to succeed, access to holistic healthcare, including mental health support, and where every woman, man and child can meet their basic nutritional needs to live full and healthy lives, the Western Cape prioritises the wellbeing of our citizens.

To deliver on this vision, the wellbeing priority which includes the Pillars of Health Services, Education and Social Development is allocated R170,91-billion over the MTEF. One of the best investments we can make now to realise the wellbeing of our citizens is to invest in education and because a hungry child cannot concentrate, grow and develop, and because nutrition and

education do, indeed, go hand-in-hand we will spend an additional R61,6-million in 2023/2024, R63,89-million in 2024/2025 and R67-million in 2025/2026 on the School Feeding Programme, which provides a balanced and nutritional-rich meal to 485 000 every day. This will make sure that despite the steep increase in the cost of food, children will still have quality nutritional and calorific value in the food provided in these programmes.

[Interjection.]

An HON MEMBER: Hear, hear! [Applause.]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES: We also know that we must keep up with the growing demand for public education in the Western Cape and so we will continue with the highly successful Rapid School Build programme, which has so far delivered 721 of the 842 classrooms scheduled to be completed by 31 March 2023. [Applause.] We will accordingly allocate in 2022/2023 an additional R350-million to increase school spaces, as well as R5-million to assist with project preparation costs relating to the Rapid School Build programme. And we will continue to run several afterschool programmes to support our youngest citizens. Over the MTEF, the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sports is allocated R158,7-million for youth programmes.

Hon Deputy Speaker, this month we celebrate the Month of the Social Worker and their immeasurable contribution they make to society and building a better future. And so, I am very pleased to confirm that an additional 247

additional social workers or auxiliary social workers, supervisors and administrative support staff are appointed to stabilise the Welfare and Child Protection System. And that over the 2023 MTEF, this Budget of Action will allocate R238,36-million to fund victim support programmes, which includes and additional R91,92-million to expand GBV services, such as victim empowerment programmes, shelters for victims of GBV and psychosocial support services and R193,57-million to maintain food relief efforts, so that we continue to assist those who need it the most.

Hon Deputy Speaker, to help our citizens live long, healthy lives with access to quality healthcare, this Government will spend R85,56-billion over the 2023 MTEF, the second largest allocation in this Budget of Action. As the COVID-19 pandemic subsides, it has become clear that critical interventions are required to respond to serious health challenges in our communities, including the TB epidemic and worsening mental health. We have therefore allocated an additional R239,43-million to strengthen mental health services, including the provision of a coordinated and targeted approach to ensure support to the most vulnerable and those at risk. And R92,35-million extra has been allocated over the MTEF to support and improve the outcomes of the TB Response Plan, ensuring detection, proper care, support, to continue treatment as well as prevention interventions.

Hon Deputy Speaker, we have done everything possible to buffer a declining Provincial Equitable Share allocation for Health. The new Health Risk-Adjusted Index used to calculate the Health component of the PES, combined



with annual technical data updates to the various PES formula components amounted to a reduction in the baseline allocation of the Western Cape of R1,9-billion over the MTEF. As I explained to this House in my Medium Term Budget Policy Statement, the Health component of the PES only counts the number of visits to clinics and does not count innovative plans implemented, like telemedicine and home medicine deliveries aimed at reducing the number of sick people who must wait in long queues at clinics to get the help and care they need. Working to change this, it will continue to be key area for both hon Minister Mbombo and myself.

Lastly, hon Deputy Speaker, the golden thread through each of our strategic priorities and a focal point in and of itself is the Western Cape Government's fourth priority of innovation, culture and governance which places the citizen at the very centre of everything that we do. To achieve this citizen-centric approach to governance over the 2023 MTEF, we will spend R666,72-million across the Western Cape Government on implementing citizen engagement initiatives, promoting transparency and accountability, collaboration and strengthening democracy. R1,61-billion to support the implementation of Broadband 2.0, to ensure that citizens in both metro and rural areas have internet coverage and an additional R37-million on the expansion of Cape access centres enabling greater access to online information and offering opportunities for developing digital skills.

Hon Deputy Speaker, a Budget of Action does not only require delivery in the present, but the foresight to prepare for the future. And so, to remain

prepared, we will allocate R1,37-billion to the stabilisation reserve so that we are able to protect frontline services against future negative impacts on service load pressures. We will also make provision for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditure by allocating over R1,65-billion over the MTEF. And to guarantee effective and efficient Disaster Management Systems, we will allocate R190-million over the MTEF to the Department of Local Government to oversee disaster management at both provincial and local levels.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in the Western Cape we understand that corruption steals from the poor, which is why good, clean and accountable governance is non-negotiable for us and why we are constantly looking at ways to strengthen our systems so that corruption will not be allowed to rear its ugly head in this province. Today, I can reveal the new intervention by our Provincial Treasury team to ensure we are constantly staying on the good governance front foot.

Drawing on the findings of the Courts against various Government functionaries and other provinces, and the findings and recommendations emanating from reports of the Special Investigations Unit, as well as the requirements of applicable supply chain management prescripts, we have developed an Executive Authority Guide to procurement oversight as a resource to assist members of the Provincial Executive to provide guidance with their legal and ethical oversight responsibilities within the SCM domain. Another innovation which the PT team is leading is our Fiscal Futures Project

which will enable this Government to plan for future expenditures based on revenue projections, demographic projections and economic scenarios. With this powerful tool, we will be able to look into the future and see revenue trends to better prepare for and respond to whatever comes our way.

Finally, hon Deputy Speaker, in addition to the PES, the Western Cape and other provinces received conditional grants from the national fiscus. While these grants provide critical funding for essential services, many are not keeping pace with inflation. Over the 2023 MTEF, the Western Cape's conditional grant allocation totals R14,47-billion in 2023/2024, R14,41-billion in 2024/2025 and R15,08-billion in 2025/2026, with an increase of 1,9% between 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. This includes in 2023/2024 R109,67-million to the Education Infrastructure grant, R78,19-million to the Health Facility Revitalisation grant and R417,63-million to the Provincial Roads Maintenance grant. Over the 2023 MTEF it includes R87,96-million to the National School Nutritional Programme grant and R80,20-million to the Early Childhood Development grant. And a reduction of R28,85-million in the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 Mass Participation and Sport Development grant.

Hon Deputy Speaker, in summary, in the Western Cape over the next three years, R1,1-billion has been set aside to ramp up our energy security and decrease our reliance on Eskom. R39,82-billion has been allocated to boost economic growth and create opportunities for our citizens. R4,76-billion has been allocated to make sure citizens are safe in their communities and

R170,91-billion has been allocated for our citizens' wellbeing, including on key services such as Education and Healthcare.

Hon Deputy Speaker, when I put my 4-year-old son to bed to sleep I remind myself of why I get up each day, just as millions of citizens do every day across the Western Cape. I get up because I choose hope, over fear. I choose to work hard not just for now, but to build a future where the children of this province have all the opportunities they deserve. As President Joe Biden said so powerfully:

“Fear never builds the future, but hope does.”

I stand here today, shoulder to shoulder with you, ready to roll up my sleeves to work to build a better future for all the sons and daughters across this province and of this wonderful country we call home because only through action, through the fierce urgency of now, can we deliver change and a future full of hope.

Hon Deputy Speaker, as I conclude I would like to thank the many citizens from every corner of the Western Cape who took the time to let us know what they wanted to hear in this budget. To the Consuls General for their continued friendship and partnership as our major and emerging trading partners which we value very much. To my hon Cabinet colleagues and the Budget Policy Committee, thank you for your commitment to informing and implementing this Budget of Action.

To the entire Provincial Treasury under the immensely talented and dedicated senior leadership team, skilfully led by the Head Official of the Treasury, Mr David Savage, thank you. To my team in the Ministry under the very capable leadership of Mr Russel Brueton, for their hard work and commitment to getting it done so well: thank you.

To my mother who could be here today and my father who could not: thank you for instilling in me the passion for public service and for teaching me that every time you get knocked down, you get up again, as many times as it takes, to make a difference and to contribute positively to building a better future. To my husband Craig, my partner: I could not do any of this without your support, love and encouragement. Thank you. And to my son for being my inspiration to be better every day, today, for you for tomorrow, thank you.  
[Applause.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much to the hon Minister Wenger.  
The Secretary will read the Bill a first time.

†Die SEKRETARIS: Wes-Kaapse Begrotingswetsontwerp [W 2-2023]

[The SECRETARY: Western Cape Appropriation Bill] [B 2-2023]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Mr Secretary. In accordance with Rule 188(1) the introductory speech, the Bill and papers laid upon the table will be referred to the relevant committees for consideration and report.

Hon members, before we adjourn, I would also like to remind the hon members that the Budget Committee meeting will commence after adjournment of the House. That concludes the business for the House. The House is adjourned. The Secretary will now end the meeting and all the hon members will be exited from this Sitting. The House is adjourned.

The House adjourned at 15:45.